

Armac Vet Group - Spring 2012

www.armacvetgroup.co.uk

PRACTICE POLICY CHANGES

As of the 1st April 2012 fees for all consultations, treatments and medicines must be paid for at the time. We thank you for your help in this matter.

FREE VETERINARY NURSE CONSULTATIONS

Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) are fully qualified and an essential part of any veterinary practice. They have a wealth of skills and knowledge to help you and your pet. All listed RVNs are registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and have to maintain their knowledge and skills by doing continuous professional development, just like Veterinary Surgeons. RVNs work under the instruction of a veterinary surgeon.

What can RVNs do?

- Give you up to date advice on many subjects such as nutrition, vaccinations, worming and flea treatments and neutering.
- Provide skilled supportive care for sick animals.
- Monitor patients under anaesthetics.
- Administer medication by injection and orally.
- Give patients intravenous fluid therapy.
- Blood sampling.
- Post operative checks.
- Perform minor procedures and surgery such as dentals (scale and polish), microchipping, nail clipping and stitching up of wounds.

We are pleased to offer all clients FREE consultations with our Registered Veterinary Nurse. At the moment we are concentrating on dental and weight checks for both cats and dogs but please feel free to ask for any other advice in regards to any of the above. Please contact our surgery and make your FREE nurse appointment for your pet now.

VACCINATIONS

We are often asked about vaccinations for your pet: why do I need to vaccinate every year, especially when I have read that some vaccines last for 3 years? Do I need to vaccinate at all?

Dogs

Vaccinations may be divided into two types: the core vaccines – those vaccines that cover for important diseases, both at the individual and at the nationwide level, e.g. **Parvovirus**, **Infectious hepatitis** and **Distemper**; and the non-core vaccines – those vaccines that cover for diseases that have a more regional importance, e.g. **Leptospirosis**, **Parainfluenza** and **Coronavirus**.



On top of maintaining the health of your own pet, vaccination with the core vaccines helps to maintain the low level of the core diseases throughout the country. Occasional breakdowns do occur, which result in deadly bouts of clinical disease. Thanks to responsible pet care by most owners, this is rare. The core vaccines give protection for 3 years. It is our opinion at ARMAC that vaccination for the non-core diseases is also important in our area. All of the non-core vaccines last only for one year, so we offer a cycle of vaccinations comprising: **non-core vaccinations every year** and **core vaccinations every third year**, to offer your dog complete protection.

Kennel cough is a highly contagious canine illness characterized by a harsh cough. Your dog does not need to be in the kennels to catch kennel cough, it can be caught anywhere where there are a lot

of dogs, such as training classes or the park. It is caused by a cocktail of viruses and bacteria. The main kennel cough vaccine consists of nasal drops and gives the dog 12 months protection against the bacteria **Bordatella bronchiseptica**. Other main viral causes of the condition, such as the **parainfluenza virus**, are given with the main booster. It is recommended to have to the kennel cough vaccination 2 weeks before you intend to put your dog into kennels.

Cats

In cats we vaccinate for cat 'flu which can be caused by either of 2 viruses (**Feline viral rhinotracheitis and Feline calicivirus**). Cat 'flu is an upper respiratory tract infection that can also cause eye ulceration and leaves the cat vulnerable to follow on bacterial infections. We also vaccinate for **Feline panleucopenia**, which causes bloody diarrhoea and is often fatal. Cats are given yearly boosters after an initial course of two injections 3 weeks apart.



FeLV (Feline Leukaemia Virus) causes a suppression of the immune system leaving the cat susceptible to other infections. It is transmitted between cats in close contact, for example sharing a food dish or washing each other. There is very little FeLV in this area but you may wish to protect against FeLV if you have more than one cat. Speak to the vet for more information.

Rabbits

We choose to vaccinate rabbits against two diseases:



Myxomatosis is a virus which is spread by the rabbit flea and other biting insects such as the Scottish midge so your rabbit, including your indoor rabbit, does not need to be in contact with wild rabbits to be at risk. Symptoms of infection include swollen eyes and genitals.

Between our Peebles and Biggar surgeries we may see more than a dozen cases of Myxomatosis per year. Most of these cases are seen in the late summer and tragically most of them have to be put to sleep.

Vaccination from 6 weeks old and should be repeated every 12 months although priority should be given to vaccinating in early summer (May-June). In a high-risk area, vaccination can be given every 6 months. The Myxomatosis vaccine cannot be given within 2 weeks of any other vaccine. Controlling fleas and other biting insects will also help prevent infection. There are several products available at the surgery for controlling rabbit fleas.

Viral Haemorrhagic disease. This disease gives very little warning and often presents as a sudden death occasionally with bleeding from the nose or bottom. It is very infectious and is spread in the air, by birds and on inanimate objects (e.g. hay, feed bowls etc.). Because there is very little warning with this disease often diagnosis can only be made by post mortem.

Viral haemorrhagic disease is very easily prevented by vaccination. This can be done from 8 weeks old and should be boosted every 12 months.

We are available to speak to you on the telephone, or in the surgery, from:

8:30am – 6:00pm Monday to Friday

8:30am – 12:30pm Saturday

We offer a 24 hour EMERGENCY on-call service outside these surgery hours – just call our normal surgery number (01899 220046) and your call will be diverted to the vet on call.