



Marvellous Aunt Maneka

Aunt Maneka is an environmentalist, a Minister of State, and an animal lover. She is here to answer all your questions on animals and birds so that you can take better care of the animals around you and be a better friend of nature.



Q. Is it true that tigers like to be on their own unlike the lions?

Nimrat Chawla, 7 years, Mumbai

Dear Nimrat,

A. Yes. Except for a mother and her cubs, tigers live and hunt alone. Tigers have their own territories and interact only during the mating season to give birth. If tigers encounter each other at other times, they will try to defend their own territories. Scent marks and visual signs, such as scratch marks on trees, allow them to track other tigers in the area, and even identify individuals. A female tiger is also keenly aware of the other females whose territories are around her's; in many cases, a tiger in the neighbouring territory may be her daughter. However, tigers do get together at times to hunt, especially when the prey is big like a water buffalo.

Q. Are dogs sensitive to vaccinations?

Abhinav SP, 11 years, Hyderabad

Dear Abhinav,

A. Some dogs are allergic to vaccinations. The side-effects of vaccinations can vary with the

type of vaccine used, and the age and breed of the animal vaccinated. Check with the veterinarian if there is a drug that can be given prior to the vaccination to prevent the allergic reactions. Once home, keep a close eye on your dog to see if there are any signs of pain, swelling, redness, and irritation at the injection site. These effects generally occur within 30 minutes to 1 week of the date of vaccination. If the signs persist, or are severe, contact your veterinarian. Never give more than one vaccine in a day. Give a gap of at least a couple of weeks between vaccinations.



If you have questions about pets/animals/birds, write to us and we'll ask Aunt Maneka to answer.

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