



FIDO & FELIX

BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY, GUMDALE

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Vaccination & Your Cat

Dangerous Diseases requiring Vaccination

- **Feline Enteritis:** The most dangerous disease affecting cats. Very contagious with a high death rate.
- **Feline Respiratory Disease:** Highly contagious. Causes sneezing, coughing, running eyes, nasal discharge, loss of appetite and tongue ulcers.
- **Feline Chlamydia:** Causes severe and persistent conjunctivitis.
- **Feline Leukaemia:** Attacks the immune system with symptoms including loss of appetite, weight loss, apathy, vomiting, diarrhoea, reproductive problems, leukaemia and tumors.
- **Feline Immunodeficiency Virus:** A disease that affects a cat's immune system in much the same way the HIV (AIDS) does in humans.

We at Fido and Felix Boarding Kennels have animal health policies developed by our veterinary consultant and our staff are trained to recognize disease or health issues, but we are not vets.

We insist that all cats boarded at our cattery are up to date with their vaccinations, in line with recommendations from the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Vaccination Guidelines Group (VGG). The VGG strongly recommends ALL dogs and cats receive the benefit of vaccination, not only to protect the individual animal, but also to provide 'herd immunity' to minimize the chances of infectious disease outbreaks. All dogs and cats should receive the core vaccines, which protect animals from severe, life-threatening diseases that have global distribution. The core vaccines for cats are feline parvovirus (FPV) also called panleukopaenia, and the "cat flu" vaccines of feline calicivirus (FCV) and feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1). Maternally derived antibody may significantly interfere with the efficacy of core vaccines given to kittens in early life and multiple core vaccine doses is recommended with the final dose at 16 weeks or older and then followed by a booster at 6- or 12-months of age.

Whilst certain dog diseases may only require 3 yearly booster vaccination to maintain immune protection this does not appear to be the case with feline core vaccines. To board at Fido and Felix we insist all cats have been vaccinated within the previous year against FPV, FHV-1 and FCV.

Please be aware that your cat may still get disease, especially cat flu even if it is vaccinated against FCV and FHV-1. Immunity against FCV and FHV-1 is only partial. They are not the only cause of cat flu. 2 other cat flu bugs that can be vaccinated against are bacteria- *Chlamydia* and *Bordetella*. Vaccinating against bacteria may only afford limited protection.

The VGG (2016) states; "FCV vaccines have been designed to produce cross-protective immunity against multiple strains of FCV; however, it is still possible for infection and disease to occur in vaccinated adult animals. There is no FHV-1 vaccine that can protect against infection with virulent virus. Also, FHV-1 infection may become latent with the possibility of reactivation during periods of severe stress. The reactivated virus may cause clinical signs in the vaccinated animal or the virus can be shed to susceptible animals and cause disease in them." Boarding a cat can be the stressor that will reactive a latent herpes virus in a cat. These animals are likely to have acquired the infection as kittens yet catteries are commonly blamed if a cat goes home with the flu. The VGG recommends that annual revaccination of cats against FHV-1/FCV be carried out in higher-risk situations such as boarding cats. Vaccines give the most robust immunity within the 3-month period after vaccination and the VGG recommend vaccines are best if given immediately before a boarding.

Non-core vaccines include feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). The need for FeLV & FIV vaccination must be determined by the lifestyle and exposure risk of individual cats and the prevalence of infection in the local environment. The prevalence of FIV in Queensland is high especially for outdoor cats because of transmission by bites from infected cats. FIV vaccination may benefit some at-risk populations of cats. We prefer, but do not insist that boarding cats be vaccinated against FeLV & FIV.

The 'booster' vaccine traditionally given around 12 months of age is the most important vaccine as it ensures protective immune response develops in cats that have failed to respond to the primary series. It has been suggested that this booster could be brought forward to 6 months of age. Best practice is to have your cat receive a booster just prior to boarding.

In summary-

- all boarded cats must have up to date vaccination for FPV, FCV & FHV-1
- we prefer cats to be also vaccinated against Chlamydia, FeLV & FIV
- ideally the booster vaccination is timed to occur just prior to boarding
- cats may still become ill despite best efforts, particularly with cat flu symptoms



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Vaccination & Your Dog

Dangerous Diseases requiring Vaccination

- **Canine Parvovirus:** A virus attacks the intestines causing blood stained diarrhoea, uncontrollable vomiting and severe abdominal pain. Dogs often die from severe dehydration.
- **Canine Distemper:** Highly contagious. Symptoms can include fever, coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, depression, muscle tremors, fits and paralysis which is often fatal.
- **Canine Hepatitis:** Extremely contagious and often fatal. Symptoms include high fever, depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea and acute abdominal pain.
- **Canine Leptospirosis:** A potentially fatal animal disease that can be passed to humans who may then suffer "flu-like" symptoms that can vary from vomiting and diarrhoea to jaundice.
- **Canine Coronavirus:** A contagious virus that causes depression, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhoea especially in young dogs.
- **Canine Cough:** Affected dogs have an irritating dry hacking cough which can persist for several weeks.
See below for our notes regarding Canine Cough.

We at Fido and Felix Boarding Kennels have animal health policies developed by our veterinary consultant and our staff are trained to recognise disease or health issues, but we are not vets.

Appropriate vaccinations are required before boarding, including against Canine Cough (formerly Kennel Cough). Canine Cough is also known as respiratory disease complex as it is caused by a combination of factors; including viruses, bacteria, stress, and barking, amongst other things.

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association state that Canine Cough is not a vaccine preventable disease and the vaccine should only be used to help manage the disease. They recommend the non-core vaccines available for components of the Canine Cough, namely Canine Parainfluenza virus (CPiV) and Bordetella bronchiseptica, be given annually and for Bordetella more often for high-risk animals, for example those going into boarding kennels or shelters. Vaccination of every dog against Bordetella on admission to a large Vet hospital was shown to significantly decrease canine respiratory disease.

Many articles have been written about the prevention and management of Canine Cough in kennels. We, at Fido and Felix Boarding Kennels are acutely mindful of this disease. We must insist that all dogs are appropriately vaccinated and not showing signs of contagious disease on entry. We also have procedures to try to decrease the risk of Canine Cough; like age-appropriate animal handling, i.e. attending to the youngest first, isolation of coughing animals and giving low stress environment wherever possible. Despite our best efforts your dog may contract Canine Cough. The population of a boarding kennel, and likewise off leash areas, is transient. Just as the human population has become more mobile so has the pet population; potentially exposing them to infectious agents not found in their homes environment. Dogs rarely die from Canine Cough, but old dogs or dogs with existing heart or lung conditions can suffer more. Should your dog develop a cough after kennelling we would appreciate you letting us know and advise you to seek veterinary assistance.

