



## Vaccination Amnesty Month

### New Opening Hours:

- We are now open Sundays.
- Hours of operation:  
Monday–Friday: 8am-6:30pm  
Saturday: 9am-4pm  
Sunday: 10am-2pm

### Car Parking On-site:

- Just off Williamson Ave
- Dedicated for our clients only
- No need to try to find street parking.

### Inside this issue:

Vaccination Amnesty Month	1
Why do we vaccinate our pets?	1,2
Introducing two new members of the team	2

## Why do we Vaccinate our Pets?

### Why do I need to vaccinate my pet?

Vaccination is vital to provide your pet with immunity against life threatening disease and is the only proven method of prevention. For most diseases we vaccinate against there is no cure and for the others the treatment may need to be prolonged and can prove expensive.

For dogs there is the DHPPi vaccine (covers the standard four: parvovirus, distemper, canine hepatitis and parainfluenza), Lepto (leptospirosis) and KC (kennel cough: against Bordetella bronchiseptica). For cats we vaccinate against three primary pathogens in the Tricat vaccine (herpes, calici virus and panleucopaenia) as well as FIV (feline AIDS).

Vaccinations are an important way to prevent serious disease in your pet. Furthermore, it allows your veterinarian to regularly examine your pet so that any problems or diseases can be detected and treated early.

If vaccinations have lapsed, or are more than two months late (beyond the due date), usually the course of vaccinations need to be restarted (a vaccination then a second vaccination in 2-4 weeks time).

In an effort to encourage full vaccination protection for all

our client's pets, we have made the month of March: Vaccination Amnesty Month. What this means is that any dog or cat who is overdue for a vaccination can have the second vaccination (in 2-4 weeks time) for free. If longer than 4 weeks has lapsed, then two further injections will be required (only the second vaccination for free).

**Free second vaccinations!** Conditions apply, only for vaccination course restarts.

### What do I do if my pet skips a year of vaccinations?

It depends on the vaccine (see below), but generally speaking if a vaccination is greater than 2 months overdue or longer, the course needs to be restarted (a vaccination given, then a second vaccination in 2-4 weeks later).

The DHP component of DHPPi is registered to last three years (after the first annual vaccination). The intranasal KC (which also includes the Para-influenza) and Lepto in dogs are both annual vaccinations. Both the annual Tricat and FIV vaccination in cats are annual vaccines.

### What vaccines should I give my pet?

What vaccines are recommended to an individual pet depend on many factors: what kind of exposure to diseases the animal has, what diseases are common in the area, what kind of stress factors are present etc.

Leptospirosis is a problem in some areas of Auckland so we consider the core vaccines for dogs include DHPPi and Lepto. KC causes an upper respiratory infection and is highly recommended for any dogs which frequently come into contact with other dogs (eg at dog parks) and is mandatory for most boarding kennels. We recommend all cats be vaccinated against the core feline viruses (Tricat) and FIV. The FIV virus is spread via cat fighting and

## Why do we vaccinate our pets? (con.)

the prevalence in New Zealand is up to 30%.

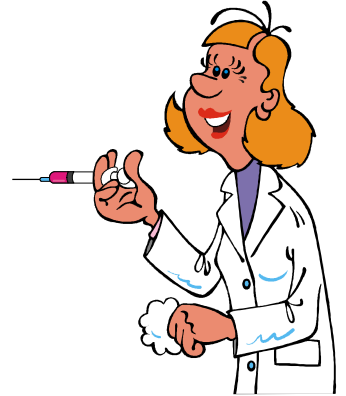
### If a vaccine lasts a person his or her whole life, why do I have to vaccinate my pet annually?

At this stage only the DHP vaccine is licensed by the vaccine manufacturers to last three years, hence all the other vaccinations at this stage are annual vaccines. Another important factor to remember is that dogs and cats are much more susceptible to these viral infections (than say human diseases) because of the way they interact with each other. Dogs and cats have a much higher risk of contracting these

diseases.

### Can Vaccines hurt my pet?

Some muscle soreness, lethargy and mild fever persisting for a day or two are considered common reactions to stimulation of the immune system. Vaccine reactions beyond this are unusual but possible. Allergic reactions characterized by facial swelling and hives are a strong sign that special care should be taken in administering vaccinations in the future. Since allergic reactions can potentially become worse with each episode, it is important to take heed of these signs, and contact us at the veterinary clinic immediately.




---

*All the staff at the Ponsonby Veterinary Centre would like to wish our clients a very Happy Easter and a safe holiday for those travelling on the roads.*

---

## Introducing two new members to the team

**Rebecca** is the most recent addition to the Ponsonby Veterinary team, starting just one week ago on reception. This is Rebecca's first job in the veterinary field, coming to us from 2 years working in media. For the last seven months she has volunteered for the SPCA. She has enjoyed working and caring for their dog section so much, she has enrolled in the Certificate of Animal Care course at Unitec with a view to doing the Diploma in Veterinary Nursing afterwards.

In her spare time, Rebecca loves to read, cycle, go to movies, shop and socialise with her friends. Rebecca hopes to ultimately gain her veterinary nursing qualifications and work overseas in Europe as a veterinary nurse.

**Caroline** joined the team in December 2007 on reception. She is new to the veterinary industry previously working in accounts and administration for a few years and most recently as receptionist for an Audiology Clinic.

She is settling back into Auckland life nicely after spending some time living down in Christchurch and seeing what the South Island had to offer.

In her spare time, Caroline takes an interests in dancing (ballroom and latin) and rescuing stray cats (much to her partner's dismay). She is thoroughly enjoying settling into the team at the Ponsonby Veterinary Centre and is looking forward to meet and getting to know each client and their pet's better in the forthcoming year.



**46-48 Pollen Street  
Cnr Pollen & Williamson Ave  
Ponsonby, Auckland.  
09 360 0961**

