



CHB VETS LTD

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Veterinary newsletter

November 2021

Vaccinations for the holiday season

Is your pet fully vaccinated? We vaccinate pets against a number of serious infectious diseases. A vaccination programme should be started when your pet is a baby and maintained throughout their life.

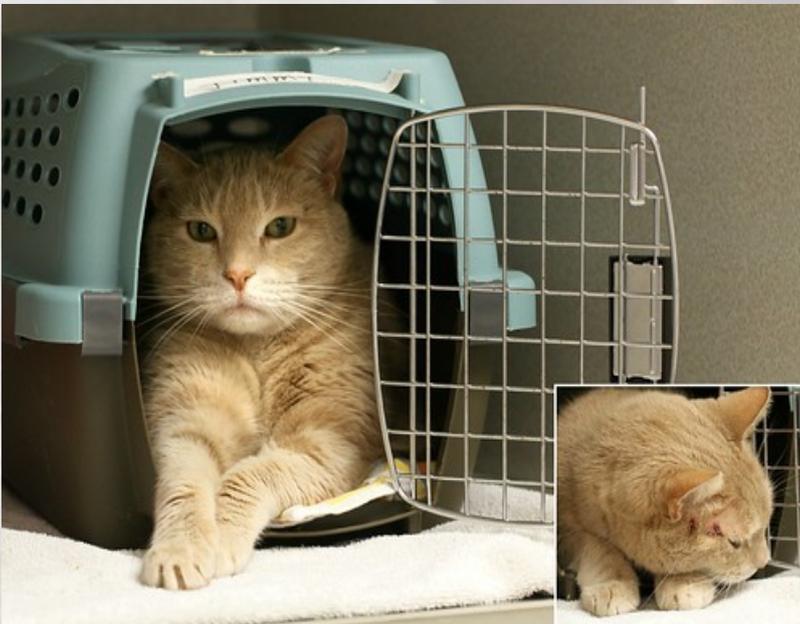
Vaccinations are also a requirement before your pet goes into boarding kennels. There is an increased risk of any contagious diseases being spread where there are a number of animals in close proximity.

Most kennel owners will ask that dogs have been vaccinated for kennel cough. This condition affects the upper respiratory tract of dogs and causes a harsh persistent cough which sometimes leads to lung problems and in rare cases, death. Kennel cough is transmitted through droplets in the air so will be passed between dogs in close proximity.



The kennel cough vaccine is not usually done as part of the routine vaccination protocol. We will discuss your pet's requirements when we see you.

Kennel cough vaccination must be done at least 3 days before going into the kennels.



If your pet has never been vaccinated, we would recommend they start the course of injections. This will be needed before they go on their holidays to the kennels.

You need to allow at least a month for a full course to be completed. If your cat or dog is going into kennels this summer, remember to allow enough time to ensure they are fully vaccinated and ready for their stay.

Don't let them worm their way in

Worms are common internal parasites in cats and dogs, but how much do you really know about them? Here we will bust some common myths, giving you the facts to understand the worms dogs and cats experience, the dangers they pose, and how to keep your pet and family protected.

First, let's meet the usual suspects and see the trouble they can cause.

Common Flea Tapeworm

Pets swallow infected fleas & it causes itchy bottoms in cats and dogs.



Roundworm

Vomiting. Diarrhoea. Coughing. Bloating stomach. Poor growth - mainly in puppies and kittens. Zoonotic.



Feline Lungworm

A wide spectrum of signs: symptomless or coughing, difficulty breathing & weight loss. Can be fatal for cats. Mostly outdoor kittens.



Whipworm

Dogs; embeds into large intestine. Bloody diarrhoea.



Hookworm

Mainly affects dogs. Heavy burdens = anaemia & diarrhoea. Footpad dermatitis. More common in kennelled dogs like Greyhounds. Zoonotic.



Sheep Measles Tapeworm

Dogs spread this on sheep pasture after eating raw sheep/goat meat. Causes damage to sheep meat.

What is Zoonotic?
Diseases spread between animals and people

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Ask your vet clinic for the best worming solution for your pet

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Treating for worms

You can choose from a range of worming products, including spot-on treatments, such as Advocate® or Profender® for cats and tablets such as Drontal®, which kill intestinal worms in dogs and cats. Worm your adult pets at least every three months to control intestinal worms and help to prevent human infections.



	Administration	Frequency [†]		Min. Age/Weight
Drontal®	Oral	3 Monthly [†]	 	> 2 weeks (puppies) > 4 weeks (kittens)
advocate®	Topical	Monthly	 	> 7 weeks (puppies) > 9 weeks (kittens)
profender.	Topical	3 Monthly [‡]		> 8 weeks (kittens) Available in NZ for cats weighing over 2.5kg

[†] Frequency is a guide for adult pets only. Ask your vet clinic for a tailored solution to fit your pet's age and lifestyle, and always read the product insert before use.
[‡] With reference to cats and dogs over 6 months of age. [§] With reference to cats over 12 weeks of age.

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Dental health is a very important part of your pet's overall health, and dental problems can cause, or be caused by, other health problems.

