

Welcome

Working together to help your pets live a healthy life





MERIAL

DOGS WILL BE DOGS.

Ponds, streams, rivers, the sea, even bathing - some pets just love water. If you've got a pet like this, make sure the flea and tick product you use is up to the job.

Ask your vet about water-resistant flea and tick prevention.

Brought to you by the manufacturer of

FRONTLINE *Combo*
Trust the experts. Ask your vet.

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Welcome to Town & Country Veterinary Group

Preventative health care clinics

Welcome to Town & Country Veterinary Group and may we take this opportunity to congratulate you on your new addition. We hope that this will be the start of a long, happy and rewarding relationship for both you and your pet.

Town & Country is a first opinion veterinary surgery with 4 full time veterinary surgeons and a dedicated team of both qualified and student veterinary nurses. We are a happy approachable team and hope that we can help and advise you wherever needed.

At Town & Country we like to focus on preventative health care as well as seeing your pet at times of need. The nurses hold free clinics on all aspects of pet ownership and preventative health care with adolescent checks, weight checks, over eights and dental checks to name but a few.

We feel these clinics are an excellent idea for a number of reasons. It gives us the opportunity to get to know your pet individually making it easier to see when they are ill. It also benefits your pet, realising that going to the vet's is not always an unpleasant experience. We have all seen dogs being scooted through to the consulting room haven't we! Just popping your dog or cat in for a weight check and a chat with a nurse can make your pet enjoy coming to the surgery which can make an unavoidable visit much less stressful for yourself and your pet.



The need for vaccinations

Vaccination protects your new addition from serious and sometimes fatal diseases. A course of just 2 injections will need to be given to give your pet full immunity, usually starting at 8 weeks for a puppy and 9 weeks for a kitten.

Some puppies and kittens may have had a vaccination with their breeder, just let the vet know at the consultation and bring the vaccination card with you. Your pet will not be fully immune against all the diseases until 1 week after the final injection. At 12 weeks only 98% of the mother's antibodies are left so the 2nd vaccine is vital to your pet.



What puppies are vaccinated against

Canine Distemper A life threatening virus. Symptoms include a high temperature, anorexia, lethargy, runny nose and after some weeks nervous signs develop including fits. The nose and pads thicken, giving rise to the name *Hard Pad*.

Infectious Hepatitis Puppies are more commonly affected but all dogs are susceptible. Symptoms include anorexia, lethargy, jaundice, high temperature and abdominal pain.

Parvo Virus Affects all ages of dogs. Symptoms include vomiting, depression, anorexia and profuse diarrhoea. Mortality rate is high and treatment is symptomatic.

Coronavirus Causes digestive problems and increases the severity of other illnesses.

Leptospirosis has 2 forms. In one form dogs become infected via contaminated water affecting the liver and kidneys, it is often fatal and is transmissible to people. The second form is transmitted via the urine of infected dogs. It damages the kidneys and sometimes only becomes evident when the dog gets older.

Bordetella Brochiseptica also known as *Kennel Cough*. It is highly contagious and causes a harsh, dry cough, fever and nasal discharge. The vaccine is live and needs to be given intranasally.

What kittens are vaccinated against

Cat Flu A respiratory disease, symptoms vary but cats appear to have a severe cold. They sneeze; have runny eyes and wheezy breathing. It is commonly caused by calicivirus and herpes virus which mutate and form Cat Flu.

Chlamydia results in painful irritation of the eyelids with a watery discharge and can be transmitted to humans.

Feline Leukaemia This is a virus which damages the immune system. 80% Of cats die within three years and it is the 2nd biggest killer of young cats, the 1st being the road.

Felv is transmitted via infected saliva and in many cases causes cancer. There is no cure, only prevention.

Panleucopenia This virus causes vomiting, diarrhoea, dehydration and invariably death and can persist in the environment for over 1 year.

