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Pet Wellness Programs: a \$\$\$ Winner!

Port Kennedy Vet Hospital has a special treat for you and your pet this month. From April PKVH will be offering innovative and cost-effective Wellness Programs for puppies, kittens, and adult cats and dogs.

Our new Programs are designed to make high-quality preventative care more affordable. Every pet benefits from consistent and comprehensive care. So help your four-legged friends live longer and happier lives by joining a PKVH Program today.

Why should I join?

Early detection is the key to preventing and managing many diseases. It also significantly reduces your chances of having to pay costly medical bills later on.

So our veterinarians carefully created FOUR comprehensive plans with you and your pet in mind. They include all the preventative care services essential for canine and feline well-being at every stage of life.

Different pets have different needs. Growing puppies, for example, have special veterinary needs. Get them off on the right paw with PKVH's Puppy Wellness Program, designed especially for this developmental stage.

As dogs and cats age, their health care needs change too. Stay ahead of this process with ongoing preventative care. If you do, you will give them the best chance of living longer.

Our Wellness Programs are different from pet insurance. With insurance, cover is bought for potential accidents and illnesses that may or may not occur during your pet's lifetime. By contrast, a Wellness Program is designed to help prevent health-related problems from arising, and treating them before they become major issues.

What can I save?

You can save hundreds of dollars each year by joining a PKVH Wellness Program. So check out our programs and options today for one that suits you and your pet.

To assist your decision, we compare (below) the minimum annual cost for a responsible pet owner with a healthy pet with the cost if enrolled in our Wellness Programs. Note that the minimum cost here includes annual vaccinations, parasite treatment and one health check. But it does not include the other attractive discounted services or merchandise (pet food, pet merchandise, free or discounted consults) that become available to you within our Programs.

For a 20kg dog, you will save at least about \$160 annually under a standard Wellness Plan, and about \$360 under our Premium Program.

For a 5kg cat, you will save about \$160 annually under a standard Wellness Plan, and about \$400 under our Premium Program.

A healthy pet might not need any primary consults during a year and hydrobaths are not essential.





However, if a pet is unwell and has to have a consult then under our Premium Program you receive three free primary consults. We are also offering Premium clients price discounts for any revisits on the same problem.

For services and estimated savings under our Puppy and Kitten Wellness Programs, contact us for further information.

How do I join?

You can join a PKVH Wellness Program in THREE ways.

1. Visit PKVH with your pet and talk to our friendly professional staff.
2. Visit our website, www.portkennedyvet.com.au, and complete the online registration form.
3. Contact us on 9524 6644, and speak to one of our friendly staff members who can answer your questions, send you detailed brochures on our Wellness Plans, and make an appointment for your enrolment.

PKVH's new Wellness Programs are a WIN-WIN product. They deliver the superior care every HEALTHY pet needs while REDUCING your COSTS. Having a HAPPY client and four-legged friend is a WIN for us too!

WELLNESS PROGRAMS
AVAILABLE NOW!!!
for CATS and DOGS of all ages. Choices of programs with payments via direct debit
SAVE MONEY!!!
On monthly treatments
On preventing problems occurring
By receiving discounts on your pets veterinary care
Programs designed to make high quality preventative care affordable, helping our pets live longer and happier lives.

Vaccination, the key to your pet's health

Vaccination is a very cost effective way of protecting your dog or puppy against serious disease and the possible high costs involved in their treatment, not to mention the life-threatening nature of some of the diseases they face. All pets should be fully vaccinated - discuss with your vet the most appropriate protocol for your pet.

Why vaccinate dogs?

Puppies and dogs are at risk from a number of serious infections. However you can help to protect against several of these diseases with a simple vaccination programme. It is easy for dogs to come into contact with infectious disease because of spread from unvaccinated dogs and puppies or germs present in the environment. Because dogs tend to socialise and go for walks outside, they are exposed to diseases on a daily basis. Some diseases are so serious that people can spread the disease to their dog, simply from walking in a contaminated environment. By vaccination, dogs and puppies can be protected from the following infectious diseases:



Canine Parvovirus

Canine parvovirus causes severe, debilitating disease in dogs of all ages. Young puppies are most susceptible to infection and the development of severe disease. Dogs and puppies can die within days of contracting the disease. Common signs of parvoviral infection include vomiting, diarrhoea (usually containing blood), severe abdominal pain and depression. Severely affected animals may die after contracting parvovirus.

