

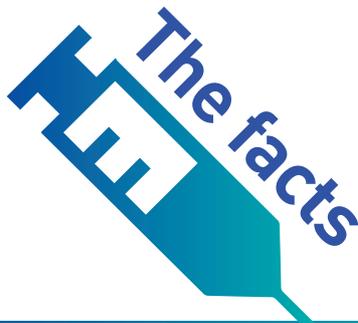
Vaccination Myths

Filling the void between vaccination fact and fiction

Health  for Animals
global animal medicines association

www.healthforanimals.org

1 MYTH: Vaccination does not work



Vaccination has resulted in human survival rates rising dramatically in the 20th century, surpassed in impact only by the increased availability of clean drinking water.ⁱ

Vaccination led to the global eradication of Smallpox in 1982 and Rinderpest in 2011. Feline Leukemia Virus is a deadly retrovirus that is present around the world but thanks to widespread vaccination, **less than 1-2% of healthy cats** in the world have feline leukaemia.ⁱⁱ

Furthermore, vaccinating poultry to protect against salmonella has seen the **number of human cases in the EU reduce by nearly 50% since 2004.**ⁱⁱⁱ

3 MYTH: Exposure to disease is necessary to strengthen the immune system

More accurately...

Vaccines improve an individual's immunity to a disease without them experiencing typical symptoms. In some diseases, natural infection provides no natural immunity.ⁱ Vaccination mimics natural infection by stimulating the bodies natural immune system with an organism that is either weakened or dead.

For farm animals, good husbandry and efficient bio-security measures are important factors in the prevention of diseases. Even when following these practices, animals can still become ill and highly infectious diseases can spread rapidly with devastating results. And so, vaccination is an important part of herd health plans, to stimulate animals' natural immunity.

2 MYTH: Vaccination is an unnecessary intervention that interferes with nature

A misconception

Animal vaccination plays a vital role in global health and preventing zoonoses, diseases which pass between humans and animals.

An increasingly 'smaller' world due to globalisation means that humans are at a greater risk to diseases spreading across international borders, through travel and trade. Vaccines play an essential role in preventing these health risks, protecting animal health, food safety and public health.

We also have a moral obligation towards animals in our care, to prevent diseases rather than waiting until the animal gets sick, suffers and requires treatment.

Vaccination protects our pets from a range of potentially fatal diseases, from feline parvovirus^v, the leading viral killer of cats, to equine influenza, a major respiratory disease in horses.

4 MYTH: Vaccination has negative side effects which outweigh the potential benefits



Vaccines are a safe and easy way to stimulate an animal's natural defence system to prevent disease, safeguard their health and protect their welfare.

Vaccines also protect livestock against infectious diseases, ensuring the provision of safe and nutritious food such as eggs, milk, fish and meat products.

They are safe and efficient, and only on rare occasions can cause side effects. If this should happen with your pet or farm animal, you should consult your veterinarian.

5

MYTH: Traces of vaccines are in the food we eat

In reality...

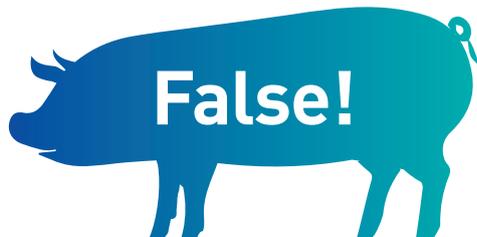
To ensure that food is safe, any authorised medicine used in livestock has a statutory withdrawal period stating the minimum amount of time that must be observed after treatment before meat, milk or eggs from that animal can enter the food chain.

Tests routinely carried out in the US and Europe typically find a rate of positive samples in all these tests of **substantially less than 1%**.^{vi} If contamination does occur the penalties are significant.



7

MYTH: Vaccinating animals has no impact on human health



Over 75% of emerging animal diseases can be transmitted to humans.^{ix} These are called zoonotic diseases and include rabies, influenza and salmonella to name only a few. Vaccinating animals means safeguarding human and public health.

9

MYTH: Vaccines are costly and only realistically available to the western world

Wrong!

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective achievements in healthcare and can **prevent the loss of up to 20% of animal protein** production due to infectious animal diseases in emerging economies.^{xi}

Vaccines protect farmers, smallholders, people and countries' economies against the waste of critical agricultural resources and severe financial losses. A benefit-cost analysis found effective vaccination based control of FMD in agro-pastoralist communities of South Sudan **could yield \$11.5 for every dollar invested.**^{xii}

Even with pets, vaccinating against preventable diseases can ultimately save money and time, as well as animal suffering. Vaccines are a fraction of the cost when weighed against trips to the vet, diagnostic tests and treatment.

6

MYTH: I don't eat meat so animal vaccination does not affect me

Actually...



Animal vaccination plays a role in wider public health. Successful programmes mean that today large areas of Europe are recorded with rabies-free status.^{vii} However, rabies still exists in other parts of the world.

Studies have shown that by vaccinating 70% of a local dog population against rabies, we can reduce the number of human cases to almost zero.^{viii} It is projected that by vaccinating dogs **we save 60,000 lives globally** each year (mostly children).

Vaccinating companion animals remains an important part of disease prevention, the safeguarding of their health and the protection of the important relationship we have with our pets.

8

MYTH: My cat does not go outside so vaccination is unnecessary

Misleading!

Indoor cats still require vaccinating against potentially deadly viruses such as rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia.^x Cats that roam your neighbourhood can bring infectious disease to your window, patio, outdoor food/water bowls, and possibly into your house. Always consult your veterinarian to know which vaccines are essential depending on your cat's lifestyle and age.

Join the discussion on animal vaccination by following @Health4Animals

ⁱ <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/86/2/07-040089/en/> (April 2016)

ⁱⁱ <http://icatcare.org/advice/cat-health/feline-leukaemia-virus-felv> (April 2016)

ⁱⁱⁱ www.ifaheurope.org/food-producing-animals/success-stories/salmonella.html (June 2016)

^{iv} <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/faq/> (June 2016)

^v http://jfm.sagepub.com/content/suppl/2013/08/14/15.9.785.DC1/3_Fact_sheet_3.pdf

^{vi} <http://www.oie.int/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/global-strategic-framework-for-the-elimination-of-dog-mediated-human-rabies/> (April 2016)

^{vii} http://www.who-rabies-bulletin.org/about_rabies/Control.aspx (April 2016)

^{viii} <http://www.oie.int/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/dog-vaccination-the-key-to-end-dog-transmitted-human-rabies/> (June 2016)

^{ix} http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/Globalcooperation_oie1.pdf

^x <http://icatcare.org/advice/vaccinating-your-cat> (April 2016)

^{xi} http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/pdf/Key_Documents/ANIMAL-HEALTH-EN-FINAL.pdf (April 2016)

^{xii} <http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D11888.PDF> (April 2016)