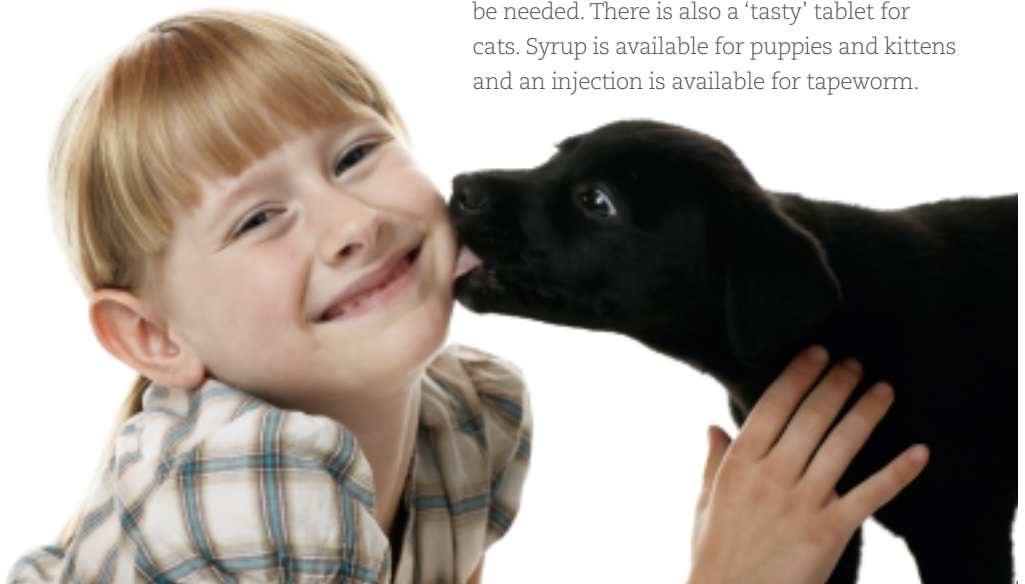
Once your pet is fully vaccinated it is vital that an annual booster is given. This appointment is not simply for an injection, but also a full health check for your pet. This will help pick up early signs of disease so that preventative measures can be used to treat and remedy problems.

Focus on worms

Nearly all cats and dogs will carry worms at some point in their lives. The worms can cause ailments in your pet and can make puppies and kittens fail to thrive. Some worms can cause illness in people. Worm eggs are not only shed in your pet's faeces but also on the ground. Even if you pick up your pet's faeces you may leave eggs behind. Young children playing in infected areas pick up the eggs behind their finger nails and the larvae can then migrate through the body and settle behind the eye causing blindness.

With this being such a real risk we strongly recommend worming with an effective wormer from the surgery, where your pet will be weighed in order to receive an adequate dose and an appropriate worming protocol.

The preparation we use regularly at Town & Country is a combined round and tape wormer tablet. For larger dogs 2 tablets may be needed. There is also a 'tasty' tablet for cats. Syrup is available for puppies and kittens and an injection is available for tapeworm.



Worming protocol

Puppies

Worm every 2 weeks from 2 weeks of age until 3 months old.

Adult dogs

To be wormed monthly throughout adult life.

Kittens

Worm every 2 weeks from 6 weeks of age, until 3 months old.

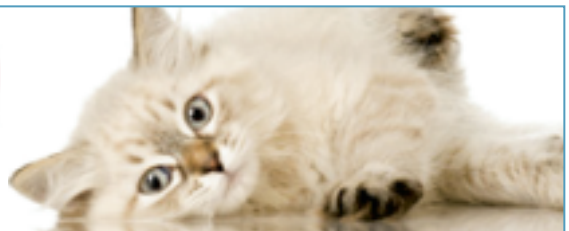
Adult cats

To be wormed every 3 months if house cat, monthly if outdoor cat.

Cats are very prone to tape worms, especially if they hunt. You may see tape worms around your pet's anus, they look like a flat grain of rice, these are tapeworm segments which lay the eggs.

No worming product has a residual effect, once the worming treatment is out of your pet's system it has no longer lasting preventative effect. This means if your pet does go outside they can become infected again within weeks. Therefore a monthly worming regime for these pets is advised.

If you have difficulties worming your pet (most people do!) one of the nurses will administer the tablet to your pet.



Fleas

The key to flea control is prevention with a round the clock treatment. Fleas are ectoparasites that live on your pet taking frequent BLOOD meals. The flea bite and saliva can cause irritation, self mutilation, infections and spread disease. Small puppies and kittens can become anaemic if they have a heavy infestation.

We can advise you on the most suitable and preventative flea treatment for your pet and your pet's lifestyle.

The products we recommend are:

- *Frontline Combo*
- *Program* 6 monthly injections (cats)
- *Program* tablets (dogs)
- environmental sprays.

Environmental sprays are available to prevent carpet and soft furnishing infestation. 95% of the life cycle of the flea is spent in these areas.

They provide up to 1 year's protection and 1 can treats an average sized house.



Nutrition

Tailor made nutrition, individual to your pet's requirements at every life stage.

