



## **Important information for all pet owners who would like to follow the Lifetime Care Club Test and Treat pathway**

In accordance with the current World Small Animal Veterinary Association guidelines for vaccination, we continue to recommend the annual vaccination of both dogs and cats. The specific vaccine components administered in each year are given in line with the recommendations of those vaccine manufacturers. As such, not all diseases are vaccinated against each year as different vaccine components provide differing lengths of immunity. In following these guidelines, we are providing a recommended level of protection against a number of debilitating and potentially life-threatening disease conditions without the risk of 'over vaccination'.

We are aware that some owners prefer not to vaccinate annually for a range of different reasons. We are comfortable to support an alternative pathway which involves an annual assessment of immunity through blood sampling and antibody titre testing. The results of these tests may indicate that vaccination is required or may suggest that immunity remains sufficient to defer vaccination and test again twelve months later.

In choosing this pathway all owners must accept that it is not our best recommendation based on the fact that it carries a degree of risk and may expose your pet to potentially life-threatening disease conditions that have been proven to be preventable by vaccination. Although we are supportive of this alternative pathway it is not our best recommendation and in choosing it pet owners must accept all liability for illness or death that might arise as a result of not vaccinating their pets.

It is important to note that there is not a reliable and cost-effective means of determining levels of immunity to leptospirosis in dogs. This disease condition is usually acquired through ingestion of cattle and/or rodent urine in slow moving or stagnant water. Leptospirosis is common in our rural environment and so we recommend and include annual leptospirosis vaccination within the test and treat pathway. You are able to opt of this annual vaccination if you would prefer, but this must be at your own risk.

Please also check with your insurer whether they will continue to provide ongoing coverage for your pet if you chose to titre test rather than vaccinate. It is also important to check with your kennel or day care provider that they will continue to accept your pet if provided with evidence of adequate immunity via a titre blood test. Not all kennels are willing to accept this as an alternative to traditional vaccination, but many do.

Bishopton Vets cannot be held responsible for illness, death or costs incurred through choosing not to vaccinate.

Bishopton Vets' best recommendation remains to proactively and preventatively treat for internal and external parasites in accordance with a risk-based approach.

There are some specific circumstances whereby we would strongly advise to treat for external and internal parasites regularly:

- 1) If you have children in the home
- 2) If there are immunocompromised persons in your home
- 3) If you travel abroad with your pet
- 4) If you travel to areas of the UK in which Ticks are prevalent (e.g. Lake District, North York Moors, Western Scotland, New Forest)
- 5) If you travel to areas of the UK in which Lungworm is currently prevalent (e.g. South-West, New Forest)



Bishopton Vets cannot be held liable for any illness, death or increased costs incurred as a direct or indirect result of choosing to perform parasite testing rather than to use regular parasiticide treatments.

**In choosing the test and treat Lifetime Care Club pathway I declare that I have read and understood the information detailed above.**

Signed .....

Date .....