



Royal Animal Hospital – Preventative Healthcare

Routine Medical Care

Yearly or six monthly veterinary health checks by our highly trained doctors are one of the best ways to keep your pet healthy and detect problems early. Complete veterinary health examinations are the foundation of any preventative health program. Our veterinary health examinations routinely include a check of the patients weight, temperature, ears for ear mites and fur for ring worm.

Vaccinations

- For dogs and cats
- A veterinary health examination is performed on your pet prior to any vaccinations.

Vaccination Protocols

The policy of the Royal Animal Hospital is that prevention is better than cure, and as such we recommend routine vaccination for all pets where possible.

We aim to use the minimum vaccination needed whilst providing the maximum cover. We regularly review our protocols as new vaccines are developed or as more information becomes available as research is carried out. The results are the following recommendations:

Dogs:

The diseases we protect against routinely are-

1. Distemper Virus (D)
2. Viral Hepatitis (H)
3. Parvo Virus (P)
4. Leptospirosis Bacteria (L)
5. Parainfluenza Virus (Pi)

The Leptospirosis and Parainfluenza vaccinations need annual injections to provide full immunity.

Immunization begins with the primary course of vaccinations whether as puppies or adults.

The primary course of vaccinations involves an injection which can be started at 8 weeks of age for the earliest full protection for puppies and is then repeated every 2-4 weeks up to the age of 16 weeks. In adult dogs just two vaccination 2-4 weeks apart are needed.

Thereafter annual vaccinations are necessary to maintain full protection.

A common scenario encountered in Kuwait is the pet bought from the pet shop or directly imported by an owner that comes to the veterinary clinic with a “completed” vaccination record but when examined we find that the age in the vaccination book is not appropriate with the actual age of the pet in front of us. We believe this situation arises because pet retailers desire to import and sell the pets younger than the legal age. To get around the age limit, the vaccine book date of birth is dated as older than the actual age and the vaccines are “given”. We say given because once one part of the document can be falsified then one wonders if any part of it can be trusted? Infectious pet viral diseases are all too common in Kuwait and we therefore recommend that if the paperwork looks doubtful that the pets is vaccinated at the Royal Animal Hospital and our Pet Vaccine Book issued.

Other diseases we can protect against include:

Kennel Cough - The Bordetella Kennel cough vaccine needs annual booster vaccinations to give continued protection. It is administered by way of nasal drops. It is a requirement of kennels in the Kuwait that this vaccination is given prior to the pet entering the kennels. Failing to give it can mean a spell in quarantine at the kennels.

Rabies – primarily for all dogs and for pets travelling abroad and for the Pet Passport scheme. The initial vaccination should be at 12 weeks of age or older and then at least every three years. For pets likely to travel it may be better to give the vaccination annually to avoid unwanted delays in the case of travel to countries requiring annual vaccination. Pearl of Wisdom, annual vaccination also almost completely takes away the risk of inadvertently voiding a PETs travel document through being late on a three year vaccine booster.

Cats

We recommend vaccination against:

- Cat Flu
- Feline Infectious Enteritis

These two are combined as one injection. Kittens need to be 9 weeks of age or over to start the primary course, which involves injections at a 3 week interval up to the age of 16 weeks. Once an individual has been fully protected annual single booster injections are necessary to maintain protection. We recommend this vaccination even for indoors only cats as the viruses are very prevalent in the Kuwait and can be brought indoors on articles of clothing from the street.

Feline Leukemia (FeLv) Vaccination We don't routinely advise Feline Leukemia vaccination. There is a nonexistent risk for exposure to the disease in indoors only cats.

When kittens or adult cats of unknown history are introduced into a household already with a cat or cats we strongly recommend testing the new individual for FIV and FeLV to protect those already present. The test is run in-house at Royal Animal Hospital and the results can be ready as early as 15 minutes after the blood sample is collected. The test can be run before vaccinations are given. It's also not a bad idea annually for those outdoor cats that are scrappers.

We do not routinely vaccinate for **Chlamydia** although this can be arranged.

Rabbits

At this time in Kuwait we do not routinely vaccinate rabbits since we have not seen any of the two common rabbit disease - Myxomatosis or Viral Hemorrhagic Disease – that have available vaccines.

Parasite Control

Two general types of parasite need to be controlled for our pets' sakes as well as for public health concerns:

Endoparasites - the internal 'worms' including various roundworms, tapeworms, whipworms and hookworms. Each has a different life-cycle and can cause a variety of problems.

Ectoparasites – live on or near the skin surface and cause problems such as skin irritation and allergies or can carry diseases and other infections. Control is thus vital for the well-being of our pets.