

MYTHBUSTER SPECIAL

VEXED ABOUT VACCINATIONS?

WE DISPEL SOME COMMON MYTHS...

By Dr Brian Hogan
MVB Cert SAS MRCVS,
Partner, Blacks Vets

As we spring into new year full of mainly good and healthy intentions, we may also think about our pet's healthcare regime and making sure we stay proactive in guarding against preventable illnesses. As vaccination is a topic that sparks lots of debate in the press and lots of conversation in our branches, we are delving into some of the issues surrounding the practice that can help you separate fact from fiction.

Here's a round-up of some of the most common misconceptions:

MYTH: Vaccinations make pets ill

OUR ADVICE: A very small number of pets may be subdued for a day or so after immunisation, but symptoms are generally very mild and short-lived. In the vast majority of cases, vaccinations are tolerated extremely well with pets experiencing few or no side effects at all.



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MYTH: I had my pet vaccinated when they were young, so I don't need a booster.

OUR ADVICE: Unfortunately, this is untrue as immunity decreases over time and pets can then become seriously ill. Boosters are a simple and effective way of ensuring your pet's immunity stays in optimal condition and guards against many life-threatening illnesses. Not all boosters are required annually and at Blacks we only administer what is needed in accordance with strict clinical guidelines.

MYTH: Vaccinations and boosters aren't necessary and are only there to make money.

OUR ADVICE: Sadly, we see the heartbreaking effects of pets suffering when they haven't been vaccinated and have contracted a serious disease. The cost of treating a seriously ill pet far exceeds the cost of a routine vaccination that also prevents the extreme anguish for both

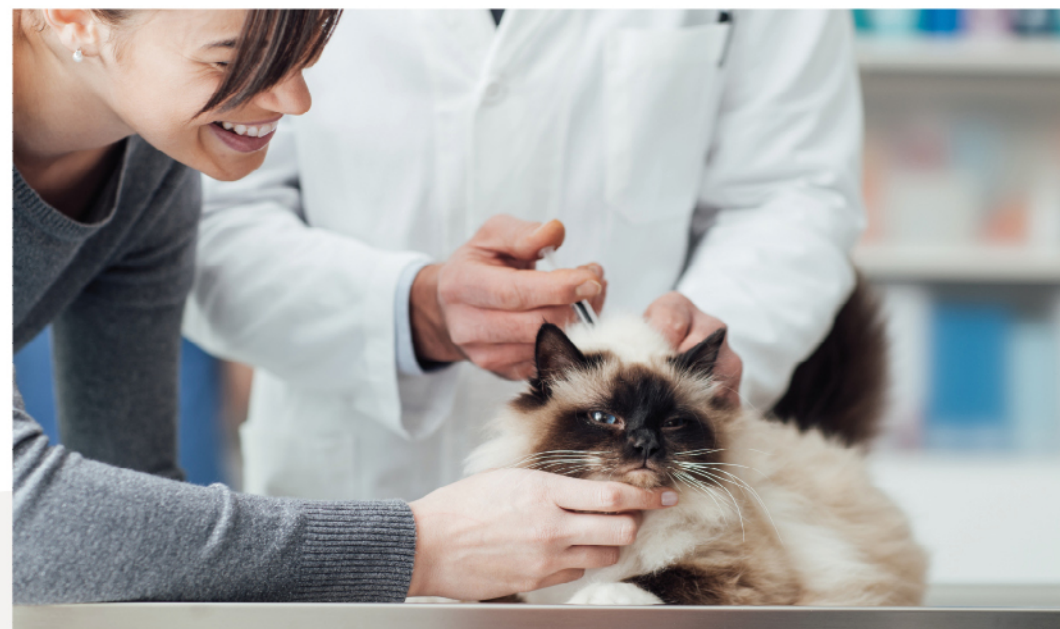


pet and owner in these tragic circumstances. Interestingly, many insurance policies become invalid if a pet isn't vaccinated, meaning that routine immunisation makes financial as well as clinical sense.

MYTH: My pet is old so there is no point in vaccinating them.

OUR ADVICE: Older pets are usually more vulnerable to illness and following a regular vaccination programme remains just as important in later life, as it does at any other stage. You'll find that most vets vaccinate their own pets irrespective of age, as they see first-hand the consequences of not offering protection.

MYTH: It's been a long time since my pet had a booster and I'll be in trouble with the vet if I go now!



OUR ADVICE: We always welcome owners who are proactive with their pet's health and you certainly won't be in trouble at Blacks! It's never too late to re-start your pet's booster programme and we can help even if you aren't sure when your pet was last treated. In fact, from **Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th January**, Blacks Vets will be holding a **Vaccination Amnesty**, for lapsed vaccines. This

means you can bring your pet in to re-start their vaccination programme for just the price of an annual booster (cats at £35.54 and dogs at £28.84).

Contact the friendly team at any of our five Black Country branches for an appointment or further information.

www.blacksvets.co.uk

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