

New Vaccination schedules available for dogs

Gungahlin Veterinary Hospital strives to keep up to date with the latest developments in veterinary science, especially as they affect our care of your pet. We are please to announce that we are offering new options for vaccination schedules for dogs.

New Schedule for Puppies

We are revising our puppy vaccination recommendations by reducing the interval between puppy vaccinations, but maintaining the same number of vaccinations. The reduced interval reduces the chance of a puppy contracting an infectious disease between vaccinations, does not change the cost of a course of vaccinations to you, and also allows us to complete the course of vaccinations at 12 weeks of age. This enables puppies to get out and socialise with people and other dogs earlier and allows us to desex them at a younger age.

Thus, we now recommend **three** vaccinations at **three week intervals** starting at 6 weeks of age. Each of these vaccinations should include Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus, and uses a vaccine registered for this purpose (Protech Duramune). One of these visits (after 8 weeks of age) should also include Canine Cough (Adenovirus, Parainfluenza and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*).

The next vaccination is due 12 months later, usually at 15 months of age.

New Option for Adult Dog Vaccinations

There has been much debate within the profession over the last five years about the duration of vaccination and the best interval between vaccinations for adult dogs. Part of the reason has been a concern about side effects after vaccination. Some studies have reported an increased risk of a form of anaemia within the 2 months post vaccination, while others have found no association. A 2005 study of 3,439,576 doses of vaccine given to 1,226,159 dogs at 360 veterinary hospitals found an incidence of side effects of less than 0.4%. It did find that the risk of a vaccination reaction significantly increased as the number of vaccine doses administered per office visit increased.

Therefore, we are now offering a new vaccination regime for adult dogs. Duramune Adult is a newly registered vaccine for dogs which protects against Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus but only requires a booster every three years. Dogs still require a vaccination against Canine Cough (Parainfluenza and *Bordetella bronchiseptica* +/- Adenovirus) annually. This annual visit also allows us to conduct a careful physical examination and to provide the latest advice on preventative health care for your pet.

The traditional vaccination regime of an annual health check and C5 vaccination, which has served you so well for the last ten years, is still available. The total cost of consultation and vaccination over three years, using the new schedule, is within 5% of the old price (2006 figures).

Our staff are happy to answer any questions about the new vaccination recommendations and options. Ring 6242 7276.