Policies for the vaccination of cats and dogs in New Zealand veterinary practices

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Supplementary Table 1: Questionnaire used to determine current practices and attitudes towards vaccination of dogs and cats of veterinarians in New Zealand.

A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY OF VACCINATION PRACTICES IN NEW ZEALAND

Dear colleagues

The practice of vaccinating dogs and cats has become a hotly discussed, and at times controversial topic in both veterinary, and public literature. In order to better understand the risks and benefits of various schedules and policies for vaccination, it is necessary to understand what are the common practices and attitudes amongst the profession. The success of future policies and guidelines will rest on the appreciation of those pre-existing practices and attitudes. Therefore, this survey is designed to record information on the attitudes and practices pertaining to the administration of vaccines to dogs and cats in New Zealand. Regional differences will be evaluated; however, this survey does not record personal information, or information that can be traced to your individual practice.

The objectives of this survey are to:

- record the current vaccination practices in New Zealand
- describe the frequency and range of client involvement in vaccination decisions
- provide information to the profession regarding the common practices and attitudes towards canine and feline vaccination in New Zealand
- determine the most common choices for the site to vaccinate cats

All information will be treated as strictly confidential and no information will be used in any way that could reasonably be expected to identify individual persons, practices or organisations.

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The Society of Sheep and Beef Cattle
Veterinarians NZVA

Definitions and abbreviations

Core essential vaccines	Vaccines that every dog or cat should receive, regardless of circumstances <u>Dogs</u> : Distemper, Adenovirus 2 (for canine hepatitis), Parvovirus <u>Cats</u> : Herpes (rhinotracheitis), Calici, Panleucopenia
Non-core optional vaccines	Vaccines that may be recommended for animals whose location, environment or lifestyle places them at risk <u>Dogs</u> : examples include Leptospirosis, Bordetella <u>Cats</u> : examples include Feline leukaemia, Feline immunodeficiency virus, Chlamydomphyla felis
NZVA	New Zealand Veterinary Association
CAS	Companion Animal Society of the NZVA
FelV	Feline Leukaemia virus
FIV	Feline Immunodeficiency virus
CVRP	Calici virus, Rhinotracheitis virus (Feline Herpes-1), Panleucopenia
DAP	Distemper, Adenovirus-2 (for canine hepatitis), Canine Parvovirus

ID NUMBER

Q1. What frequency of vaccination with modified live viral vaccines in adult pet dogs does your practice generally recommend?

Please tick✓ whichever applies.

Annual	☐	1
2 yearly	☐	2
3 yearly	☐	3

Other. Please specify

Q2. What frequency of vaccination with modified live viral vaccines in adult working farm dogs does your practice generally recommend?

If you do not normally deal with farm dogs PLEASE TICK NA (not applicable)

NA	☐	1
Annual	☐	2
2 yearly	☐	3
3 yearly	☐	4

Other. Please specify

Q3. What frequency of vaccination with modified live viral vaccines in adult cats does your practice generally recommend?

Annual	☐	1
2 yearly	☐	2
3 yearly	☐	3

Other. Please specify

Q4. Does your practice support the concept of “core, essential” and “non-core, optional” vaccines?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Q5. Do you give advice to enable clients to decide which non-core vaccines are administered to their pet?

Yes

☐

No – the decision is made for them

☐

Q6. If Yes to Question 5, how is the information presented to enable a decision to be made?

Discussion between veterinarian and client

☐	1
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Discussion between veterinary nurse and client

☐	2
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Specially prepared hand out information sheets

☐	3
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By the receptionist at time of enquiry

☐	4
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You may tick more than one

Other. Please specify

Q7. On what do you base the decision of what to vaccinate a given animal? You may tick more than one.

Consideration of risk to individual patient

☐	1
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Standard clinic vaccination policy

☐	2
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NZVA / CAS vaccination guidelines

☐	3
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Financial considerations

☐	4
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Requirements of local boarding kennel/cattery

☐	5
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Other. Please specify.

Q8. What methods does your practice use to provide information to owners to enable informed decision making? You may tick more than one.

☐ Discuss briefly in the consult and offer a recommendation

☐ Make a recommendation and discuss if required

☐ Provide written material on each of the diseases and discuss choice at next visit

☐	1
☐	2
☐	3

Other. Please specify.

Q9. How frequently does your practice recommend the following vaccines?

