

Oak House Veterinary Centre Ltd

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Vaccination of Pets

The vaccination of our pets greatly improves their health and longevity. Over the last few decades one of the major improvements to the healthcare of our pets has been the development and use of effective vaccines to immunize our pets against a variety of serious and life threatening illnesses.

Some horrible diseases like *Feline Enteritis* and *Canine Distemper* are now thankfully extremely rare. Others such as *Cat Flu* and *Canine Parvovirus* are mainly seen in unvaccinated animals. Outbreaks of contagious illness such as *Canine Kennel Cough* and *Myxomatosis* in rabbits can be limited by vaccination.

Generally your Dog, Cat, Rabbit or Ferret requires an initial primary course of inoculations as a youngster and then an annual booster throughout it's life to maintain it's protection. As your pet gets older it's immune system is less efficient and it is more important to keep him or her vaccinated. It is especially important in a breeding female to have them fully vaccinated so as to pass on that immunity to their newborn.

Importantly alongside his annual booster your pet will also get an thorough health check which often is a time when any other problems, such as early heart or dental disease, can be picked up and treated. It is also an ideal time to check that your pets worming and flea control is up to date.

Unfortunately recently vaccination in people and animals has had a bad press such as the use of MMR in children. However the modern vaccines used are carefully tested and licensed to ensure they are safe to use. Like with any immunization you can get temporary mild side effects but major problems are extremely rare. If you have any concerns your vet will be happy to discuss them with you.

In these times of potential hardship owners are often tempted to not vaccinate their pets or let their boosters lapse but this can be a false economy and potentially life threatening to your beloved.

To help clients with this many practices have schemes to help you spread out the cost of routine health care such as our ***Pet Health Club***, which gives you the option to pay a monthly direct debit to cover the costs of routine health care such as vaccination, flea and worm control alongside a list of further savings such as discounts on dentals, neutering and life stage diets. To find out more check with your practice or check their web site for details.

TOGETHER WE CARE FOR YOUR PETS

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