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In a word, yes. No other medical development has been as successful as vaccination in controlling deadly diseases in companion animals.

ARE YOU OVER-VACCINATING YOUR PET?

By: *Celia Lee*

Many pets may be getting vaccinated too often and unnecessarily, with potentially grave ramifications. Despite international advice and updated professional guidelines from the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) introduced in 2009, many adult dogs still receive injections annually, instead of the now recommended cycle of every three years.

Some non-core vaccines, such as the kennel cough vaccine, still need to be done annually, but researchers now believe there are good reasons why core vaccines should be triennial.

The risks in over-vaccination Routine annual revaccination of adult animals became the accepted norm from the 1950s through to the 1990s. However, since then research has indicated that annual vaccination for most canine diseases is unnecessary and potentially harmful.

By 1997, experts began to question whether adult dogs were being over-vaccinated. Several

American veterinary schools switched to a triennial schedule of booster vaccinations against core viruses. Massey University in New Zealand followed suit three years later.

In 2007, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) began advising vets to continue vaccinating pets with core vaccines, but to reduce their frequency to minimise the potential for adverse reactions.

In Australia, the AVA issued a revised policy in June 2009 stating that in most cases core vaccines need not be administered any more frequently than triennially, or even less so under certain circumstances, such as if your pet is kept inside and less likely to come into contact with these viruses.

WSAVA released revised guidelines in 2010 stating that "core vaccines should not be given any more frequently than every three years after the 12-month booster injection following the puppy series, because the duration of immunity (DOI) is many years and may be up to the lifetime of the pet".

Source: <https://www.choice.com.au/outdoor/pets/health/articles/pet-vaccination>



ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS – How Important Are These?

Once a year health checks can help your vet diagnose, treat or even prevent problems before they become life threatening. As dogs age much faster than humans, missing just one annual health check for your dog is equivalent to you not going to the doctor for about seven years! Annual health checks are also an ideal opportunity for you to ask us about nutrition, behaviour or other issues you may be having with your beloved dog.

“Did you know that dogs age approximately seven times faster than humans?”



During our comprehensive health check we will review and discuss with you your pets:

- Vaccination review
- Worming requirements
- Dietary requirements
- Dental requirements
- Flea and tick control

Drop in or make a booking today! Our helpful staff are here to answer any questions you have regarding your pets wellbeing.

An advertisement for DYEX dog dyes. The background is a vibrant, multi-colored gradient. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'DYEX Colour for Canines' with the text '100% DOG FRIENDLY'. The main text reads 'NEW FUN COLOURS NOW IN STOCK'. On the right side, there is a vertical column of seven colorful paw prints in shades of orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and red. In the center, there are two small white dogs, one with purple fur around its neck and one with blue fur around its neck. At the bottom, the phone number '95246644' and the text 'ring to book an appointment' are displayed.

NEW
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What Do You Do When Your Dog Eats Poo?

Many of us have had a dog with a voracious appetite, but how did he sink so low as to eat breakfast out of the cat box or a canine buddy's steaming soft serve? Oh, no!

While eating doggy or kitty poop very seldom causes health problems, it can be problematic for humans on the receiving end of a dog's breath or kisses, and isn't very good for the human-animal bond.



No one is sure why, but many dogs develop a habit so distasteful veterinarians like me politely refer to it by its Greek name, coprophagia, which in simple English means "dung eating". Once it gets started it's very difficult to stop. In the past we used to think dogs did it because something was lacking in their diet (like fibre or vitamins and minerals) but supplementing their diet was of little help. We also tried to put things into their food that would make the doo "icky poo", but ForBid, Coproban, or even Adolph's Instant Meat Tenderizer only seemed to season the delicacy. So what can you do?

Here are some tips to help you:

1. Remove the temptation

Dogs can't eat what they can't reach or doesn't exist. Try using a covered cat box or move the cat box to a location the dog can't get to, and/or pick up after your dogs "do the 2" so there are only fumes to consume.

