



# Spring Newsletter 2018

FOREST  
Veterinary Centre

[www.forestvets.com](http://www.forestvets.com)

## An injection of health!

There are several extremely dangerous diseases in the UK that can affect your furry friends. To help protect them we recommend annual vaccinations. The diseases we vaccinate against are:

### DOGS

**Parvovirus:** This is a nasty form of diarrhoea that can be fatal. It is highly contagious and because the virus can remain in the environment for long periods it can be contracted in parks and forests when out for walks.

**Canine Distemper:** Known as hard pad, is another severe and fatal disease but rare in this country due to the UK's vaccination programme.

**Hepatitis:** A liver virus that is often fatal. It is spread in the faeces, urine, blood, saliva, and nasal discharge of infected dogs.

**Leptospirosis:** This is contracted from the urine of rats or other dogs. The bacteria are in the rivers and canals and the infection is transmissible to people, known as Weils disease. Protection against this is particularly important if your dog enjoys swimming in lakes and rivers.

**Parainfluenza:** This is like the human flu and can be very serious for young or elderly dogs.

After their initial vaccinations as puppies, we top up their protection annually against Leptospirosis and Parvovirus; and Distemper, Hepatitis and Parainfluenza every three years. We do our best to remind you when your pets' boosters are due, but please make a note in your diary too. And when you bring them in, the visit includes a thorough health check.

**Kennel Cough:** We do not routinely vaccinate against this and can only offer protection against one strain, but often kennels require the vaccine before boarding your dog. This is not an injection but a liquid given directly into the nose.

### CATS

**Cat Flu:** There are two viruses that can cause cat flu and both are very infectious. It can cause chronic long-lasting problems and even be fatal in young and old cats.

**Feline Panleukopenia:** Also commonly known as feline enteritis, is similar to canine Parvovirus and is serious and life threatening.

**Feline Leukaemia:** This is a complicated virus that can cause certain cancers, anaemia and immune suppression. Outdoor cats are particularly at risk of this.

After their vaccinations as kittens, we recommend annual protection against Cat Flu and Feline Leukaemia, and Panleukopenia every three years. When you bring your cat for their vaccinations, a thorough health check is included.

### RABBITS

**Myxomatosis:** This is endemic in the wild rabbit population and can be spread by the rabbit flea. Once infected most rabbits carry a poor prognosis for survival. We recommend an annual vaccination.

**Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD):** Is also a virus that can be fatal to rabbits with very rapid death. There are now two different strains of vaccine available that are given two weeks apart, every year.



**Main Centre & Hospital:** 78 Hemnall Street, Epping Essex CM16 4LQ  
**Woodford Bridge:** Waltham Road, Woodford Bridge, Essex IG8 8EB  
**Harlow:** Eastwick Lodge, Harlow, Essex, CM20 2QT

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## What's New...

Huge congratulations to our newly-qualified Veterinary Nurses, Daisy and Holly, who have now passed all their exams and completed their training. All those years of hard work have paid off girls



## Scratching Post Cat Rescue

We are very pleased to be caring for this hard working charity, who often have homes for kittens, cats and feral cats. Their website can be viewed at [www.scratchingpost.co.uk](http://www.scratchingpost.co.uk). Donations of food can always be left at any of our surgeries and we can pass on to the Charity. Please check their website for other ways you can help.

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