### Vaccination Decision Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Should I Vaccinate:</th>
<th>YES</th>
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| On stray hold?                                          | • 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?                                           | • 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?                                      | • 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?                                        | • 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? | • 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?                              | • 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?                                       | • 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?                                        | • 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. |