



| Procedure                | What We Advise  | How Often Does it need doing              | Why We Advise This  | Common Misconceptions  | The Truth  |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Primary Vaccinations     | Two Vaccinations 2-4 weeks apart after 7 weeks of age   | Once at the beginning of the animals life | To protect your puppy from infectious disease most importantly Parvo virus and Leptospirosis  | 'My breeder gave the initial vaccination does my puppy still require 2 vaccinations' | If the puppy received a vaccination by the breeder then a vaccination certificate signed by a vet needs to be produced   |
|                          | Two Vaccinations 3 - 5 weeks apart after 8 weeks of age |   | To protect your cat against infectious disease, most importantly the cat flu viruses and Feline leukaemia virus with has been associated with cancer in the cat | 'My cat never goes out do they still need vaccinations'                              | Cat flu is a air born disease, and there is a large population of semi-wild/feral cats in Ireland, These may bring the infection within proximity of your cat and allow infection to occur |
| Booster Vaccination      | One injection   | Annually, from 1 years of age             | To protect your dog from infectious diseases  | 'My dog is never in contact with other dogs'   | Dogs can pick up certain diseases eg; leptospirosis (Weils disease). This can be contracted from rats' urine in standing water.  |
|                          |   | Annually, from 1 years of age             | To protect your cat from infectious disease, such as cat flu.   | 'My cat has had its initial vaccinations they don't require any more'                | The immunity from vaccinations fade, the time this take varies but we know that to maintain an adequate level of protection yearly booster vaccination is required                         |
| Kennel Cough Vaccination | One dose of a nasal vaccine                             | Annually                                  | To protect your dog from a very contagious cough otherwise known as infectious bronchitis   | 'My dog is never going to be in boarding kennels'                                    | 50% of dog who catch kennel cough have never been to kennels, but catch it mixing with other dogs/ walking where other dogs go.  |
| Microchip                | Implantation with a microchip                           | Once                                      | If your pet strays and is found, they can be reunited with you. It gives proof of ownership if the dog is ever stolen.  | 'The Microchip can move underneath the skin and fall out'                            | Though microchips may move a little they will stay very close to where they were implanted   |
| Worming                  | Treatment with stronghold spot on or milbermax tablets  | At least 4 times yearly                   | To prevent roundworm and tape worm. Roundworm can also cause problems in children   | 'I never see worms, so it's not worth worming my dog'                                | Roundworm eggs are microscopic, and can't be seen by the naked eye, they will stick to your dog's fur and can transfer during groom/play to other dogs                                     |

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|----------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| Worming        | Treatment with stronghold or Profender spot on or milbemax tablets                              |   |  | 'My cat doesn't hunt does it still need worming'       | Worms are mostly caught from hunting. Unfortunately worm eggs are found everywhere outside, especially in areas with multiple cats, these eggs stick to the fur and ingested whilst grooming |
| Flea Treatment | Treatment with frontline spot on or stronghold spot on  | Monthly application of frontline or stronghold especially during the summer months. | To prevent fleas with a cause of irritation to your pet. Fleas also carry tape worm so stopping fleas stops this   | 'I never see fleas on my pet'                          | If you're seeing fleas you have a big problem, 95% of fleas live in the house/kennel and not the pet. So for every 1 flea seen on the animal there's 19 more in the house.                   |
| Diet           | Hills Dry food, chosen by life stage, activity level and possibly to help underlying conditions | Daily   | To ensure on-going health, to help prevent dental disease, to help reduce the issues with growth related conditions in some breeds.                            | 'they will get bored the food all looks the same'      | 'To most animals there is no benefit to visual appeal, this is normal designed to make owners feel better about the food'  |
| Spaying        | Ovariohysterectomy, after 6 months of age   | Once  | Prevents unwanted litters of pups; prevents phantom pregnancies; reduces risk of mammary cancer; prevents uterine cancer and infections.                       | 'It's better for them to have a litter before spaying' | There is no benefit of having a litter before spaying, but neutering before the second season massively reduces risk of mammary cancer.  |
|                |   |   | Prevents unwanted litters of kittens, which can be very numerous very quickly, prevents tom cats from frequenting the garden when cat is in season             | 'Cats get fat after being spayed'                      | Being a spayed cat doesn't make them fat, but it does decrease their energy requirements. Reducing Food intake can help this or feeding a diet designed for neutered cats                    |
| Neutering      | Removal of the testicles after 6 months of age  | Once  | Prevents straying to find in-season females. Prevents unwanted pregnancies due to miss-mating. Reduces risk of prostate and other testosterone related issues. | 'Castration will change their personality'             | Castration may often reduce testosterone related behaviour such as humping and destructive behaviour, but is unlikely to change any other behaviour  |

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