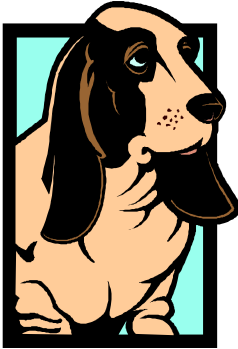

Some common questions answered

What is vaccination ?

Vaccination is the administration of modified infectious agents to stimulate the immune system and provide protective antibodies. Most vaccines need to be given twice initially, two to four weeks apart, then need "boosting" annually to maintain immunity.

Why is it necessary?

Since there is almost no effective treatment for viral diseases, prevention is your pet's only defence. Vaccination programs can be shown to be far more effective than treatments in combating disease. Failure to maintain vaccination of the population allows the reappearance of hitherto uncommon diseases.



Is it necessary if my pet is old?

The old and the young are less well able to combat disease, therefore *more* reliant on vaccines.

What if my pet never goes outside?

Indoor animals gain no natural immunity for meeting disease and are therefore highly susceptible on any excursion (e.g. trip to the vet) of should you bring disease home inadvertently.

Are there any adverse effects of vaccines?

It has been suggested that some of the uncommon immune diseases may be related to vaccination and one particular cancer in cats has been linked to the Leukaemia vaccine. Any animal may feel unwell briefly after a vaccine. Nevertheless it is generally felt that a return to the pre-vaccine disease incidence would be far worse.

How reliable is vaccination?

The immunity gained from vaccination varies in duration from a few months to several years, and may provide only partial or very solid defence, depending on the disease. Fortunately often the more severe diseases e.g. Distemper or Feline Enteritis give the best results.

What happens if my pet's vaccines are overdue?

As a general rule if vaccines are much overdue (say three months) it is necessary to administer a course of two injections two to four weeks apart, effectively starting again.

Why is an examination necessary?

Partly to comply with the vaccine requirement of only vaccinating healthy animals, and partly as a valuable routine check up. It is very common to find minor ailments on examination. Our pets cannot bring them to their owners attention themselves. We often give advice regarding diet, skin, teeth and health of organs such as kidneys and hearts. Such advice may prolong your pet's life. Don't forget an annual check up for your pet is the equivalent to your seeing the doctor every five to seven years.

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Why is deworming usually recommended?

Worms are both common and detrimental to your pet's health. Roundworms of dogs may also be hazardous to human health. Deworming, unlike vaccination, does not confer any protection but kills any worms present. Regular deworming is needed to keep infestations down. The use of a good wormer two to four times annually is recommended, and the dosing at the time of vaccination is only sensible. For cats we can give a deworming injection - saves your fingers!

The vaccine components

Dogs - the 7-in-1 vaccine & Intrac

Distemper: a viral infection resulting in a pneumonia, diarrhoea, brain infection, skin changes (hence the name "Hardpad"). Survivors may develop fits later in life.

Hepatitis a viral disease of the liver causing jaundice and fever. The eyes may be affected with "blue eye"

Leptospirosis two separate diseases, both bacterial one affecting the kidneys the other the liver and blood vessels. Leptospire are found in the rodent population, especially near waterways. The "nose to lamp post" route of transmission is important between dogs.

Parainfluenza One of the "kennel cough" agents, highly contagious but rarely fatal.

Adenovirus 2 Another kennel cough agent closely related to the hepatitis virus.

Parvovirus A severe viral enteritis with a high mortality. Now relatively rare thanks entirely to vaccination.

Bordetella (Intrac) a separate vaccine for the most severe kennel cough agent and the most common of these vaccinatable infections. It is given as nose drops and lasts six months.

Cats a 3 or 4 - in 1 & Leukaemia

Enteritis (Parvovirus) a fatal diarrhoea usually of kittens

Herpes ('Flu) upper respiratory infection with corneal involvement

Calicivirus ('Flu) another upper respiratory infection also causing mouth lesions. Both 'flu viruses can result in either lifelong infection or the development of a "carrier" state. The above diseases constitute the traditional 3-in-1 vaccine.

Chlamydia ('Flu) unlike the above, a bacterial infection therefore treatable. Also an important cause of infertility in queens. It is now included with the above in a 4-in-1

Leukaemia an AIDS-like virus passed on by close contact resulting in an immune deficiency and lymphomas. A separate vaccine advised for any cat that has access to outside.

Examination Checklist

Name(s) 1.	Date	
2.		
	Problem (see below)	Appears Normal
Eyes	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Ears	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Mouth	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Skin	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Abdomen	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Chest	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Limbs	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Gen. Health	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
_____	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 / 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Weight 1. <input type="text"/> Kg	Target 1. <input type="text"/> Kg	2. <input type="text"/> Kg

Problems / Advice

Treatments Given

Cat Vaccines:

- Enteritis
- Herpes
- Calici
- Chlamydia
- Leukaemia

Dog Vaccines:

- Distemper
- Hepatitis
- Leptospirosis
- Parainfluenza
- Adenovirus
- Parvovirus
- Kennel Cough

Wormers:

- Roundworm
- Tapeworm
- Combined

Other:

- Program
- Frontline Spray Applied
- Identichip
- Science Plan
- _____
- _____

Next Treatment Due:

Your Pet's Vaccines



Hamilton Pet Clinic
 110 Boundary Road
 St. John's Wood NW8 0171 722 3381

Park Pet Clinic
 116 Regents Park Road
 Finchley N3 0181 343 1433

Primrose Hill Pet Clinic
 138 Gloucester Avenue
 NW1 0171 586 8806