



VACCINATIONS AND PARASITE CONTROL

Vaccination

Vaccination can protect your dog against killer diseases, including distemper, leptospirosis, dog flu, parvoviruses, and hepatitis and likely to be essential if your dog may go into boarding kennels. Two (or 3 in the case of certain breeds like the rottweiler) initial injections are required, followed by regular annual boosters. Each injection contains a mix of several vaccines against as many as seven different diseases. Your dog should not be taken outside in areas where other dogs have been until up to 2 weeks after the initial vaccination course is completed. Your vet can advise how long to wait.

However, research suggests it is beneficial for puppies to socialise (that is, to learn how to cope with a range of situations and experiences, and how to make friends with other dogs and people) whilst young,

before vaccination is complete. Discuss the risks and benefits with your vet where they can be accurate about age ranges.

Kennel cough is now the most commonly spread dog disease in the UK. Once thought to be uncomfortable rather than dangerous it was responsible for several dog deaths in 2013. A vaccination is available and is often required for a stay in kennels. The Animal House offer this as part of our combo vaccine at the same time as an annual booster. It is also now most commonly caught whilst on a walk coming across other unvaccinated dogs.

The Animal House are happy to advise you what is in the vaccines we choose. Ask any vet what their vaccinations are protecting your dog against as they can vary widely and your dog may still be at risk. It costs upwards of £20 for your vet to buy a comprehensive vaccine so most vets do not charge huge fees for their professional services and application of the vaccines. The cost of treating a disease like parvo virus which could be contracted if not immunised can cost thousands of pounds to treat so the maths make choosing to vaccinate very much worth it.

Worming

Adult worms are rarely seen so you cannot tell if your dog has worms just by looking. The only way to know is by microscopic examination of the faeces to detect the eggs.

Roundworms may cause illness in humans and dogs. Puppies are infected by their mother; the worms live in the gut and shed eggs in the faeces (excrement). Soil contaminated by faeces becomes a source of infection for both people and dogs. Puppies need worming fortnightly until 12-14 weeks old. Adult dogs need worming at least four times yearly, or more frequently if there are young children or invalids in the household. Ask your vet's advice. Entire females also need worming when they are pregnant, feeding pups or 30 days after a season.

Tapeworms, hookworms and whipworms are less of a health threat unless present in large numbers but regular treatment should still be given, especially if your dog is fed raw meat or hunts. Discuss how often with your vet. Some tapeworms – which look like grains of rice in the faeces – are caught from fleas, so flea treatment is also necessary. A single tablet to treat both roundworms and tapeworms can be purchased at the vet. “Spot on” products and injections can be used in combination – ask your vet. In the case of pet shop products, check you are giving the correct dose for your dog's body weight and check which type of worm is controlled by each treatment. Over the counter treatments are rarely effective and can be more costly than prescription grade appropriate drugs.

Dogs can also become infected with worms that live in the heart or lungs. Some types of lungworm are locally common in areas of the UK, and dogs which eat slugs or snails are especially prone. Special treatments are available; ask your vet whether treatment is needed in your area.

If you take your dog abroad, follow the DEFRA recommendations, and check with your vet about any other disease threats in the area you are visiting.

Always "clean up" when your dog goes to the toilet, as this reduces the chance of worm eggs contaminating the environment for other dogs and people.

Flea control

Most dogs get fleas at some point, and they have become a year-round problem . They can be hard to spot as they spend little time actually on the dog. Fleas and flea eggs can survive outdoors in summer. Regular treatment is recommended, especially for an itchy animal. A single application of any treatment is not enough for effective control – treatment usually needs to be repeated regularly.

The best treatments come from your vet. Pet shop and supermarket products are less effective – flea combs, collars and shampoos are generally not helpful. Flea collars can cause chemical burns to the skin and allow fleas to live on the rear of the pet. All dogs and cats in the household need to be treated as does the home (usually with a spray, although some treatments for pets help as well). It is very important not to put dog treatments on a cat as they are a different species and the drug base is toxic. Regular vacuuming reduces flea numbers, and the house should be treated after vacuuming as vibration stimulates hatching of flea eggs. Pay particular attention to dark crevices, such as down the sides of chair cushions and round skirting boards, as eggs accumulate in cracks. Don't forget to include the car or garden shed if the pet has access. Remember to read all instructions for treatments carefully before proceeding. If a dog that has had flea treatment applied needs a bath, check whether this will inactivate the treatment. Some flea treatments are also highly flammable.

The Animal House urges you not to source your treatments via internet shopping as the majority of 'bargains' are fake and can be ineffective at best and dangerous at worst. This is on the advice of The Veterinary Medicines Directorate who inspect all veterinary surgeries for compliance and also spend more and more of their time trying to shut down and prosecute bogus internet pharmacies.

**PLEASE CALL THE ANIMAL HOUSE LTD ON 01926
494923 IF YOU WOULD LIKE A FREE PARASITE
CHECK OR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PARASITE
CONTROL.**

