

VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY CENTER

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ALLERGY VACCINE (HYPOSENSITIZATION) INSTRUCTIONS

VACCINE HANDLING:

1. The vaccine vials should be refrigerated (not frozen).
2. Vials #1 and #2 should be discarded when the schedule indicates that they are finished.
3. Vial #3 is the maintenance vial. When the last vial that you have has 1/2 to 3/4 inch remaining, contact this clinic so that the vaccine prescription can be refilled. This may take as long as 2-3 weeks, so it is important to order early.

VACCINE SCHEDULE:

1. The injection schedule is at the bottom of this sheet. Please read the schedule carefully.
2. Convert the schedule to actual calendar days, and write the vial number and the amount to be injected on the appropriate day.
3. The schedule is a standard schedule. Dose adjustments may be necessary for some patients. Dr. Buerger will advise you if a change is necessary for your pet.

VACCINE ADMINISTRATION:

1. The vaccine is given by subcutaneous injection (under the skin). If you are interested, we can show you how to administer the vaccine so that the injections may be given at home. (See the back of this sheet.)
2. A new needle and syringe should be used for each injection. Save the used syringes/needles and return them to your veterinarian for safe disposal.
3. Injections should be given at a time when the pet can be observed for at least one hour. The injections need not be given at the same time each day.
4. The pet should not receive a major meal in the hour before the injection and for an hour after the injection. A snack or treat after the injection is allowed.
5. Heavy exercise should be avoided for one hour after the injection. Leash walks are allowed.
6. If an adverse reaction is seen after an injection, no further injections should be given until you contact your veterinarian. If your pet appears to be seriously ill, contact your local veterinarian immediately.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

1. Adverse reactions are very rare. Some pets will become more itchy during the initial phase of the vaccine schedule. If this becomes severe, contact Dr. Buerger.
2. If an adverse reaction is to occur, there are often early warning signs. If these signs are ignored, the reaction may become more severe. If your pet is not its normal self after an injection, contact the attending veterinarian. Animals who sleep excessively, are hyperactive, or look uncomfortable after an injection may be showing the first signs of a vaccine reaction. Contact Dr. Buerger before any further injections are given.
3. Serious reactions are extremely rare, but are potentially life-threatening. Labored breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, collapse, or hives require immediate attention. Dr. Buerger should be contacted before any further injections are given.

POINTS OF INFORMATION:

1. Most animals who respond to the vaccine will do so during the first 6-9 months. Occasionally, the response may take 12-24 months. Please be patient. If there is not a good response in the first 6 months, contact Dr. Buerger. Dose adjustments and/or the reevaluation of certain types of allergies may be in order.
2. Since the vaccine may not show immediate benefit, medications may be used to lessen the itchiness. Antihistamines may be necessary. In severe cases, a low oral dose of a cortisone drug may be given on alternate mornings. Excessive medication should be avoided.
3. Routine immunizations should not be given on the same day as an allergy vaccine injection.
4. If the pet develops some unrelated medical problem, contact Dr. Buerger to see if the schedule should be modified.
5. If an injection date is missed by up to one week, give the next scheduled injection and then follow the schedule. If a longer period of time has elapsed, contact Dr. Buerger before giving the next scheduled injection.

SCHEDULE FOR ALLERGY INJECTIONS (Injections are given subcutaneously [under the skin]):

Day	VIAL #1 (200 PNU/ml)	VIAL #2 (2,000 PNU/ml)	VIAL #3 (20,000 PNU/ml)
1.....	0.1 cc		
3.....	0.2 cc		
5.....	0.4 cc		
7.....	0.8 cc		
9.....	1.0 cc		
11.....		0.2 cc	
13.....		0.4 cc	
15.....		0.6 cc	
17.....		0.8 cc	
19.....		1.0 cc	
21.....			0.2 cc
23.....			0.4 cc
25.....			0.6 cc
27.....			0.8 cc
29.....			1.0 cc
31.....			1.0 cc
38.....			1.0 cc
52.....			1.0 cc
73.....			1.0 cc

AFTER DAY 73, 1 cc OF VIAL #3 IS GIVEN EVERY THREE WEEKS.

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RE-ORDERING THE ALLERGY VACCINE:

When reordering the allergy vaccine, please keep in mind that we must receive payment for the allergy vaccine before it is actually made. Please call us when it is time to reorder so we can start the process and let you know what the charge will be. You can pay by check, cash, or credit card (MC/VISA). Generally, the allergy vaccine refill will be ready the Monday after we have received payment, but if you're picking it up from our office, please call before you come to make sure it is ready.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADMINISTERING ALLERGY INJECTIONS.

The intent of these written instructions is to help you remember how to give the injections. The actual technique must be demonstrated by a knowledgeable professional in our office (or alternatively in your regular veterinarian's office). **DO NOT** start the allergy injections by yourself without proper demonstration of technique. We will assume (unless told otherwise), that the owner(s) being shown the proper injection technique will be the person ALWAYS giving the injections.

1. Injections are given by subcutaneous injection (under the skin). The injection is generally given in the area on the back near the shoulders. The skin is a loose covering of the body, and the skin in this area can be gently elevated thus creating a space under it for the injection.
2. Wipe the top (rubber stopper) of the vial with a cotton ball saturated with alcohol.
3. Use a new syringe each time. Push out the small amount of air in the syringe by pushing on the plunger. Uncap the needle and push it through the rubber stopper of the appropriate vial. Withdraw the appropriate amount from the vial. Withdraw the syringe from the vial. Carefully replace the cap over the needle. Be careful not to stick yourself with the needle. If your pet seems sensitive to a "cold" injection, it is acceptable to let the injection warm to room temperature IN A SAFE PLACE for 10 minutes or so (KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN).
4. Gently elevate the skin over the injection site and swab the area with a little alcohol.
5. With the syringe parallel to the skin surface, insert the needle through the skin.
6. While holding the syringe steady, DRAW BACK ON THE PLUNGER and make sure that blood DOES NOT appear in the lower portion of the syringe. If you see blood in the syringe when you draw back, DO NOT inject. It is not likely that this will happen to you. If you see blood in the syringe, withdraw and start again. A small amount of bleeding on the skin surface after the injection is nothing to worry about.
7. After you've checked for blood in the syringe, then inject the allergy vaccine and withdraw the needle and recap it. We'll dispose of the needles and syringes for you. Just bring them in next time you come. Again, store them in a safe place.
8. Help make it a positive experience for your pet by giving a special (favorite) treat after each injection.

If there are questions or problems then you must call.

ALTHOUGH SEVERE REACTIONS ARE VERY RARE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON HOW YOUR VETERINARIAN TREATS SEVERE ADVERSE REACTIONS IS SUPPLIED SO THAT PROPER TREATMENT IS ASSURED.

1. If there is respiratory distress, ensure a clear airway. Give oxygen by endotracheal tube or by mask.
2. Administer 0.2-1.0 ml of epinephrine HCl (diluted to 1:10,000) I.V. (or I.M. if unable to administer I.V.). If signs are less severe, this can be given SQ. Repeat in 20-30 minutes if necessary.
3. Administer a fast-acting cortisone I.V. Several are effective: Solu-Delta-Cortef (5 mg/lb); Solu-Cortef (10-15 mg/lb); or Dexamethasone-SP (1-2 mg/lb).
4. Administer "shock" doses of I.V. fluids (D5W or LRS) for 1-2 hours.
5. Administer Benadryl 1 mg/lb slowly I.V. or I.M.
6. Inject 0.2-0.5 ml of epinephrine HCl (diluted to 10,000) into the allergy injection site. Apply cold to this site.