☐

☐ a) Chlamydophila felis

☐ b) FeLV

☐ c) FIV

☐ d) Bordetella (± parainfluenza)

☐ e) Bordetella (± parainfluenza)

☐ f) Leptospirosis

Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q10. If you administer the Fel-O-Vax FIV vaccine, what recommendations do you make regarding:

a) FIV antibody testing

b) Microchip identification

c) Other

Q11. Which of the following strategies regarding vaccination do you support: You may tick more than one.

☐ Development of national vaccination policies by NZVA special interest

☐ Statements from regional branches of the NZVA

☐ No national policy or statements. Leave it up to individual clinics

☐ Pre-requisites for boarding set by boarding kennels

☐	1
☐	2
☐	3
☐	4

Q12 Which of the following education support programs would you like NZVA to give support to? (You may tick more than one)

☐ Supporting educational material for clients

☐ Updates on the latest scientific findings on the relevant infectious diseases

☐	1
☐	2

Q13. What is your personal, or practice standard recommended schedule for the immunisation of kittens with the core feline vaccines (CVRP)?

Q14. What is your personal, or practice standard recommended schedule for the immunisation of puppies with the core canine vaccines (DHP)?

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Q15. Do you have different vaccination policies for working farm dogs and pet dogs?

Yes		No	
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Q16. If Yes, What is your policy for working farm dogs?

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Q17. Does your practice have a policy for an injection site for administration of vaccines to cats?

Yes		No	
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If Yes → Q18, If No → Q19

Q18. If Yes, What is your policy?

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Q19. If No, which site/s do you choose for vaccinating cats?

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Q20. Have you observed any adverse vaccine reactions in the last 12 months?

Yes		No	
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Q21. If your current standard recommendation is to revaccinate animals yearly, do you believe that changing to less frequent vaccinations will reduce your business income?

Yes		1
No		2
Not sure		3

OR

Q22. If you are now revaccinating animals less frequently than yearly, do you believe that change reduced your business?

Yes		1
No		2
Not sure		3

Q23. If your standard recommendation is to revaccinate animals yearly, do you believe that a change to less frequent vaccinations will have a negative effect on animal health?

Yes		1
No		2
Not sure		3

OR

Q24. If you are now revaccinating animals less frequently than yearly, do you believe that change has negatively impacted on animal health?

Yes		1
No		2
Not sure		3

Q25. Have you diagnosed an injection site sarcoma in your practice in the previous 12 months?

Yes		1
Suspected		2
No		3
Not sure		4

Q26. Would you support the development of a national disease surveillance scheme that provided information on regional disease prevalence and outbreaks?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know		3

Q27. How many full-time equivalent veterinarians work at your practice?

Q28. What of the following types of practice best describes your practice?

Companion animal

	1
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Mixed companion and production animal

	2
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Mixed companion and equine

	3
--	---

Mainly production animal

	4
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Q29. Is the practice you are working in a branch practice?

Yes		No	
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Q30. How many cases of tetanus have your practice diagnosed in dogs in the past 24 months?

 cases

Q31. What, if any, recommendations do you give for vaccinating dogs against tetanus?

No recommendations

	1
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Recommend vaccination only for dogs considered to be at risk

	2
--	---

Recommend vaccination of all dogs

	3
--	---

Other. Please specify

Q32. What is your practice's approach to the early socialisation of puppies?

Recommend attendance at puppy classes

	1
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Advice given but no puppy classes available

	2
--	---

No advice routinely given

	3
--	---

If No advice routinely given go to Q35

Q33. If you recommend attendance at a puppy class, what are your recommendations for vaccination prior to attendance?

Vaccination with one DHP at least 2 weeks prior to attendance

	1
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Vaccination with at least 2 injections of DHP prior to attendance
No specific recommendation

	2
	3

Q34. Do you discuss with owners the risk of infection for their puppy that attendance would incur?

Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know what the risk is ☐

Q35. For the following, is it your practice policy to insist on a full physical examination prior to vaccination?
You may tick more than one.

	Always	Mostly	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Pet cat	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pet dog	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Working farm dogs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q36. How often would the following persons administer a vaccine?

	Always	Mostly	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Owner	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Veterinarian	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Nurse / technician	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Owner here excludes
owners who are also
veterinarians.

Q36a. Which company (e.g. Merial, Fort Dodge etc) is the main supplier of small animal vaccines to your clinic?

Q37. We would welcome any comments you would like to make and issues that you would like to see clarified relating to vaccination of dogs and cats?

**Q38. Please indicate the number/s of the region/s
on the map that best describes the area
in which your practice operates**

**Thank you for your participation. An analysis of the
findings from this questionnaire will be distributed to the
profession.**