

PureVax Vaccines for Cats

Why choose it?

What are Purevax vaccines?

Merial brand Purevax vaccines are vaccines made without an adjuvant.

What is an adjuvant?

An adjuvant is something added to a vaccine to make it more effective.

Why is this important?

More than twenty-five years ago veterinarians started seeing a cancer in cats that had not been seen prior to the widespread use of vaccines in cats. Studies initially suggested that the adjuvant may have been the cause. This led to the cancer being called Vaccine-Associated Sarcoma. However, since that time we have seen cats develop the same cancer at sites where no vaccine had ever been given, but other injections had been given. So, a better name that has been proposed is Injection Site Sarcoma.

If its not the adjuvant, then what is causing the cancer?

We don't know for certain, but we believe that the cancer is caused by inflammation in the tissue created by whatever is injected, whether it be vaccines, fluids, antibiotics, other medications and so on.

What is the difference between a vaccine with an adjuvant and one without an adjuvant?

Adjuvanted vaccines are known to cause more tissue inflammation than vaccines without an adjuvant. Hypothetically, this means that adjuvanted vaccines are more likely to cause cancer than non-adjuvanted. This has not been proven definitively yet, but there is strong evidence suggesting it.

How common is the cancer?

Not very is the short answer. The longer answer is more variable. The most commonly quoted statistic is about 1 in 10,000 cats that are given adjuvanted vaccines will develop this disease. This may not seem like a high risk when one thinks about only their individual cat. However, when one considers the number cats vaccinated every year nationwide and the number of cats developing this cancer, this seemingly small number becomes highly significant.

Many general veterinarians and almost all board-certified feline practitioners, infectious disease specialists, immunologists, oncologists, and internal medicine specialists are in agreement that non-adjuvanted vaccines are the way to go.