

NEWS



Vaccination is vital to provide immunity against life threatening diseases and is the only proven method of protection. For most of the diseases we vaccinate against there is no cure and for the others the treatment may be prolonged and can prove expensive.

DOGS



All dogs love to sniff at things—especially when it is the scent of another dog or animal. Smell is a means of communication for dogs so it's natural for them to stick their nose into everything! Unfortunately, it is this behaviour in particular which makes them so susceptible to infectious diseases. These are the diseases that we can vaccinate against

Canine Parvovirus: causes devastating illness and dog owners are urged to take every precaution to prevent their pets from infection with this cruel virus. It strikes quickly and without mercy. We cannot kill the virus, death occurs in many cases.

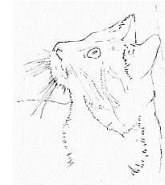
Canine Distemper: Also known as “Hard Pad” it is caused by a virus that is passed from dog to dog. Young dogs are particularly susceptible and it is potentially fatal.

Canine Infectious Hepatitis: This affects the liver and/or kidneys causing fever, vomiting, diarrhoea and possibly jaundice. Also can be fatal.

Leptospirosis: bacterial infection, it can also attack the kidneys and/or liver and death can be rapid—within hours!

This can be passed from an infected animal to humans—an even greater reason to keep your dog up to date with vaccination.

CATS



Even if you have a totally indoor cat we still recommend that they get the core vaccines needed as at some point in their life they may have to be boarded at a cattery, transported, or taken to the vet. These are all places they run the risk of contracting diseases, some diseases can also be brought into your home on the soles of your shoes! The diseases that can be vaccinated against are:

Feline Calicivirus and Rhinotracheitis. These are also known as cat flu, which cause watery eyes, running nose and breathing difficulties. It is a severe respiratory infection that is very difficult to treat and is fatal in many cases.

Feline Panleukopenia Virus also known as Cat enteritis, this causes a severe and often fatal disease. The cat will suffer from terrible diarrhoea. It is particularly vicious, capable of being spread rapidly, with a high mortality rate, especially in younger cats. These are what we call ‘Core Vaccines’ both of these can be prevented by vaccinating your cat.

You can also choose to vaccinate your cat against Feline leukaemia virus. This virus is transmitted through saliva, eg sharing food bowls or from bites from infected cats. If your cat is an outdoor cat we strongly advise this part of the vaccine.

Both dogs and cats need to have a yearly booster to maintain the correct level of immunity. They will also get a thorough check over by our vets and it gives you the opportunity to ask any questions or for advice about your pet.

PET OF THE MONTH

WINSTON



Winston is a 13-year-old black cat who has been a star patient to treat. He came into see us with symptoms of lethargy, slowing down over the last few months and pain. We took a blood sample to rule out any illness. The glucose level was slightly high, however we often see this as a result of stress in cats. As the vets is one of the most stressful places for a cat to be, and because all the other readings were normal, we put the results down to stress and started him on a pain relief. If there was no improvement we were going to have him in for further work up; we also wanted to recheck his glucose levels to make sure they were stable.

One month later his owner felt he was still not right. He was drinking more, the lethargy had increased and he had started to lose weight. The first test we took was a blood sample to check his glucose; it was very high this time. After ruling out any other illnesses, we diagnosed him as diabetic.

Everyday for a week we had Winston in for the day to monitor his glucose

levels through the day and try to stabilise him. Each day we were increasing his insulin dose and the glucose was slowly starting to come down but not enough to be safe. The next step was to change his food to one specially made for diabetic patients. It is formulated to sustain and release carbohydrates throughout the day especially after eating, therefore reducing fluctuations of blood sugar levels. After changing his food we found his glucose did come down enough that we didn't need to see him every day. His owner had him at home and was testing the glucose reading in his urine as a way of monitoring his condition.

He did well for a while at home but his owner started to notice that he was having wobbly turns and that the glucose urine reading was high in the evenings. Following another consultation with the vet we realised that Winston wasn't the usual textbook diabetic case. Cats usually require insulin once daily but Winston had to be changed onto twice daily dosing.

He spent another few days with us whilst we found the correct dose for him and he was doing much better again. His owner has been monitoring him at home and keeping him on the special food, which has really helped his recovery.

The vet had requested to do a spot check on his blood glucose levels in a month's time if all was going well until then. A month later his glucose had come right down and his insulin dose was lowered. Another month went by and again his dose was lowered. He then came in every two weeks for a spot test as we worried that as the insulin was lowered his sugar levels would rise again. But they didn't. We continued to lower his dose each visit and he is now on just 0.5 units twice

daily. We hope that at his next visit we will be able to take him off insulin altogether-we will let you know how he gets on.

Winston is our pet of the month not only because it's a great outcome but also he has been such a good patient. He would come in and lie on the table, let us take blood, give him injections, keep him in all day and he wouldn't be bothered at all and if you tickled him under his ears he would start to purr. His owner has followed everything as guided by the vet that has been the key to his recovery. When the vet is finished the consultation and Winston has been good (he was never anything other than good!) his owner would give him his favourite scoop cuddle and tickle his tummy. We are all so proud of him!

We have had no new arrivals this month; you must all be busy getting ready to go back to school!



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