Royal Canin has realised major advances in canine and feline nutrition following your pet's life from birth-growth-adulthood-senior years. Each diet is tailored to your pet's life stage and breed, ensuring a better life for longer.

Town & Country Veterinary Group along with **Royal Canin** pet foods promotes preventative health care and by feeding a complete diet to your pet you can too!

Please speak to one of our veterinary nurses about the benefits of a good quality diet. Don't forget to ask about special offers too!



Insurance is reassurance

Veterinary medicine has in recent years become very sophisticated, we are able to diagnose and treat many conditions that a few years ago would have remained undetected.

The down side to this advancement is the cost of treatment; it is not unheard of for treatments to exceed £1000.

One of the most distressing situations we find ourselves in is when a pet's condition is curable but the cost is too high for the owner and the pet has to be put to sleep. A less serious situation is when an owner has to opt for the less than the best treatment due to money constraints. Town & Country is similar to your GP's – we are classed as a first opinion surgery, we often refer pets to specialists e.g. orthopaedic surgeons following complicated fractures, dermatologists for chronic skin conditions etc. However these specialists come at a cost.

This is where pet insurance comes in. However there are a few things you need to look out for:

- Ensure the policy is a lifetime policy.
- Be careful to check that the amount of veterinary cover is adequate: over a time a single condition can cost hundreds.
- Check that there is no time limit on how long you can claim for each condition.
- Check that your pet will be covered in later years when he/she needs it most.

Routine treatments will not be covered e.g. vaccinations/wormers. Town & Country endorses the concept of insurance and highly recommends it ensure that we never have to compromise the quality of veterinary care for your pet on the basis of cost.



Neutering your pet

Unless you intend to breed from your pet we always recommend neutering your pet at 6 months of age. This procedure can help prevent both medical and behavioural problems.

Female cats

We routinely spay cats at 6 months of age. It is strongly recommended that you spay at this time particularly if she is destined to be an outdoor cat. Even if your cat is an indoor cat neutering is still recommended. Otherwise your cat will be constantly on 'heat' during the breeding season until a successful mating has occurred. She will cry and pine to go out constantly causing much distress to cat and owner alike! Cats can

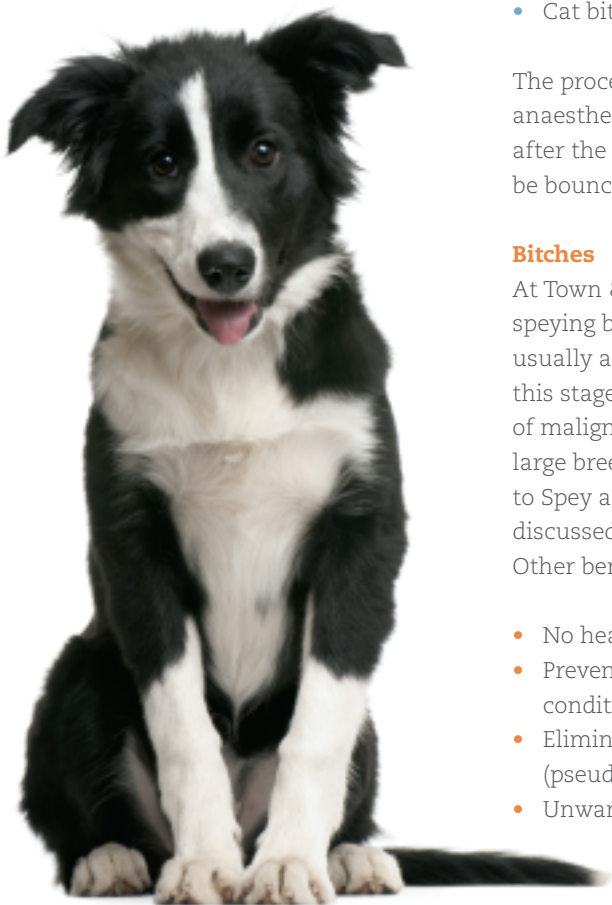
conceive at this young age and every mating is usually successful because a female only ovulates after mating. The benefits are:

- No unwanted kittens
- Greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer
- Eliminates the risk of the uterus becoming infected (*Pyometra*)
- Reduces the risks of straying
- Limits the spread of disease.

The procedure involves an ovariohysterectomy (removal of both the ovaries and uterus) under general anaesthetic.

She will be with us for the day and home the same evening and a revisit will be needed in 10 days time to check her over and remove her stitches.





