

Vaccinations for the holiday season

Is your pet fully vaccinated? We vaccinate pets against a number of serious infectious diseases. A vaccination programme should be started when your pet is a baby and maintained throughout their life.

Vaccinations are also a requirement before your pet goes into boarding kennels. There is an increased risk of any contagious diseases being spread where there are a number of animals in close proximity.

Most kennel owners will ask that dogs have been vaccinated for kennel cough. This condition affects the upper respiratory tract of dogs and causes a harsh persistent cough which sometimes leads to lung problems and in rare cases, death. Kennel cough is transmitted through droplets in the air so will be passed between dogs in close proximity.

The kennel cough vaccine is not usually done as part of the routine vaccination protocol. We will discuss your pet's requirements when we see you.

Kennel cough vaccination must be done at least 3 days before going into the kennels.

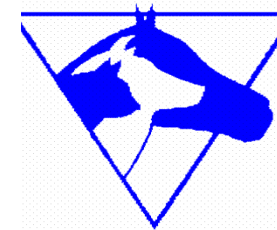
If your pet has never been vaccinated, we would recommend they start the course of injections. This will be needed before they go on their holidays to the kennels.

You need to allow at least a month for a full course to be completed. If your cat or dog is going into kennels this summer, remember to allow enough time to ensure they are fully vaccinated and ready for their stay.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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CHB VETS LTD

Veterinary newsletter

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Cat Behaviour – Scratch & Play

Cats were once described as asocial animals, but this is no longer regarded as true. Although very different from dogs, cats also need interaction and most importantly, your loving attention! When you bring a new kitten or cat into your home you'll have to decide whether your pet will live strictly indoors or will be allowed outside. There are advantages and disadvantages in both cases. Free-roaming cats are prone to more illnesses and have a much shorter life expectancy, as they can be hit by cars, attacked by other animals and exposed to internal and external parasites such as fleas, worms and ear mites. Conversely, if your cat never ventures outside you must provide him or her with physical and mental stimulation, including interaction with you, exercise, scratching posts and a clean toilet area. Whatever decision you make, following a few simple guidelines to direct your cat's behaviour can ensure that harmony reigns in your cat-loving household!



Make sure you have a post that's up to scratch. Scratching just comes naturally to cats. An instinctive activity that begins when kittens are five weeks old, scratching allows cats to leave chemical and visual signals that, among other functions, serve as "messages" to other cats and animals. However, what's entirely normal for your cat can become a big problem for you if they start scratching your carpets and furniture. If this happens, you should cover or remove the tempting object and provide kitty with a special scratching place, usually a post, of their own. As befits the feline reputation, you may find that your kitten or cat may be slightly picky about what kind of scratching post he or she will agree to use.

Posts that some cats might find acceptable have sisal, cardboard, wood or wool composite surfaces. The most important characteristics of a post are that it be taller than the cat when they stand on their hind legs, sturdy enough not to tip over and located in a prominent, easily accessible area.

Whatever its construction, the scratching post or board should not be changed as long as your cat is still using it. The more scratched and awful looking, the more your cat will love and use it—instead of your furniture!



Playtime helps keep your cat healthy and happy

Make sure your kitten or cat has lots of opportunities for interesting, challenging play that will satisfy their natural instincts and provide them with much-needed activity. Find toys that bounce or flutter—there are many available—that they can pretend to "chase," "hunt" and "capture." You should try to have at least one daily, 15-minute interactive play session with your cat, especially if he or she is often left alone.



Animal Welfare Matters

New Zealand's great animal welfare system enhances our reputation as world leaders – let's keep it that way.

On 1 October 2018 new animal welfare regulations came into effect. If you're already doing it right, you won't see a lot of change. Most of the regulations reflect existing standards, but a few do set new rules and requirements.

Regulations make it easier for MPI and SPCA to take action against animal mistreatment. New penalties such as fines will be issued for certain actions. We will continue to prosecute the worst offenders under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.



Check!

Are you doing it right? Encourage others to check too at www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs



Ask!

Email us your questions to animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz



Tell!

Call us about an animal welfare issue on **0800 00 83 33**

Fit for transport

On the farm, on the road, and on arrival



You'll be OK if your livestock is fit for transport. Livestock must be

- ✓ healthy and in good condition
- ✓ free of injury and disease
- ✓ not recently castrated or dehorned



Be aware your livestock may not be fit for transport if

- ✗ they are lame
- ✗ they have ingrown or injured horns
- ✗ they are in late pregnancy
- ✗ they have eye cancer
- ✗ they have injured or diseased udders

Consult your veterinarian if you are unsure if your livestock is fit for transport.