Oral health in dogs and cats

Your pet's teeth should be checked at least once a year by your veterinarian for early signs of a problem and to keep your pet's mouth healthy.

Have your pet's teeth checked sooner if you observe any of the following problems:

- Bad breath
- Broken or loose teeth
- Extra teeth or retained baby teeth
- Teeth that are discoloured or covered in tartar
- Abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food from the mouth
- Reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- Pain in or around the mouth
- Bleeding from the mouth
- Swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth



Some pets become irritable when they have dental problems, and any changes in your pet's behaviour should prompt a visit to your veterinarian. Always be careful when evaluating your pet's mouth, because a painful animal may bite.

Causes of pet dental problems

Although cavities are less common in pets than in people, they can have many of the same dental problems that people can develop:

- Broken teeth and roots
- Periodontal disease
- Abscesses or infected teeth
- Cysts or tumours in the mouth
- Malocclusion, or misalignment of the teeth and bite
- Broken (fractured) jaw
- Palate defects (such as cleft palate)

Periodontal disease is the most common dental condition in dogs and cats – by the time your pet is 3 years old, he or she will very likely have some early evidence of periodontal disease, which will worsen as your pet grows older if effective preventive measures aren't taken. Early detection and treatment are critical, because advanced periodontal disease can cause severe problems and pain for your pet. Periodontal disease doesn't just affect your pet's mouth. Other health problems found in association with periodontal disease include kidney, liver, and heart muscle changes.

It starts with plaque that hardens into tartar. Tartar above the gumline can often easily be seen and removed, but plaque and tartar below the gumline is damaging and sets the stage for infection and damage to the jawbone and the tissues that connect the tooth to the jaw bone. Periodontal disease is graded on a scale of 0 (normal) to 4 (severe).

Why does dentistry require anaesthesia?

When you go to the dentist, you know that what's being done is meant to help you and keep your mouth healthy. Your dentist uses techniques to minimize pain and discomfort and can ask you how you are feeling, so you accept the procedures and do your best to keep still. Your pet does not understand the benefit of dental procedures, and he or she reacts by moving, trying to escape, or even biting.

[Anaesthesia](#) makes it possible to perform the dental procedures with less stress and pain for your pet. In addition, anaesthesia allows for a better cleaning because your pet is not moving around and risking injury from the dental equipment. If radiographs (x-rays) are needed, your pet needs to be very still in order to get good images, and this is unlikely without heavy sedation or anaesthesia.

Although anaesthesia will always have risks, it's safer now than ever and continues to improve so that the risks are very low and are far outweighed by the benefits. Most pets can go home the same day of the procedure, although they might seem a little groggy for the rest of the day.

Mammary Tumours (breast cancer in dogs)

Are the second most common tumour in female dogs. Half of these are benign (won't spread anywhere else in the body) and half are malignant (can spread to other glands, lymph nodes, and elsewhere- particularly the lungs.)

Most mammary tumours are first noticed as a lump in one or more of the mammary glands. Because half of these tumours can be quite nasty, it's a good idea to book your pet into see us at this stage, as the "wait and see" approach doesn't usually work. Most things that cause a lump in a mammary gland don't go away on their own.

We'll look at the lump and also do a check-up on the rest of her; looking for spread of the tumour (checking the other glands, the lymph nodes, and listening to the lungs). Usually surgery to remove it is recommended, as the lump may be fast growing (and so harder to remove at a later stage) and because we can send some of the lump to the lab to find out if it's a nasty or not. We may suggest an x-ray before surgery, because many of these tumours spread to the lungs and may be small enough that we can't hear them but can see them on an x-ray. Tumours found here would make surgery a less likely option, as they can't be removed surgically and make anaesthesia more dangerous.

We can send the lump off to the lab to find out what kind of tumour it is and also to find out if we got all of it (we can remove what we can see but the cancerous cells are microscopic so some may get left behind). This tells us if the surgery was successful and lets us give you a more accurate picture of your pet's future.

This tumour is preventable!

If you desex your female pup before her first season (when she's 5-6 months old) her chances of getting a mammary tumour are 0.05% (1 in 2000) making it quite rare. If you have her desexed after her first heat but before her second, her risk goes up to 8% (1 in 12). The risk is much higher in bitches that are desexed later in life or that have never been desexed (1 in 3). So not only does desexing prevent unwanted pregnancy, it also protects against mammary cancer! Unless you're planning to breed from her, why wouldn't you have her desexed?

HEALTH BENEFITS OF DESEXING PETS

FEMALE <i>Spaying</i>	MALE <i>Neutering</i>
Reduces the risk of mammary tumours	Reduces the risk of prostatic diseases
Eliminates the risk of tumours in the ovaries, uterus and cervix	Reduces the risk of perianal tumours
Prevents other medical conditions such as pyometra (infection of the uterus)	Eliminates the risk of testicular cancers

The infographic features a photograph of a dog on the left and a photograph of a cat on the right. The text is arranged in a central column between the two images, with a horizontal line above the 'FEMALE' and 'MALE' headers.