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Enter Veterinary Hospital Name here  
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Dear Enter Name of Senior Partner here

## **In-practice titer testing kits**

As you know, veterinary vaccine guidelines groups around the world have introduced new vaccination schedules in response to duration of immunity studies and concerns over vaccine safety. The Pet Welfare Alliance supports these guidelines and welcomes a reduction in the number of vaccine antigens given to companion animals. The aim of this letter is to support veterinary practices which are also helping to effect change. Accordingly, the Pet Welfare Alliance has negotiated a discount for the VacciCheck in-practice titer testing kit, and we wish to pass this price reduction onto you as it gives veterinarians and pet owners an effective and safer alternative to over-vaccination.

The Pet Welfare Alliance is an alliance of pet owners and veterinarians formed as a watchdog for the pet products industry. Pet vaccination is one of the foremost areas in need of revision, and we believe that recent developments pave the way for positive change. Both WSAVA and AAHA Guidelines endorse titer testing as an alternative to unnecessary revaccination.

## **Benefits of in-practice titer testing**

- The VacciCheck is a self contained dot ELISA titer test kit which needs no reagent preparation. Veterinarians therefore have a quick and simple in-practice test that can be performed at a reasonable cost to the pet owner. Results are available within 21 minutes.
- The Canine VacciCheck system provides a semi-quantitative score for serum antibody titres against CDV, CAV and CPV. A feline VacciCheck system provides scores for serum antibody titres against FPV, FCV and FHV
- “For CDV, CPV, CAV and FPV, the presence of serum antibody - able to neutralize infectious virus and prevent infection and disease - provides an extremely strong correlate of protection. This correlation is so strong that it is possible to state that the presence of serum antibody to one of those viruses equates definitively with protective immunity.” (Professor Michael J Day, School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Bristol)
- VacciCheck can help in the decision making about vaccination in practice (for example, to ascertain existing protection for a ‘lapsed’ adult dog or cat, or to determine puppy/kitten protection)
- In-practice testing can be used as part of an annual health check in place of boosters

- It helps minimise the risk of vaccine adverse effects
- In-practice titer testing also marks your practice as leading edge
- Can help with the management of infectious disease outbreaks in rescues/shelters
- Can minimize the risks for animals previously having adverse reactions to vaccines
- Replaces lost booster income
- See *'What We Need To Know About Vaccines and Titer Testing'* from Professor Day. See also, *'Considerations for the Titer Testing of Core Canine Vaccines'* from Professor Ronald D Schultz. (Both are members of the WSAVA vaccine guidelines group.) Both are available on this link: <http://www.petwelfarealliance.org/vaccine-research.html>

### **Serology Replacing Revaccination in an Annual Health Check**

The Annual Health Check concept is gaining momentum. So too is the adoption of triennial core revaccination schedules for adult animals. However, based upon research showing much longer duration of immunity for many core vaccines, many practices have moved further. Instead of offering triennial core revaccination, these practices are now offering the alternative of triennial serological testing.

Sampling an animal's blood for a titer check is preferential to unnecessary vaccination due to the potential for adverse vaccine reactions. Also, many practitioners and owners need assurance that an animal does have immunity. An antibody test can give them that assurance.

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### **DOI and vaccine adverse effects**

With VacciCheck you can be sure that animals in your care are protected, whilst at the same time avoiding harmful and often dangerous side effects from unnecessary vaccines. In a public relations sense, this can only be good for your practice.

Please see <http://www.petwelfarealliance.org/vaccine-research.html> for duration of immunity data and scientific references to vaccine adverse effects.

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association Vaccination Guidelines state:

*"We should aim to vaccinate every animal, and to vaccinate each individual less frequently."*  
<http://www.wsava.org/SAC.htm>

*"Core vaccines should not be given any more frequently than every three years after the 12 month booster injection following the puppy/kitten series, because the duration of immunity (DOI) is many years and may be up to the lifetime of the pet. In order to ensure the existence of duration of immunity, titer testing may be used."* Ronald D Schultz, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin; Member of WSAVA and AAHA vaccine guideline groups

*"Only one dose of the modified-live canine 'core' vaccine (against CDV, CAV-2 and CPV-2) or modified-live feline 'core' vaccine (against FPV, FCV and FHV), when administered at 16 weeks or older, will provide long lasting (many years to a lifetime) immunity in a very high percentage of animals ([Schultz, 1998], [Schultz, 2000] and [Schultz, 2006])."*

## Leptospirosis

In many areas, the leptospirosis vaccine is given to dogs 'just in case', even though leptospirosis is a rare disease in that area. The Pet Welfare Alliance would urge you to consider the WSAVA guidelines which call this a 'non-core/optional' vaccine. Many of the world experts believe that leptospirosis is not a vaccinatable disease, and that the risks of the vaccine outweigh the benefits. You may wish to read the article by Dr Patricia Jordan DVM on this subject here: <http://www.petwelfarealliance.org/vaccine-research.html>.

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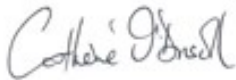
## VacciCheck Discount for Veterinarians

The **Canine VacciCheck** for CDV, CPV and CAV2 antibodies is available in the US now. The **Feline VacciCheck** for FPLV, FHV and FCV will be available early 2013. For more information on VacciCheck and how to order it, please go to [www.vaccicheck.com](http://www.vaccicheck.com) or call to get pricing and to place an order at Spectrum Labs, Inc. (800) 553-1391. To receive the special discount of \$25 on each kit that The Pet Welfare Alliance has negotiated on your behalf, please be sure to quote the special promotional code of **PWASPECTRUM** when placing your order.

You may also be interested to know that we are actively promoting veterinary hospitals which offer titer tests in place of boosters. If you would like to have your hospital on our recommended list, please complete the form at this link: <http://www.petwelfarealliance.org/add-a-vet.html>.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Catherine O'Driscoll  
Pet Welfare Alliance