

Veterinary Vaccine Survey

If you love pets, please take part!

Why a survey?

In the 1970s, Dr Ronald D Schultz – the world's leading veterinary vaccine expert – questioned why we were vaccinating dogs and cats every year when we don't vaccinate humans every year. He began to trial veterinary vaccines to establish how long immunity lasts in dogs.

As a result of these trials, Dr. Schultz and his colleague Dr Tom R Phillips wrote in Kirk's "Current Veterinary Therapy XI" – in 1992:

"A practice that was started many years ago and that lacks scientific validity or verification is annual revaccinations. Almost without exception there is no immunologic requirement for annual revaccination. Immunity to viruses persists for years or for the life of the animal."

At the beginning of this century, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association set out their vaccine guidelines. They distinguished between 'core' vaccines (for distemper, parvovirus and adenovirus/hepatitis) and 'non core' (all the other vaccines, of questionable need). The WSAVA told us that we should vaccinate against the core diseases no more frequently than every three years, and added that immunity to canine viruses is long-lived – probably for life.

But this information is slow to get through to veterinary practices. According to the British Small Animal Veterinary Association in 2011, nearly half of vets in the UK are still advocating unnecessary annual boosters, but which ones?. Other countries aren't too different. The way things are going, it will take years before ordinary pet owners can save themselves the cost of vaccinating their pets annually, and the animals themselves are no longer exposed to vaccine side-effects (such as cancer, leukaemia, arthritis, brain damage, epilepsy, behavioural problems, and a wide range of immune-mediated illnesses).

The purpose of this survey is to know what vaccine regimes are being used by vets in the UK, in order to:

- 1) Get a true picture of veterinary vaccine use.
- 2) To provide a resource for dog owners.
- 3) To provide information to campaign further for necessary change.

To take part in this survey

1) Using the questionnaire available from www.PetWelfareAlliance.org or from the address below.

2) Please refer to guidance notes overleaf.

2) Speak to the vet/practice you wish to enter details for and complete the questionnaire. The form is not for you to give your vet to fill in, it is for you to ask the questions and submit the form to us. You can ring the vet, or see them in person, whichever is most suitable for you.

3) Enter the details on the survey form and send the completed questionnaire to Pet Welfare Alliance, Gardeners Cottage, Kirklands, Ancrum TD8 6UJ.

You can enter details for as many vets/practices as you would like to contact - the more entries that are made, the sooner we can take the campaign further.

Pet Welfare Alliance

Gardeners Cottage, Kirklands, Ancrum TD8 6UJ (UK). Tel +44 (0)1835 830273

Email: petwelfarealliance@gmail.com

Web: www.petwelfarealliance.org

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Guidance notes for completing the questionnaire

1. Your Name	Your name only will be listed on the website as a supporter – you can opt out of this. Your email address will not be made public, and only necessary should we need to contact you if there was any query with regard to your submitted questionnaire.
2. Your email address or telephone number	
3. Your relationship with dogs	Example: dog owner, groomer, trainer etc.
4. How did you hear about this survey?	Example: website/newsletter, other website (please name), friend, facebook etc.
5. Name of Vet	Name of individual vet you have contacted. If you did not speak to a vet please state otherwise (you may have spoken to a receptionist or nurse).
6. Annual boosters	Most booster vaccines are 'multivalent' – they are usually described as DHPPi + L. This means distemper, parvovirus, parainfluenza + leptospirosis. None of these are required annually. Immunity to distemper and parvovirus is long-lived; parainfluenza (kennel cough) is a non-core vaccine. Leptospirosis is not recommended unless there is a serious disease threat in your area (see 7 below).
7. Leptospirosis	Leptospirosis is not recommended by the WSAVA unless there is a serious disease threat in your area; the presence of rats doesn't indicate there is a disease threat. There is only a disease threat if the rats are infective, and if other dogs in the area have come down with lepto.
8. How many cases of Lepto has this vet seen in the last six months?	Please enter number.
9. Three/four 4 year vaccines	Three or four year vaccines are available in place of annual boosters.
10. Vaccine amnesty	The vaccine amnesty is normally a yearly exercise in conjunction with a vaccine manufacturer to offer boosters or complete course if your dog's boosters have 'lapsed'.
11. Homeopathic nosodes	Homeopathic nosodes can be used instead of vaccines, or some choose to use with or after an initial course of puppy shots and/or first booster. Others use 'as and when' in conjunction with vaccines.
12. If in conjunction with a vaccine regime	Please state the vaccine regime used (eg. Annually, if deemed necessary after a titer test, etc).
13. Titer tests	Titer tests are a blood test that determines current antibody levels against individual diseases.
14. Dietary advice	Enter as appropriate
15. Vet or practice	Are the answers for the vet you spoke to, do they apply to all the vets in that practice, or is that not known?
16. Vet practice email	Please enter this if a contact email is available.
17. Any other info	Please enter if there is any other relevant information. Otherwise leave blank.
18. Veterinary practice name and address	Please enter full name and address of practice including postcode.
19. Veterinary practice telephone number	Please enter telephone number.