Vaccine update for dogs

Dogs are at risk from a number of diseases which can be fatal or cause permanent health problems. However, initial vaccinations followed by an annual booster can protect your dog.

What do vaccinations protect against?

The core diseases that we recommend all dogs are vaccinated against are:

1. **Canine Parvovirus**

   Symptoms include high fever, listlessness, severe vomiting and blood-stained diarrhoea. An epidemic in the 1970s caused high numbers of dogs to die until a vaccine became available.

2. **Canine Distemper**

   Highly contagious, it is spread by inhalation of discharges from the noses and eyes of infected dogs. This virus causes severe respiratory infections and is commonly known as ‘hard pad’ as it also causes thickening of the pads. Symptoms can include listlessness, fever, coughing, diarrhoea and vomiting; nervous signs such as convulsions and paralysis may occur in the disease’s final stages.

3. **Infectious Canine Hepatitis**

   This disease is transmitted among dogs by contact with secretions such as saliva, infected urine or faeces. The virus is highly contagious and commonly attacks the liver causing jaundice, vomiting and diarrhoea. It can also cause eye damage including clouding of the cornea (blue eye).

4. **Leptospirosis**

   Also known as ‘Weil’s Disease’, Leptospirosis can be contracted not only from rats but also from the infected urine of other dogs. It can occur so suddenly that there is little chance of effective antibiotic therapy. Dogs infected acutely with this disease can suffer liver or kidney damage. It is also a disease that can infect and prove fatal in humans so maintaining vaccinating status is very important. Because of the nature of the vaccine, an annual dose is required to maintain immunity.

The Vaccine Controversy

There are minimal risks (e.g. vaccine reactions) associated with all vaccinations and these must be weighed up against the potential benefits of vaccinating a pet. At Elands, we recommend vaccinating
Kennel cough

Kennel cough – also known as infectious bronchitis – is a complex respiratory infection, caused mainly by a bacterium called Bordetella bronchiseptica and the Parainfluenza virus. It can last for weeks and is the most widespread infectious disease of dogs in Britain today. Once your dog has been exposed to infection, it will generally take 5-7 days before signs of disease are seen. Kennel cough usually causes a dry, hacking cough, runny nose and sometimes sneezing.

Despite the name, most cases are NOT caught in kennels. On the contrary, your pet is more likely to encounter the disease in common circumstances such as:

- The park
- The street
- At dog shows
- In training classes

As with any serious disease, prevention is always better than cure. Protection against kennel cough is NOT NORMALLY included in your pet’s routine annual vaccinations. However, it can be added - just a small drop of liquid applied to one nostril. This ‘intranasal’ vaccine will protect your dog for at least a year and can be administered routinely alongside your pet’s normal annual boosters.
At every vaccination your pet will receive a full health assessment.