



## Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital

50 County Road 43

Big Lake, MN 55309

763-263-8387

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### Vaccine Reactions

While vaccines are very safe, some animals will have a reaction to one or more vaccines. These reactions can vary from mild signs such as localized swelling and pain, to a swollen face and hives, to more severe possibly life threatening signs such as difficulty breathing, vomiting/ diarrhea, or sudden collapse. If you see a severe reaction, please let us know immediately.

- Mild reactions- these should be reported but typically do not require veterinary intervention
  - Quiet behavior, mild loss of appetite, and or soreness at the injection site. Typically seen in the first 24-48 hours after vaccination
  - Vaccination Granuloma
    - Swelling at the injection site that lasts beyond the 48 hours after vaccination
    - Non painful, doesn't change in size or cause hair loss/ other changes
- Non-anaphylactic reactions- these should be addressed immediately
  - Swelling of the face, muzzle, or head
  - Hives, or welt like lesions across body
  - Drainage from eyes and pawing at face
  - Typically seen within 3 hours after vaccination
- Anaphylactic reactions- this needs to be addressed immediately
  - Vomiting/ diarrhea- more than once or twice
  - Lethargy
  - Shallow, rapid breathing
  - Collapse / restlessness that then leads to collapse
  - Seizures
  - Typically happens 10-30 minutes after vaccination

After an animal has recovered from a vaccine reaction there are several things we can do in the future to reduce risk of further reactions.

- Premedication (at home or in clinic prior to vaccination) with Diphenhydramine can help to prevent a reaction.
- Splitting vaccines- giving one vaccine at a time and spreading out the vaccines in 2 week intervals.



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If you are concerned your pet is having a vaccine reaction please give a dose of Diphenhydramine and contact us or a local emergency clinic right away.

### **Recommended Diphenhydramine Doses:**

\*When giving Benadryl® / Diphenhydramine; Make sure Xylitol is **NOT** listed in the ingredients. Only give plain Benadryl- no decongestants added

If your pet weighs:

2-4#; give  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon (1.25mL) liquid (children's) Diphenhydramine

4-6#; give  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon liquid (2.5mL) (children's) Diphenhydramine

6-8#; give  $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon liquid (3.8mL) (children's) Diphenhydramine

8-16#; give 1 teaspoon liquid (5mL) (children's) Diphenhydramine  
OR  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablet of adult Diphenhydramine (12.5mg)

16-35#; give 1 tablet of (25mg) Diphenhydramine

35-65#; give 2 tablets of (50mg) Diphenhydramine

65-85#; give 3 tablets of (75mg) Diphenhydramine

Over 85#; give 4 tablets of (100mg) Diphenhydramine

**Note: Adult Tablets: 25mg**

**Children's Liquid: 12.5mg/ tsp**

**1 tsp= 5mL**

**\*NEVER give any combination of cold products such as Benadryl-D. These products are not safe for animals.**