

Vaccination Decision Table

Should I Vaccinate:		
On stray hold?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination of all animals on intake to the shelter is an expected standard of care worldwide and is the best way to protect their health. • State boards of veterinary medicine and legal counsel can be consulted if ownership concerns arise.
When injured?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination in the face of injuries is not likely to have any impact on the course of recovery. • There is no evidence that vaccination in the face of injuries will not be effective. • Vaccination should not take priority over medical stabilization of patients with severe injuries.
With mild illness?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination of these animals is not likely to have any effect on the course of the current illness. • Vaccination may still be effective and protect from infectious diseases.
With mild fever?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination may still be effective and protect from infectious diseases in animals with mild fevers (up to 103.5°F).
When one individual in a litter is larger or smaller than the others?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If one member of a litter appears or is known to be at least 4 weeks of age, all members of the litter should be vaccinated regardless of size.
When lactating or nursing?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination will protect the mother from infectious diseases and is unlikely to harm her litter. • Nursing animals will not be protected when the mother is vaccinated; they should be vaccinated starting at 4 weeks.
During pregnancy?	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination will protect the mother from serious, potentially fatal infectious diseases and may provide protection to offspring for the first few weeks of life. • There is a small risk to developing puppies and kittens whose mothers were vaccinated during pregnancy, but in most sheltering situations the benefits far outweigh the risks. • If vaccines are not administered, the animal should be kept in a protected environment outside of the shelter to minimize likelihood of disease exposure.
<4 weeks of age?	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals <4 weeks of age should be placed directly into a foster home or maintained in an area separate from the general population. • Use of modified live vaccines may cause developmental abnormalities in animals of this age.