



PET HEALTH



Vaccinations

One of the best things you can do to help keep your pets happy and healthy is ensure they have regular annual vaccinations. These vaccinations will help protect them against life threatening and debilitating diseases.

Dog vaccinations

Dogs commonly are vaccinated with either a C3 or a C5 vaccine. Puppies generally receive a course of two or three puppy vaccinations, with a C3 vaccination at 6 to 8 weeks of age followed by a C5 vaccination at 10-12 weeks of age.

Once they are over 1 year of age regular annual vaccinations are required to keep their immunity strong.

A C3 vaccination provides protection against

- Parvovirus
- Hepatitis
- Distemper

A C5 vaccination provides protection against the above three core diseases as well as the two main components of Canine cough – Bordetella bronchiseptica and Parainfluenza.



Parvovirus – This is a virus with rapidly dividing cells in the body and typically affects young puppies. Parvovirus is highly contagious from dog to dog and extremely resistant in the environment, surviving up to months and even years in the ideal setting. Dogs or puppies become infected with parvovirus via ingestion of viral particles (microscopic) which are shed in the faeces from infected dogs. Signs of parvovirus include bloody, foul-smelling diarrhoea, vomiting, inappetence and lethargy. Unfortunately there is no effective treatment to kill parvovirus and this disease is often fatal.

Hepatitis – This is a disease caused by an adenovirus which can affect several organs in the body. It is a highly contagious disease that is generally transmitted via inhalation or ingestion of infected virus particles spread by aerosol or from urine. Signs of hepatitis in a dog can range from tonsillitis and a sore throat to fever, abdominal pain, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhoea and liver failure. Similar to Parvovirus, there is no known cure for hepatitis and treatment is supportive only. This disease is often fatal.

Distemper – This is another highly contagious disease of dogs which affects several organs in the body, starting with the lymph nodes. Spread of this disease is via aerosol particles which are either inhaled or ingested. Signs of Distemper vary and can include vomiting and diarrhoea, coughing,

seizures and even death. Similar to Parvovirus and Hepatitis there is no known cure for Distemper and treatment is supportive only. This disease is often fatal.

Canine cough – Canine cough can have both viral and bacterial components. It is highly contagious from dog to dog and the disease is spread via inhalation of aerosol particles which are breathed out by infected dogs. The most common sign associated with canine cough is a harsh, hacking cough but other signs can also be associated with this disease including watery eyes and nose, sneezing, inappetence, fever and lethargy. Treatment of canine cough is supportive, with antibiotics sometimes necessary if a bacterial component is involved. Dogs affected with canine cough generally improve with time and rest, but in some cases more intensive treatment is required.

Cat vaccinations

Cats are commonly vaccinated with either an F3 or an F4 vaccination. Kittens generally need a course of 3 vaccinations; at 6-8 weeks of age, 10-12 weeks of age and their final kitten booster at 14-16 weeks of age. Once they are over 1 year of age a regular annual vaccination is required to keep their immunity strong.

An F4 vaccination provides protection against:

- Panleukopenia
- Calicivirus
- Herpesvirus
- Chlamydia

Panleukopenia – This is caused by a parvovirus and similar to parvovirus in dogs this virus affects rapidly dividing cells, typically in the intestinal tract and in the bone marrow. It is another highly contagious disease that is highly resistant in the environment. Kittens or immune compromised cats are more likely affected and signs can include vomiting and diarrhoea, inappetence, fever and lethargy. This disease is often fatal and sometimes deterioration is so sudden that kitten or cat deaths may be the only sign observed.



Cat flu – This is a disease caused by viral (Calicivirus and Herpesvirus) and bacterial (Chlamydia) components which are inhaled from infective aerosol particles breathed out into the environment. Signs of cat flu include sneezing, watery eyes and nose, fever, inappetence, ulcers in the mouth and lethargy. Treatment for cat flu can include antibiotics, mucolytics (to break up and clear the congestion) and cough suppressants. Similar to canine cough this disease generally improves with time and rest, but in severe cases can lead to pneumonia and can be life threatening.

FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)

This is another serious disease that we can vaccinate our cats against. It is similar to HIV in humans and is an immunosuppressive disease which debilitates the immune system and causes the affected cat to be susceptible to any disease which may be going around. It also increases their chance of developing systemic diseases including cancerous diseases such as leukaemia.

Similar to HIV in humans there is unfortunately no cure for this disease and once a cat contracts FIV it will be shorten their lifespan and cause them illness.

FIV is a retrovirus which is spread via direct contact from cat to cat via saliva or blood. Any cat that has free time outside and can potentially come into contact with another cat should be tested for FIV and vaccinated against this disease.

The FIV initial vaccination course is 3 vaccinations at 2-4 week intervals then regular annual booster vaccinations each year to keep their immunity strong.