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NORTH QUEENSLAND SPECIALIST EQUINE SERVICE



VACCINATION MONTH

Regular vaccination is an important part of routine health care for your cat and dog and helps to ensure your furry friends remain fit and well. Many serious and life-threatening diseases can be prevented by vaccination.



How do vaccines work?

Vaccines work by exposing the body's immune system to a particular modified infectious agent. This causes the white blood cells to react to fight the infection by producing proteins (antibodies) which are able to bind to and neutralise the infectious agent (antigen). Antibodies work together with other white blood cells (lymphocytes) which are able to identify and kill cells within the body which have become infected by the agent (cell mediated response). After vaccine exposure, the body 'remembers' the particular antigens so that when they are encountered again it can mount a very rapid and strong immune response preventing your pet from showing clinical signs of disease. **It is important to realise that most vaccines work by preventing your pet from becoming ill and may not prevent it from becoming infected.** This means that if a vaccinated animal becomes infected, it may still shed the disease producing organism which can infect unvaccinated animals which will then become ill. This is a major consideration when your pet interacts with others in place such as boarding kennels. **Some vaccinations that TVC uses are registered as non shedding vaccines.**

When should my pet be vaccinated?

As soon as you take your precious friend home it is wise to make an appointment with **Townsville Vet Clinic** to have a check up. While our professional, friendly Vets are giving your friend a check up they will be able to advise you of your pet's vaccination needs.



TRADING HOURS:
 Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm
 Saturday 8.00am to 5.00pm



In Australia, there are a number of vaccines that are currently available for use in cats to protect against the following diseases:-
Feline Herpes Virus Type 1 (FHV-1; feline rhinotracheitis virus)
Feline Calicivirus (FCV)
Feline Panleukopenia (feline infectious enteritis; feline parvovirus)
Feline Chlamydial Infection
Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

Feline Respiratory Virus
 Disease is caused by feline herpes virus or feline calicivirus and is commonly termed 'cat flu'. It is a common disease in unvaccinated cats and can cause long-term problems, including chronic sneezing, nasal discharge, inflamed eyes and severe gum problems.

Feline Panleukopenia
 This is now an uncommon disease that causes a severe and often fatal gastro-enteritis. Vaccination provides a high level of long lasting protection.

Feline Chlamydia
 This tends to be a particular problem in colony cats. Chlamydial infection causes a painful inflammation and swelling of the conjunctiva (the membrane around the eye) and has been associated with infertility in queens. This vaccine can make many cats sick for several weeks and only suggest vaccination in certain circumstances.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (Feline AIDS)
 All outdoor cats are susceptible to infection with FIV if bitten by an infected cat unless protected by vaccination against the virus. The initial vaccination is followed up by 2 more vaccinations 2-4 weeks apart and then with annual boosters. FIV vaccines can be given at the same time as regular F3 vaccinations.

Regular vaccination is an important part of routine health care for your cat and helps to ensure your cat remains fit and well.

FIRST 50 CLIENTS
 If you have your puppy / dog vaccinated and purchase a Bravecto flea and tick product and receive your next Bravecto for **HALF PRICE - valid until 31 July 16**

What do you need to vaccinate your puppy / dog against?

Parvovirus – a highly contagious viral gastroenteritis. Depression, loss of appetite, severe vomiting and diarrhoea containing blood are some of the symptoms. Death can occur very quickly.

Distemper – a highly contagious disease producing symptoms such as conjunctivitis, nasal discharge, convulsive seizures and spinal cord damage. Treatment is often ineffective.

Hepatitis – in puppies can cause sudden death, whilst adult dogs can experience, weakness, fever, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and bleeding.

Canine Cough – a complex disease caused by bacterium and a virus. Affected dogs will have a hacking cough persisting for weeks. In puppies and old dogs the disease can be devastating.

CONTACT EMAIL: vet@townsvillevetclinic.com.au



APRIL
Free Worming with every vaccination



IT'S TIME TO STAND UP TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It's Vaccination Month!

With potentially deadly infections affecting our horses and foals, vaccination is a crucial component of any horse's overall health program.

That's why we're encouraging all horse owners to take a stand against infection during our dedicated Vaccination Month.

During the month, we want every horse owner to get advice about infectious diseases affecting horses and the vaccines their horse may require. Ask us – we can advise you about your horse's specific needs.

To help out we've organised vaccination packages for both new Hendra, tetanus and strangles vaccines and for boosters. The packages include a free faecal egg count, the best way to determine if your horse needs worming, and an equest plus tape gel wormer.

At \$245 for new vaccinations and \$195 for boosters the packages are great value. As well as the protection afforded by vaccination your horse will benefit from a worming program tailored just for him, or her, and together we'll reduce the development of parasite resistance.

We can both keep track of your horse's health and vaccination status with the online Health4Horses Registry, which allows you (and us) to log your horse's vaccinations to access a combined record. The service also sends us reminders when boosters are due! Simply join Health4Horses.com.au to access the service. It's free!

We hope to see you soon!



TETANUS

Tetanus is caused by the bacteria *Clostridium tetani*, which is commonly found in manure & soil. When this organism gains entry into the body to an area low in oxygen - such as a puncture wound - it produces a toxin, which migrates to the central nervous system. It can take 5 - 21 days for signs of an infection to occur & is not uncommon for the initial wound to be small & completely healed when signs occur.

Affected horses initially appear stiff, reluctant to move and have difficulty opening their mouth & therefore can not eat. The neck & head then stretch out & the tail may be slightly elevated. As the disease progresses they are unable to swallow & so drool saliva. The third eye-lid comes across the eye - initially in spasms & later permanently.

The horse becomes hypersensitive to sound & will go into rigid spasms when disturbed. Eventually the respiratory muscles are affected making breathing difficult; the horse becomes progressively exhausted, collapses & dies.

Treatment is possible in very early cases but is prolonged & therefore expensive. Advanced cases require euthanasia to prevent a very painful death.

This disease may be prevented in two ways. Because the initial wound may be small & go unnoticed - vaccination is the recommended method.

Vaccination gives year-round protection & requires two injections a month apart followed by yearly boosters. Unvaccinated horses that are wounded may be treated with a short-acting "antitoxin" that will give protection for 2-3 weeks only.

Hendra Virus

What do I look for in my horse? Hendra virus can cause a broad range of signs in horses. Hendra virus infection should be considered in any sick horse when the cause of illness is unknown and particularly where there is rapid onset of illness, fever, increased heart rate and rapid deterioration associated with either respiratory or neurological signs.

Occasionally, horses will survive Hendra virus infection. Hendra virus is much more likely to occur in a single sick or dead horse rather than in a number of horses.

On several occasions one or more companion horses became infected after close contact with the first infected horse prior to or at the time of death. It appears that Hendra virus has the potential to spread to other horses either through direct contact with infectious body fluids, or through indirect contact via contaminated equipment that could transfer body fluid from one horse to another.

The **following signs** have all been associated with Hendra virus cases, but not all of these signs will be found in any one infected horse:

- rapid onset of illness
- increased body temperature/fever
- increased heart rate
- discomfort/weight shifting between legs
- depression
- rapid deterioration.

Respiratory signs include:

- respiratory distress
- increased respiratory rates
- nasal discharge at death—can be initially clear, progressing to stable white froth and/or stable blood-stained froth.

Neurological signs include:

- 'wobbly gait'
- apparent loss of vision in one or both eyes
- aimless walking in a dazed state
- head tilting and circling
- muscle twitching
- urinary incontinence
- inability to rise.

See our website for more information