

## VACCINES

**Vaccines are valuable tools that veterinarians use to prevent disease in susceptible animals. Feel free to discuss the appropriateness of a vaccine with any of our staff members.**

A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of the diseases we vaccinate for causing serious harm or death varies from likely to extremely small depending on the agent! Rabies vaccines are **required** for all dogs and cats four months of age or older by North Carolina State Law.

Most animals that are vaccinated **do not** have problems with them.

MILD PROBLEMS: Soreness where the shot was given lasting a day or two  
Mild to moderate fever and lack of appetite, sluggishness

SEVERE PROBLEMS: allergic reaction characterized by swelling of the face and ears, itching and problems breathing  
These signs would be noted within a few minutes to hours of vaccination

DELAYED ONSET PROBLEMS: our feline patients are at a very minute, 1:10,000 risk of developing a type of cancer at an injection site at some distant time from vaccination

If any of these problems develop, contact us immediately, and we will advise you on how to receive treatment for your pet.

Of course, our object is to provide your pet with the best medical care available, and we will strive to make advances in vaccine therapy known to you, including inherent risks.