Canine parvovirus can remain in the environment for over 18 months. All dogs must be vaccinated against parvovirus. Failing to vaccinate against this disease is the leading cause of preventable death from communicable disease in dogs.

Canine Distemper

Distemper is a highly contagious and often fatal viral disease affecting dogs of all ages. This virus attacks the nervous system and typical signs include fever, discharge from the eyes and nose, respiratory problems, loss of appetite, skin reactions, vomiting, diarrhoea, muscle spasms and convulsions. Dogs that do recover from this disease may have thickened foot pads, damaged teeth, permanent brain damage and progressive paralysis. All dogs should be vaccinated against Distemper.

Canine Hepatitis

Canine hepatitis is a highly infectious disease which causes liver damage and potentially death in dogs. Puppies are most at risk and signs of infection include fever, ocular lesions, depression, lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain (due to liver enlargement). The virus is contracted through contact with the urine, faeces or saliva of infected dogs. All dogs should be vaccinated against Canine Hepatitis.

Canine (Kennel) Cough

Canine Cough, also known as "Kennel Cough" is a disease complex caused by a variety of viruses and bacteria. It is not confined to kennels as the common name suggests, and it generally spreads from dog to dog, in situations of close contact, including dog parks, the beach, vet clinics, kennels, and animal shelters.





The two most important causes of Canine Cough are considered to be the canine parainfluenza virus and the bacteria, *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. This disease is typified by a persistent hacking cough. It is not usually fatal, however, the secondary pneumonia which may develop can be fatal. Some animals can stop eating and become depressed and lethargic. Vaccination for canine cough is similar to us for the flu. It doesn't completely stop the disease, but reduces the severity if contracted. All dogs should be vaccinated annually to help prevent this disease.

Why vaccinate cats?

Kittens and cats are at risk from a number of serious infections. You can help to protect against these diseases with a simple vaccination programme. As both cats and their owners are very mobile it is possible that your pet will come into contact with infections present in unvaccinated cats and kittens or in the environment - for example, when your cat socialises with other cats in the neighbourhood, or if the cat goes into boarding for any reason, or into the vet clinic for another illness. By vaccination, cats and kittens can be protected from the infectious diseases mentioned below.



Feline Infectious Enteritis

Feline infectious enteritis (FIE), also known as Feline Parvovirus, or Feline Panleukopenia, is a serious viral disease of cats. It is highly contagious and can spread rapidly. Kittens under 6 months of age are the most susceptible to developing severe disease. Signs of disease include depression, vomiting, diarrhoea, marked dehydration and severe abdominal pain. If a queen contracts the disease whilst pregnant, her kittens may be born with co-ordination problems (neurological disease) or other abnormalities, or abortion may occur. The virus is very hardy and survives well in the environment. The small number of cats that do become infected and survive can carry the virus for some time. They can still infect other cats. All cats should be vaccinated for this virus to protect them from this deadly disease.

Feline respiratory diseases (Cat Flu)

The Feline Respiratory disease complex is almost always

caused by one of two viruses, Feline Calicivirus (FCV) or Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR). These viruses can infect cats of all ages and the disease is very easily spread from cat to cat through coughing or sneezing. Signs of this disease complex include sneezing, nasal and ocular discharge, depressed appetite and ulcers on the tongue and/or conjunctivitis of the eyes. Some of these signs can last for many weeks and cause significant discomfort. Cat flu commonly occurs in multi-cat households. It is not uncommon for cats to become carriers after they have recovered from this disease and to infect other cats and, particularly, kittens. If an infected cat is unable to fully fight off the infection, the herpesvirus disease may become latent (hidden) just like in human herpes with the virus that causes cold sores in people. When a cat becomes stressed, the herpes virus then can re-awaken, and cause illness again, even if the cat is vaccinated. This is why it is vitally important that all kittens are fully vaccinated with a highly effective vaccination in the first place, to prevent them getting sick and contracting a lifelong disease. All cats should be annually vaccinated against Cat Flu - speak to your vet about vaccination if your cat is overdue.

Feline Leukaemia Virus (FeLV)

Feline Leukaemia Virus can cause significant disease in cats, and can be transmitted by infected cats years after they were initially infected. Approximately one third of infected cats remain infected until they die years later. These cats can transmit the disease in their saliva, tears, urine and faeces. As with other contagious diseases, this virus can be transmitted by sharing communal feeding areas, litter trays and toys and by mutual grooming.

