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Our dogs and cats typically live only one-sixth as long as we do but often receive five times the numbers of vaccines, according to Justine Lee, DVM. This was partly due to the outdated idea that every year shot was absolutely necessary. But in 2006, the top two veterinary associations updated vaccination guidelines: We are now considering the needs of individual pets rather than using a single schedule to fit all the approaches of the past, says Link V. Welborn, DVM, who chaired the American Animal Hospital Association's update of the dog protocol. One reason: While it is difficult to directly link specific health problems to vaccines, more and more research suggests that too many shots may play a role in many ailments - everything from an immediate allergic reaction to convulsions and arthritis - and even cancerous tumors at injection sites years later. This does not mean that vaccines are not necessary. They have long protected our animals from debilitating diseases and premature death. Puppies and kittens, especially, need a series of shots to make up for the disappearance of antibodies transmitted after birth by mom. Veterinarians - even holistic veterinarians who tend to avoid vaccines - stress that this series is crucial. If you're an owner who wants to protect your pet from both illness and the risk of excessive-vaccinations, read on. Meet LawAlways check your city or county websites to find out which vaccinations are required by your local animal control department. Most insist only on rabies, although additional vaccines may be authorized for dogs that frequent dog parks. Some municipalities accept 3-year-old photos, while others require one-year-olds. Additionally, some will allow name (see below) or an release letter from a vet, stating that your pet may be endangered if vaccinated. But but what rules dictate, the decision about what shots to give and when is completely up to you and your vet. When the test is best titre are blood tests veterinarians use to determine whether antibodies from previous vaccinations are still protecting the animal. The test usually costs about \$50, depending on your location. If the results show the right level of antibodies, your pet can skip her shot, no matter how long it's been since her last. If levels are insufficient, head back to vet for a booster. Smid Combo ShotsDogs are up to 24% more likely to react badly when two or more vaccines are given over time, according to one study. I always give rabies in a separate visit, warns Jean Dodds, DVM, board member of American Holistic Veterinary Association. Contact the vet - many reassesses the cost of a second visit, so you pay the same as all photos at once. Evaluate the Riskfactors such as age, gender, and race of your pet, as well as lifestyle, play a big role in her potential response to a vaccine. Pure-bred animals may be at increased risk, in particular Dogs, size makes a difference - small breeds are more susceptible to reaction than large ones. (Unlike other drugs, the vaccine dosage is the same for 7-pound Yorkie and 100-pound Great Dane.) And when the dog reaches the age of 6 or 7, it is likely that she has built enough antibodies to protect her from the most common viral infections for years. In such cases, ask for a name and opt for 3-year-old boosters whenever possible. It is also important to know how the animal spends its days. A dog that frolics in the Berkshire forests, for example, may require the Lyme disease vaccine, while a pup kept on a leash in Las Vegas doesn't need it. Leptospirosis - a water-borne bacterial disease - is not a threat in some states, but a threat in others. And a lone indoor cat can give up some boosters. Your vet can help you develop the right plan. [pagebreak] Which Pet Shots Are Really Required? Here, a rundown of recommended photos from the American Association of Feline Practitioners (aafponline.org) and the American Animal Hospital Association (aahanet.org). Go to these sites for a complete list. These basic photos are necessary for all pets, because the diseases that prevent are threats to pets or public health. Dogs: Rabies parvovirus (intestine) Distemper (respiratory/nervous system) Adenovirus (liver/respiratory system) Cats: Panleukopenia rabies virus (FPV) (intestine) Herpesvirus-1 and cat calicivirus (FHV-1/FCV) (respiratory) These optional pictures are safe and effective, may not be relevant, depending on the animal's lifestyle. Dogs: Parainfluenza (respiratory) Bordetella (respiratory) Leptospira (liver/kidney) Cats: Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) (cancer) Cat immunodeficiency virus (FIV) (immune system) Bordetella (respiratory) These vaccinations are not necessary: veterinarians have declared them ineffective or claim that the risk of disease is low. Dogs: Cats: CFelina Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) (transmitted by blood, affects organs) RELATED:Is Your Cat or Dog Too Fat? Pet Insurance: What you need to know the best workouts for the dog breed This content is created and maintained by a third party and imported to this site to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content in the piano.io Earlier this month, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued guidelines on when children should get the flu vaccine this year, recommending that anyone over the age of 6 months get the vaccine by the end of October. Experts