

Vaccinations and Antibody Titre Testing

At Lamington Terrace Veterinary Surgery we believe that a pet's vaccination program should be tailored to its individual needs and regularly "*risk-assessed*" and modified as required.

The vaccine that we have been using in our practice for over six years for the "**core**" three viruses (Parvovirus, Distemper and Hepatitis) is registered for use *every THREE years*. It does not need to be given annually.

Note that the cough viruses (Parainfluenza and Bordetella) are still only registered as *YEARLY* vaccines and although some dogs will maintain longer immunity against Parainfluenza, we know that the Bordetella vaccine produces on average only 9 to 12 months of immunity. This means that annual boosters against Bordetella are usually necessary but, again, depends on the individual's risk assessment.

This is in line with Australian Veterinary Association and World Small Animal Veterinary Association recommendations and guidelines for vaccination.
<http://www.wsava.org/sites/default/files/VaccinationGuidelines2010.pdf>

So what is Titre Testing?

There is reliable scientific evidence that adult dogs that have been **properly** vaccinated against the core three viruses of parvo, distemper and hepatitis (**complete course of puppy vaccines then a booster 12 months later**) will be likely to have immunity against these diseases for at least three years or longer.

However there will be some dogs who do not mount an adequate immune response or who, for other reasons, need more frequent vaccination.



So how do you know if your pet needs a vaccine or not?

A blood test is available that measures the level of antibody the immune system has produced in response to previous vaccines.

Dogs can be titre tested for Parvo and Distemper as well as Hepatitis (but not parainfluenza or Bordetella)

Cats can be tested for the core three viruses in the F3 vaccine

If the test shows an insufficient antibody level then a vaccine booster may be required. If there is adequate immunity present then no vaccine booster is required. The test should be done every few years depending on the individual's situation. These tests are much more expensive than vaccination but will help us provide a more tailored health care program for your pet.



Regular check up's are still of the utmost importance to your pets' ongoing good health.

Wellness Examinations are crucial for early detection of any changes. Early detection of disease gives us the best chance of preventing or better managing disease.

Young healthy dogs should have a Wellness Exam annually.

Older pets may need a check-up 3 or 4 times per year.

A Wellness Exam includes a "top to tail" physical examination, assessment of lifestyle and risk factors, diet, body condition, a complete urine test and a faecal examination. The urine test can help detect early evidence of many common problems and the faecal test will check for worm eggs to see if worming is required.



Please talk to us about the best health care and vaccination program for your pets.

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