



Turramurra Veterinary Hospital

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VACCINATION AND ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK

Not all vaccinations are available as triennial vaccinations – only canine C3. This covers the life threatening diseases distemper, parvovirus and hepatitis.

Turramurra Vet Hospital adopted triennial (three yearly) vaccination as an option for canine parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis in 2008 – many, if not most of our canine patients are already vaccinated with this vaccine. We slightly favour this vaccination regime, but are not convinced that there is a massive benefit over annual vaccination. In our opinion benefits are subtle.

Canine (kennel) cough vaccination is only available as an annual vaccination and is required by all reputable boarding kennels. It can be given by intranasal infusion or injection. There is anecdotal evidence that intranasal vaccination is marginally more effective than injectable. Remember infectious coughs are prevalent in the community and at local dog parks not just boarding kennels.

Proheart annual heartworm injection is not available as a three year injection. Monthly tablets or chewables are an effective alternative but no more or less effective than the convenient annual injection. Strictly speaking Proheart injection is not a vaccine, but a slow release medication that protects from deadly heartworm disease at a very low dose.

There is no triennial vaccination currently registered for cats or rabbits in Australia; if this changes we will reconsider our vaccination policy for cats and rabbits.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, pets mature at 7 years for every human year. Annual rechecks are very important. If a pet is not seen for 3 years, this would be the equivalent of a human not having a medical check up for 21 years ! Animals cannot tell owners about “lumps and bumps” or health changes and the annual health check is as important as vaccination.

Unlike any other vet practice we are aware of, Turramurra Vet charges the same price for a triennial vaccination as for standard vaccination. This includes a full physical examination and check up.

We still recommend the annual C3 for dogs that visit Western Sydney or any rural areas (disease rates are very high in such areas). Parvovirus, distemper, kennel cough and other diseases are present in Sydney – the risk is real. Fatalities regularly occur due to parvovirus in particular. Please feel free to ask us any questions about vaccination or any other aspect of your pet's health.