



■ Vaccine Myths in Veterinary Medicine

- Vaccine hesitancy in pets is rising, largely driven by misinformation borrowed from human anti-vaccine movements
- Core vaccines prevent diseases that are real, serious, and still circulating
- Vaccine decisions should be made with a veterinarian based on lifestyle and risk — not internet forums

MYTH: Vaccines cause autism in dogs.

FACT: There is zero credible scientific evidence that vaccines cause autism in any species. This claim has been thoroughly investigated and debunked. The original human study that sparked this was retracted due to fraud.

MYTH: Natural immunity is always better than vaccine immunity.

FACT: For diseases like parvovirus and distemper, "natural immunity" means surviving a potentially fatal illness. Vaccination provides immunity without the risk. In immunologically naive animals, natural exposure can be fatal.

MYTH: My pet doesn't need vaccines because they stay indoors.

FACT: Rabies vaccination is legally required in NY regardless of indoor/outdoor status. Parvovirus survives in soil and on shoes. Indoor pets can still be exposed through a variety of routes.

MYTH: Over-vaccination is toxic and causes cancer.

FACT: Vaccine site sarcomas are real but rare (1 in 10,000-30,000 cats). Modern titering allows checking immunity before re-vaccination. The risk of skipping core vaccines in a disease-endemic environment far outweighs vaccination risk.

MYTH: Homeopathic nosodes are a safe alternative to vaccines.

FACT: There is no peer-reviewed evidence that homeopathic nosodes provide any disease protection. Multiple outbreaks of parvovirus and distemper have been traced to nosode-only households.

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