

## **Further vaccine advice and guidance**

At this time, we have been instructed to stop all routine, non-essential work by the government and our official veterinary governing body the RCVS. This includes booster and primary vaccinations.

For some animals this may mean that their immunity lapses and the primary course needs to be started again. The following precautions can be taken by owners who have pets that are not currently protected by vaccinations.

### **Puppies**

- Puppies who have not received vaccinations should not be walked at all.
- Socialisation will probably be impacted and sadly there is no way around this as a key part to socialisation involves walking and meeting other dogs/people.
- You can still do things like getting them used to loud noises, traffic going past an open window, getting them used to feet being touched and mouths/ears being looked in.

### **Kittens**

- Kittens who have not received vaccinations should be kept indoors, especially if unneutered.

### **Adult Dogs**

- Immunity CANNOT be guaranteed in animals where the vaccine has lapsed.
- Avoid stagnant water, watercourses, and areas with a potential high volume of rats (stables or farms).
- They should not be socialised with unvaccinated animals.
- Try to avoid public parks with a high volume of dogs being walked.
- Consider keeping your dog indoors and only exercised in your enclosed garden at this time.
- We will be running an amnesty to enable you to get full coverage again at no additional cost.

### **Adult Cats**

- Unfortunately, there is not much we can do to reduce the chance of cats contracting preventable diseases if not vaccinated.
- Cats could be kept indoors but this is probably not a feasible option for many cats.

### **Rabbits**

- Where possible, outdoor rabbits should be protected from external sources of disease, such as wildlife. This may be difficult to do.
- Buy mosquito nets to cover any windows and doors in sheds and runs.
- Remember to wash hands before handling your rabbit, it's food or toys.
- Rabbits could be kept indoors but this may not be a feasible option for many rabbit owners.
- Regular flea prevention (see the FAQ on our website for more information).

The following websites have further information on keeping your pets safe, plus ideas for enrichment, activity and socialisation at home.

- [Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund](#)
- [Blue Cross](#)
- [International Cat Care](#)
- [Dogs Trust](#)
- [RSPCA](#)
- [The Kennel Club](#)
- [PDSA](#)