

## Rattlesnake Vaccination—What you need to know



Your dog has been administered a rattlesnake vaccine.

- Please monitor the vaccination site for swelling. If swelling occurs, please hot-pack the area for 10 minutes twice daily until gone. The swelling usually occurs 5-10 days after the vaccine. You can use a heating pad or warm water in a baggie.
- If the swelling gets larger or persists for more than 3 days despite hot-packing, call us and we will prescribe antibiotics **at no cost to you**.
- If your dog is bit by a rattlesnake, s/he still needs to be seen by a veterinarian immediately. The site of the bite will still swell, but the vaccine will help block the toxic effects the venom has in the bloodstream and internal organs. If the snake injects a very large amount of venom, your dog may still need anti-venom. Reports indicate that dogs who have received the vaccine are much less likely to require intensive treatment and recover much faster than those who have not. Only a veterinarian can determine if your dog will need anti-venom!
- Your dog will need two vaccinations initially, 4 weeks apart, then once a year in the spring.
- If you visit places where rattlesnakes do not hibernate long, such as Arizona or other desert areas, your dog will need a vaccine in the fall as well.
- Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.