After-vaccination care for dogs and cats

Vaccines are biological products and they are designed to stimulate the immune system. Therefore it is possible for an animal to develop signs of



local discomfort or swelling at the site of injection. Very occasionally particularly sensitive pets may over-react to the vaccine and in these rare instances you should consult your veterinarian immediately. These reactions do not mean that your dog or cat is not being protected by the vaccine. These reactions are very uncommon.

Source: <http://www.virbac.com.au/home/dog-cat-owners/common-health-issues/vaccination/cats-vaccination.html>

Worms, your pet and you

Worms are a worry. Regular worming is essential (every 3 months) to protect your pet against worms, and to protect your family.

People can also be infected by worms, by accidentally swallowing the worm eggs that are passed in pet droppings. Children are most at risk because of the close contact with their pets.





When a disease or parasite can be transmitted from animals to humans it is called a zoonosis. It is often a concern when a pet is diagnosed with intestinal worms whether the family is at risk of contracting the parasite. The concern is valid, but the good news is that it is easily managed with education, proper precautions and a well organised deworming program for your pets.

There are two main categories of worms that can infect people, round worms and tapeworms. For both these worm types humans can act as either definitive (or final) hosts, intermediate hosts or paratenic hosts. The definitive host is the host when the worms are adults in the intestinal system and when they shed eggs. The intermediate host occurs when the eggs are ingested and form cysts in various organs and tissues of the body. A paratenic host is one that is not necessary for the life cycle of the worm, but is similar to an intermediate host in that it is a temporary host where the worm does not develop further in its life cycle until such time it can find a suitable permanent host where it can complete its life cycle. Certain larva can also penetrate and migrate through the skin. All hosts are infected by larva which are the immature parasite that come from eggs.

Prevention of zoonotic worm infections

A regular and up to date deworming program is one of the best ways to prevent your pets and family from getting infected with worms. Puppies and kittens are extremely susceptible to worm infections. The mother should be dewormed prior to having a litter and all the babies should be dewormed at weaning before they are sent off to their new homes. With each puppy/kitten vaccinations they should be dewormed. From then on all animals should be dewormed every three to six months. This is dependent on their exposure to potentially contaminated areas as well as other animals. Should you walk your dogs frequently, allowing them to interact with other dogs in the park or running off the lead unattended, they should be dewormed every three months. The same applies to cats, the more cats they potentially come into contact with and the more roaming they are allowed to do, the more frequently they should be dewormed. Apart from tablets given by mouth there are also spot-ons available for deworming cats. This makes the process of deworming a cat a bit easier.

Controlling fleas on your animals, as well as in their environment, is an important preventative measure for worm infections. There are a variety of top spot, shampoo and tablet flea treatments and with so many options we can find the one that will most suit your lifestyle and environment.

The courteous and correct thing to do is to clean up after your pets when taking your dogs for a walk or to the park. Stools should be picked up and disposed of correctly.

All sand boxes and pits should be covered and regularly cleaned. Do not allow children to play in areas contaminated by animal waste.

It is essential that your children are taught to wash their hands after playing outside or handling animals. This

promotes good hygiene and prevents the transmission of disease, including worms.

Do not feed your pets raw meat or organs as these may be a source of tapeworms.

Source:

www.floridavet.co.za/index.php?option=com_vetwebsites&view=showArticle&id=59

Dog Training Tips

by Sonya Beven "Dog Charming"

"If your dog growls at you DON'T punish him or her."

Sound strange?

Punishing will only suppress the growling behaviour, instead of dealing with the original reason or cause behind the growl.

Punishment will probably stop the growling. Perhaps for good - and the dog will no longer warn you when something is wrong. Later, when you least expect it, the dog may go directly to biting instead. I'd rather have a warning any day!

As a behaviour consultant, I love a dog who growls. People look at me quizzically and I explain; "When a dog growls, he is telling me something is wrong. I thank the dog for that growl. The dog could have told me he was worried by snapping or biting. Now I can help him by assessing what is wrong. A dog that no longer growls due to being punished for growling is so much harder to read. This dog is the time bomb with the ticker removed." Get professional advice to help your dog and stop the need for growling by dealing with the cause of the growling.

Don't know what to do or where to turn? Sonya is more than happy to talk to guardians about the problem behaviours and training concerns they have with their dogs.

Every situation and every dog is different.

Sonya can be contacted on:

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