2. Keep your dog on a tight rope.

To help your dog learn right from wrong, many trainers suggest keeping him on a leash even when you're walking

inside of the yard. If he starts to take a bite, give your dog a treat when it gets ready to go all Pac Man on the poop, thus using a positive distraction technique.

3. Focused Positive Training

Teach your dog the "LEAVE IT" cue by telling your dog to "LEAVE IT" when it approaches the smelly delicacy and immediately rewarding your dog when it either steps away from the poop or simply stops to look at you.

4. More Exercise

There is an association with boredom and activities such as eating feces (which to dogs is just another protein source, not something icky). There's a saying that a tired dog is a happy dog.

At a recent seminar in the U.S. by a well-known veterinary behaviourist whose research showed that none of the diet supplements had any measurable effect on stopping coprophagia. The activity has a very direct and strong breed predilection, and often the only cure was prescription drugs like Prozac. So if your dog's just not ready to say no to dung – ask your vet!

*Source: <http://www.drmartybecker.com/petconnection/2201/>
Sylvia Hamilton, Qualified Dog Behaviourist, Port Kennedy, WA*

Sylvia Hamilton is a qualified trainer in both pet dog training and agility. Sylvia is also a volunteer trainer for Assistance Dogs Australia, running a "Pups in Prison" program at Woorloo Prison – teaching inmates how to train assistance dogs.

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Does Your Indoor Cat Need Vaccines?

In a word, yes.

“No other medical development has been as successful as vaccination in controlling deadly diseases in companion animals.



We sometimes get asked whether a customer's indoor cat really needs to be vaccinated - “He's totally indoors and doesn't come into contact with any other cats”. Indoor cats DO still need their vaccines. In this article we hope to remind our cat owners of the importance of vaccination.

Vaccines have been an integral part of preventive health care programs

for several decades. No other medical development has been as successful as vaccination in controlling deadly diseases in companion animals. Vaccination, however, should not be considered a totally benign procedure. In 1991, veterinarians began to notice a higher than expected number of sarcomas, a type of cancer, occurring on cats' bodies in places where vaccines were often injected. Further studies confirmed an association between vaccine administration and sarcoma development. While the incidence of these sarcomas was very low, their occurrence was devastating, with many cats dying from these tumors.

Vaccination is a medical procedure, and the decision to vaccinate is made based on the risks and benefits for each individual cat. To not vaccinate our pets is not an option. The goal is to devise a reasonable strategy for vaccination that maximizes our ability to prevent infectious disease while minimizing the occurrence of adverse events associated with vaccination.

Vaccinations can be divided into two broad categories: core vaccines – those recommended for all cats, and non-core vaccines – those that may or may not be necessary, depending on the individual cat's lifestyle and circumstances. Currently, vaccines against Enteritis, Calicivirus and Rhinotracheitis fall into the core vaccine category. The most commonly used vaccine against these diseases is the Fe3 (indoor cats) or Fe4 (outdoor cats) vaccine.

Kittens:

Kittens are the main target population for vaccination, because they are more susceptible to infection than adult

cats, and they tend to develop more severe disease compared to adults. The currently recommended vaccination protocol for kittens is as follows:

The kitten vaccination series should begin at 6 to 8 weeks of age. Kittens should initially receive the Fe3 vaccine, with additional boosters given every 3 – 4 weeks until 16 weeks of age. Kittens older than 12 weeks of age should receive an initial Fe3 vaccine, followed by one additional Fe3 or Fe4 booster 3 – 4 weeks later.

Adult cats:

If you have recently adopted a cat and do not know your cat's immunisation history, the cat will need to receive core vaccinations. A dose of the Fe3 or Fe4 vaccine should be given immediately and a second dose of leukemia vaccine should be administered three to four weeks later.

Our veterinarians at Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital can help you decide if your cat needs any non-core vaccines. Cats entering boarding must have an FE3 vaccine every year.

Sources: <http://catexpert.blogspot.com.au/2010/12/why-we-vaccinate-even-indoor-cats.html>

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