Download the free Fit for Transport app from the Apple store or Google play store to check your stock on the spot.

Important information about Toxoplasmosis

Toxoplasmosis in susceptible breeding ewes causes abortions, stillbirths and neonatal deaths. Research indicates that ewes infected with Toxoplasma in early pregnancy experience fetal death and resorption. This is often mistaken for ewe infertility and results in the unnecessary culling of otherwise fertile animals. Ewes infected in mid-pregnancy or later are likely to abort, or give birth to stillborn or weak lambs that fail to thrive.



Toxoplasmosis costs you in three ways:

- The loss of lambs by abortion; either by low-level unseen losses, or large-scale abortion storms.
- The birth of weak lambs, which fail to thrive, or die.
- The culling of fertile ewes, which because of undetected early abortion are presumed barren.



Toxoplasmosis occurs throughout New Zealand. In fact, research shows it has been present on 100% of New Zealand sheep farms. Every sheep flock can be affected by ongoing insidious fetal losses and abortion storms. Ewe hoggets and two toothers are at most risk, but any ewe that contracts Toxoplasmosis for the first time while she is pregnant is likely to lose her lamb/s.

Toxovax®

Toxovax is a single dose vaccine that provides breeding ewes with lifetime protection against the effects of Toxoplasmosis. Vaccination with Toxovax increases lambing percentage by an average of 3% and decreases the incidence of dry ewes by an average of 14%.

Toxovax is a live vaccine, has a short shelf life and is made to order. Please order your Toxovax from us at least four weeks before you need to use it, which should be at least 8 weeks before mating, to ensure supply.

Dosage: 2mL

Administered by intramuscular injection to non-pregnant ewes in the anterior (front) half of the neck. One injection only, at least 4 weeks before mating.

Pack size: 100 or 200 dose packs.



Mammary Tumours (breast cancer in dogs)

Are the second most common tumour in female dogs. Half of these are benign (won't spread anywhere else in the body) and half are malignant (can spread to other glands, lymph nodes, and elsewhere- particularly the lungs.)

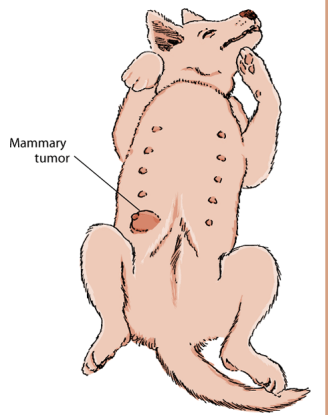
Most mammary tumours are first noticed as a lump in one or more of the mammary glands. Because half of these tumours can be quite nasty, it's a good idea to book your pet into see us at this stage, as the "wait and see" approach doesn't usually work. Most things that cause a lump in a mammary gland don't go away on their own.

We'll look at the lump and also do a check-up on the rest of her; looking for spread of the tumour (checking the other glands, the lymph nodes, and listening to the lungs). Usually surgery to remove it is recommended, as the lump may be fast growing (and so harder to remove at a later stage) and because we can send some of the lump to the lab to find out if it's a nasty or not. We may suggest an x-ray before surgery, because many of these tumours spread to the lungs and may be small enough that we can't hear them but can see them on an x-ray. Tumours found here would make surgery a less likely option, as they can't be removed surgically and make anaesthesia more dangerous.

We can send the lump off to the lab to find out what kind of tumour it is and also to find out if we got all of it (we can remove what we can see but the cancerous cells are microscopic so some may get left behind). This tells us if the surgery was successful and lets us give you a more accurate picture of your pet's future.

This tumour is preventable!

If you desex your female pup before her first season (when she's 5-6 months old) her chances of getting a mammary tumour are 0.05% (1 in 2000) making it quite rare. If you have her desexed after her first heat but before her second, her risk goes up to 8% (1 in 12). The risk is much higher in bitches that are desexed later in life or that have never been desexed (1 in 3). So not only does desexing prevent unwanted pregnancy, it also protects against mammary cancer! Unless you're planning to breed from her, why wouldn't you have her desexed?



HEALTH BENEFITS OF DESEXING PETS	
 FEMALE <i>Spaying</i>	 MALE <i>Neutering</i>
Reduces the risk of mammary tumours	Reduces the risk of prostatic diseases
Eliminates the risk of tumours in the ovaries, uterus and cervix	Reduces the risk of perianal tumours
Prevents other medical conditions such as pyometra (infection of the uterus)	Eliminates the risk of testicular cancers