have highlighted the importance of flu shot this year in hopes of avoiding a combined pandemic of both influenza and in circulation. According to AAP, public health officials warn that hospital beds and emergency services can quickly go beyond capacity in communities where coronavirus transmission remains high. Despite medical recommendations, a national survey The drug showed that one in three parents do not plan to vaccinate their children for flu. The survey also found that only a third of parents think it is more important to vaccinate their child this year. Our report finds that even during a pandemic, some parents do not see the flu vaccine as more urgent or necessary, said Mott Poll co-director Sarah Clark, M.P.H. This raises concerns about how the start of the flu season could compound challenges in managing COVID-19. NBC News medical contributor Dr. John Torres warned that twindemic coronavirus and flu can be dangerous if the flu season is severe. Torres said that because it may take some time for the vaccine to activate in the body and protect against flu, it is important to get vaccinated sooner rather than later. It could be a bad flu season, so they want everyone, especially the kids, to be prepared for it, Torres explained. Children aged 6 months and over (should) get a flu shot. It's important that they start getting it now. New flu shot tips for kids is outSept. 8, 202001:29As a pediatrician, I am very concerned about the health of children and their families this fall if these two potentially fatal viruses circulate in the community at the same time, said Dr. Flor Munoz, lead author of the recommendations, developed by the AAP committee on Infectious Diseases, in a press release. According to AAP, any licensed, age-appropriate vaccine is acceptable. Currently, the flu vaccine is given to children with a nasal spray. This year's children's flu vaccine will include two strains of influenza A and B virus to protect against the four main strains of the virus that are expected to circulate this season. Torres said it's especially important to make sure that children are protected because last year was a record year for the number of children who died from flu; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 188 children and adolescents died from flu complications in the 2019-2020 season. According to AAP, typically about 80% of children who die from flu are not vaccinated. What you should know about getting a flu shot this yearAug. 26, 202005:55Torres also warned that children could spread the virus to other family members. You don't want to get the flu home like you don't want to make a home covid, he said. It is important to protect everyone this season. It's not just children who should be sure to get the vaccine soon - Torres and AAP both recommend that any of the pre-existing conditions, pregnant women and people over the age of 65 get the vaccine soon. All healthcare professionals should also receive the vaccine, according to AAP. Reader's question: My family likes to go camping, and we often see bats near our campsite. Whether receive a rabies vaccine? It is likely that In the United States rabies is quite rare. According to the CDC, there are 1 to 2 cases of rabies in humans annually across the country. It is also worth noting that the vaccine is expensive (about \$4200 per series of photos) and supply is currently limited. The only people who really need to get vaccinated as a preventive measure are those who often work with animals (such as veterinarians and animal keepers), rabies research laboratory workers and spelunkers (cave explorers). Those who plan to travel to places where rabies is common, such as Africa, should also consider it. People contract rabies when an infected animal bites them. The good news is that you can get the vaccine after a bite (assuming you're in a populated area and help is nearby). If the bat bites you, thoroughly clean the wound with water or diluted iodine solution to reduce the likelihood of rabies transmission and get medical help right away. If you are bitten by another type of animal - skunks, raccoons, dogs, cats and ferrets can also carry rabies - you should locate and limit it for 10 days (call animal control if necessary). If the animal remains healthy, you are in bright. If you get sick or die, you must be immediately vaccinated for rabies to know if you should get vaccinated. Another reason to get vaccinated: If you can't locate the animal, but noticed that you had symptoms of rabies that include overly aggressive behavior, uncoordinated movement or noticeable weakness in the hind limb, drooling, and hypersalivation, and if that's making strange sounds. I want to hear from you, so email me your questions on dailywd@womansday.com. Disclaimer: The search for information on health-related topics and/or Sandra Adamson Fryhofer's provision of such information by MD does not constitute either solicitation or provision of medical advice, services, care or treatment. Communication with Dr. Fryhofer on this site does not create a doctor/patient relationship. If you have concerns about your own specific health condition, you should consult your own doctor, who can examine and evaluate. Communication on the website is not a substitute for taking an active role in your own medical care and treatment and being personally seen by a doctor of your choice in your area. 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