South Side Animal Clinic

Vaccine Informed Consent

Our hospital believes that informed pet parents are better able to make decisions helping their pets live longer and healthier lives.

Vaccines are common procedures that have reduced illness in humans and pets to such an extent that they are considered routine. While in most cases they are considered as such, the incidence of side effects should not be ignored. With the proliferation of regulatory issues, even in veterinary medicine, we ask that you read and sign this “informed consent” before vaccines are performed. We will keep a copy in your pet’s file so that you will not be asked to sign one at each visit.

Vaccines are medical health agents that stimulate protective immune responses in pets that prepare them to fight against further infections, resulting from exposure to disease causing agents.

There is evidence that the immunity triggered by some vaccines may last beyond the one year in some pets. Conversely, the immunity triggered by some may fail to protect for the full year. The problem we, unfortunately, encounter is that we don’t know beforehand which pet either of these two possibilities will occur. To reduce the risk of over vaccination or vaccine failure we do recommend Titer testing to see after vaccines if immunity is present or not. This test requires us to take a blood sample and submit it to the Diagnostic Veterinary Lab for evaluation.

Not all pets should be vaccinated with all available vaccines. “Core” vaccines are recommended for most healthy pets. “Non Core” vaccines depend on lifestyles of certain pets and should be added appropriately. Any information that you can provide us about your pets current or anticipated lifestyle will help us, together, make decisions as to what “Non Core” vaccines might be appropriate for your pet.

Although most pets respond well to vaccination, like with any other medical procedure, there is some risk. The most common adverse responses are mild and abbreviated, including fever, sluggishness, and reduced appetite. Pets may also experience pain or subtle swelling at injection site. Most adverse reactions will resolve themselves in a day or two, excessive or continuing pain, swelling, or listlessness, should be reported to us.

Rarely, serious adverse responses can occur. Contact our clinic immediately if your pet has repetitive vomiting or diarrhea, whole body itching, hives, difficulty breathing, collapse, or swelling of face or legs. Rare adverse reactions have also been suspected in causing injection site tumors and/or autoimmune dysfunction. These can occur in approximately one out of 40,000 to 50,000 vaccinations.

Since the risk of contracting the preventable disease is greater than the risk of any adverse effects, our clinic and its doctors, follow the federally approved vaccine manufacturer’s label guidelines. Your informed vaccine consent is now required.

I have read and understand the above clinic’s communication about the benefits and risks associated with vaccinating my pet(s); I give my consent to proceed with vaccinating my pet(s), and hold harmless the above named clinic, its officers and staff from any and all adverse reactions that may occur as a result.

Printed Name(Owner or Agent)

Signature Date