

Care Guides

Routine Vaccinations Care Guide

Routine vaccinations will prevent your pet becoming infected by common infectious diseases. For all species, Rabies vaccines are only required for travel abroad as the UK is Rabies free.

Dogs

Dogs are routinely vaccinated against:

Parvovirus	Distemper	Leptospirosis	Infectious canine hepatitis
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- Puppies require two injections 4 weeks apart ideally at 8 and 12 weeks of age, although they can be vaccinated from 6 weeks of age.
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- Your dog should then receive an annual booster vaccination. This is also a good opportunity for us to give your dog a thorough health check.
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- If your dog has not received a vaccination for over 18 months, then we advise your dog has a repeat course of two vaccinations given four weeks apart.
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- Kennel cough is an additional vaccination that covers against Bordetella and Parainfluenza which is often advised should your dog have regular contact with others. Many boarding kennels will insist that your dog has received the vaccination before boarding. This vaccine should be given 3 weeks before the expected exposure to kennel cough.

Cats

Cats are vaccinated against:

Feline flu	Feline enteritis
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- We can also vaccinate against feline leukaemia virus. This is particularly recommended if you live in a built up area where your cat may be in contact with lots of other cats.
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- Kittens are vaccinated at 9 and 12 weeks, followed by annual booster vaccinations thereafter.
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- If your cat hasn't received a vaccination for over 18 months we would advise giving a course of two vaccinations, three weeks apart.

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Rabbits

Rabbits can be vaccinated against two diseases:

Myxomatosis Viral Haemorrhagic Disease

- The vaccine we routinely use will provide immunity against both diseases for one year. Young rabbits require just one vaccination, with an annual booster to maintain protection.

Rabbit VHD Vaccination

Both VHD 1 and VHD 2 are viral diseases of rabbits which can both be fatal. VHD 1 is very rapid and nearly always fatal, but VHD 2 can have a slightly slower onset and smaller percentage of fatalities. The symptoms of VHD 2 can be anything from sudden unexplained death, to a gradual onset of loss of appetite, lethargy and generally being under the weather.

We have vaccinated rabbits against VHD 1 for a long time in combination with the Myxomatosis vaccine. However we have only had the VHD 2 vaccine for the past year or so. Previously we were unable to give the vaccine on the same day as they are not licenced to be given together, however recent work has shown that they can be given on the same day as long as injected in different sites of the body.

It can be caught by your rabbits directly through contact with other infected rabbits, or indirectly via contaminated bedding, food, clothing, and insects such as flies, fleas and possibly birds. Keeping wild rabbits away from your rabbits, buying food and bedding from trusted sources, and keeping flies and other nuisance parasites away will also reduce the chance of VHD coming into contact with your rabbit.

VHD is persistent in the environment and can even survive freezing winter conditions. Therefore we would recommend vaccination against both Myxomatosis and VHD 1, and VHD 2 to give your rabbit the best preventative health possible.

If you have any concerns with preventative health for your rabbit, or with VHD then please call the clinic on 01258 472314.