



THE VETERINARY SURGERY

Yarrambat & North Warrandyte

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are an important way to make sure your pet stays healthy.

Dogs

For **dogs**, The Veterinary Surgery recommends the triennial C5 vaccination. This vaccine is divided into two components – the ‘core’ C3 vaccine (against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus) and the kennel cough vaccine (against Bordetella and parainfluenza). The kennel cough booster can be given either as an injection or as a liquid squirted into the nose.

With the triennial Duramune vaccine, the core C3 component only needs to be given every third year, although it is important that dogs be brought in each year for a check up and for the kennel cough vaccine, which needs to be boosted annually to be effective.

The vaccines we give dogs are very safe and we see very few side effects in our patients. Occasionally there may be some soreness at the injection site and dogs may seem a little ‘flat’ the day after a vaccination. More serious side effects, such as an allergic reaction, are rare and usually occur soon after the vaccination is given. An allergic response, if it occurs, can be treated.

Puppies require three vaccinations during the primary course – the first given at 6-8 weeks of age, the second at 12-14 weeks and the final vaccination at 16 weeks. We consider dogs to be fully protected 10 days after their second injection. Prior to being completely covered, it is important to be careful where you take your puppy as they may still be prone to picking up an infection. However, to make the most of the socialisation period, we recommend you enrol your puppy in puppy socialisation classes PRIOR to them being fully vaccinated. At Yarrambat we disinfect the floors before and after each puppy class to reduce any risks.

Cats

For **cats**, we recommend an annual F4 vaccination (against feline enteritis and respiratory disease) and check over. Kittens require an initial course of 3 injections (as described above for puppies) and then annual boosters for life.

For outside cats, owners should also consider vaccinating against feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), the cause of feline AIDS, which is spread by cat bites. To be vaccinated against FIV, cats first need to be microchipped and test negative for the disease.



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Rabbits

Rabbits should be vaccinated annually for calicivirus. Unfortunately we do not have a vaccine available for the other insect-borne disease, myxomatosis, so it is still important to keep your pet in a mosquito-proof hutch even after they have been vaccinated.