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VACCINES

With the arrival of spring, and more pets venturing outside, this time of year always brings many new puppies and kittens into our clinic. However whether your pets are very young, a new addition to your family, or are in their adulthood, vaccinations are very important to all cats and dogs to keep them safe from a number of potentially life threatening viruses, diseases and bacteria. This month our newsletter focuses on some of the more common questions that pet owners usually ask us.

What canine vaccines do we offer:

- **Distemper Combo Vaccine** - protects against Distemper, Adenovirus, Corona Virus, Parainfluenza and Parvo virus. This vaccine fights gastro intestinal viruses which can cause vomiting and diarrhea, it is also extremely important to puppies and kittens)
- **Bordetella Vaccine** - prevents kennel cough which is a highly contagious upper respiratory disease
- **Giardia Vaccine** - to prevent Beaver Fever. This helps guard against a virus caused by protozoa (organisms) that live in stagnant water and which can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Beaver Fever can also be spread to humans.
- **Rabies Vaccine** – to protect against this fatal disease which affects the nervous system (and which can be spread to humans).



What feline vaccines do we offer:

- **Distemper Combo Vaccine** – to protect against Panleukopenia, Feline Rhinotracheitis, Chlamydia and Feline Calicivirus. These are upper respiratory viruses which cause coughing, chronic sneezing, eye and nose discharge. However, Panleukopenia is more serious and can be extremely fatal to kittens.
- **Feline Leukemia Virus Vaccine (FeLV)** – this vaccine creates immunity to prevent infection from the virus which can cause Feline Leukemia. This is the most common cause of cancer in cats and also the most infectious disease in cats
- **Feline Rabies Vaccine** – to protect against this fatal disease which affects the nervous system (and which can be spread to humans).



What age should you start vaccinating?

Vaccines for puppies and kittens are given over a 3 month period. The vaccination cycle starts when your pet is 8 weeks old, then repeated at 12 weeks and 16 weeks. However the cycle can be started as early as 6 weeks old.

How do vaccines work?

We introduce the antigen (vaccine) into the animal's system to give the body an immune response. Through this, their system creates antibodies to fight the bacteria, or virus, should they become infected.

Are vaccinations necessary?

Yes! Vaccinations are very important. They are given to pets to help protect against numerous diseases (as mentioned) that could be very serious or even fatal. *It is much cheaper to vaccinate than treat a virus or disease.*

Why do pets need an annual booster?

The protection that a vaccine gives slowly starts to decline over a period of time. A booster helps strengthen the immunity against the disease, virus or bacteria in question.

Are vaccinations 100% guaranteed?


A veterinarian can not completely guarantee that a given vaccination will fully protect against a disease bacteria, virus or disease. However, vaccines HAVE been proven to be the safest, quickest and most effective way of protecting your pet from a number of diseases that can easily be picked up from their surroundings.


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VETS LOVE PETS





Did you know?


 The phrase "raining cats and dogs" originated in 17th century England when it is believed that many cats and dogs drowned during heavy periods of rain.


 In 2002 alone, more people in North America were killed by dogs than by sharks in the past 100 years.

 If never spayed or neutered, a female dog, her mate, and their puppies could produce over 66,000 dogs in 6 years!

 Most domestic dogs are capable of reaching speeds of 32 kms per hour when running flat out but the members of the greyhound family may reach speeds up to 70 kms per hour!

 The canine nose works one million times more efficiently than the human nose.

 The common belief that dogs are color blind is false. Dogs can see color but it is not as vivid a color scheme as we see. It is much like our vision at twilight.

 At the end of the Beatles' song "A Day In The Life", an ultrasonic whistle, audible only to dogs, was recorded by Paul McCartney for his Shetland Sheepdog.

Pet Trivia

1. What breed of dog doesn't bark?
2. How many permanent teeth does the average dog have?
3. What was the age of the oldest dog on record?
4. What is the most popular name that pet owners give to their dog?
5. The Chow Chow is one of the oldest domesticated breeds of dog. What is peculiar about it's tongue?
6. Which breed of dog is the only animal whose evidence is admissible in an American court?
7. Which breed of dog can not swim?
8. Which breed of dog has webbed feet, making them great swimmers and divers?

1. Basenji (they yodel), 2. 42, 3. Twenty Nine (an Australian cattle dog), 4. Max, 5. It's black, 6. Bloodhound, 7. Bassets, 8. Newfoundland

ARIES

21 March – 20 April

DOGS: As the first sign of the zodiac it is only natural that Aries pets want to be the leader of the pack. Take your dog into the countryside and they'll soon be picking up a scent or act like a trailblazer. Gun dogs, whippets, lurchers and hunting dogs thrive under the sign of Aries. Most Aries dogs cannot bear to be tied down and must frantically explore every nook and cranny in their environment. They want to make their mark upon the world and they may try to dominate every pet and person in the household however they have a fierce and unquestioning loyalty.



CATS: Aries cats are loners and sometimes you'll hardly see them for days as they would have been eating at every house in your street except yours. Like their canine counterparts they may try to dominate other pets in the household. Keep the gold fish and budgie under lock and key or there could be trouble. At night you'll hear your Aries cat hissing at other cats that have strayed into their territory. They've probably sustained a few battle scars and may have a piece or two missing from an ear. Aries cats are certainly not dull. You'll love their exuberance and character.