Male cats

We routinely castrate male cats at 6 months of age. If castrated at this age you are much more likely to prevent unwanted male traits such as:

- Spraying and urine marking
- Fighting, making them more at risk of disease and viruses such as FELV and FIV
- Wandering and straying
- Unwanted litters
- Cat bite abscesses.

The procedure involves a general anaesthetic, no skin sutures are in place after the procedure and your cat will soon be bouncing around again the next day.

Bitches

At Town & Country we always recommend speying before the 1st season, which is usually around 6 months of age. If speyed at this stage you dramatically reduce the risk of malignant mammary cancer. In certain large breed pedigree dogs it is advisable to Spey at a later stage and this can be discussed at your pets adolescent check. Other benefits include:

- No heat/season every 6 months
- Prevention of the potentially fatal condition **Pyometra**. (infected uterus)
- Elimination of false pregnancies (pseudo-pregnancy)
- Unwanted litters of puppies.

If your pet has had her first season she will still benefit from having the procedure done and we recommend waiting until she is in between seasons (3 months after her last season finished). The operation involves an ovarian hysterectomy (removal of both the ovaries and the uterus) under a general anaesthetic. Your pet will normally be discharged in the evening following the operation and skin sutures are in place for 10 days at which time your pet will also receive a post-operation check.

Male dogs

Six months is the ideal age to castrate your dog. As with the cat, the earlier you castrate the more likely you are to eliminate undesirable male behaviour. These include:

- Aggression to other male dogs – this becomes more apparent at 18-24 months by which time the behaviour may be imprinted and difficult to resolve
- Excessive urine marking
- Straying
- Testicular tumours and growths around the anus which rely on testosterone.

It is a common misconception that castration will change your pet's personality but it will only prevent undesirable behaviour traits developing. The procedure involves complete removal of both testicles under a general anaesthetic. Your pet will stay with us for the day and be discharged later that evening. A post-operation check will be booked and we will remove your pet's skin sutures at the same time.

A reversible way to castrate is also available, **Suprelorin**. This is a contraceptive implant for male dogs, providing temporary sterilisation which renders the pet infertile for a 6 month period. The implant provides the same benefits as surgical castration but is reversible. It enables dogs that maybe an anaesthetic risk to be castrated, it 'road-tests' the behavioural response of a zero testosterone level without submitting the pet to surgery and it temporarily sterilises dogs prior to breeding, ideal for showing and working dogs. Please ask for further information.

All surgical operation prices include pain relief, antibiotics, buster collar and a routine post operation check, which includes suture removal. Please ask for prices as they vary according to your pet's weight.

If you would like to discuss any of the procedures mentioned or would like some more advice our nursing team hold free clinics each day and would be happy to give you any further information you require.

Special offers

To be redeemed at your pet's adolescent check:

These vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and must be redeemed at the adolescent check.

Flea treatment

20% OFF

Frontline Combo 3 or 6 pack

20% OFF

Program Plus tablets for dogs or
Program Injection for cats.



Nutrition

20% OFF

all Royal Canin vet size or vet range
(excludes prescription diets)

OR buy two vet size bags and
receive a free identichip.



Redeemable anytime:

Worming

4th dose FREE

when you purchase 3 doses of the
recommended worming treatment.



Neutering

10% OFF

your pet's neutering operation when done at 6 months of age and in conjunction with Town & country's preventative health care policy.

Surname: _____

Pet's name: _____

Address: _____

Computer ref. no: _____

Town & Country
Veterinary Group



Vaccination

For LIFE

A one off fee for a lifetime of vaccinations. Please ask for details.



Emergency Service arrangements

In an emergency if the surgery is closed please telephone:

0161 764 4618

Outside normal working hours

The Armac Emergency

Veterinary Clinic in Bury is the dedicated emergency service provider for Town & Country Veterinary Group.

'Armac' is open nights, weekends and all bank holidays. This service ensures there is a vet available when you need one. It employs qualified veterinary surgeons and nurses who work specifically within emergency and critical care ensuring the best possible care for your pet.

Town & Country
Veterinary Group

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01254 681455 / 01254 661714



1 IN 5 CATS HAS FLEAS.* DON'T LET YOURS BE ONE OF THEM.

Treat your pet regularly with a product that kills fleas and stops their eggs from hatching.

Ask your vet about a long-lasting flea and tick treatment that will protect both your pet and your home.

Brought to you by the manufacturer of

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Trust the experts. Ask your vet.

*Source: Survey of flea infestation in dogs and cats in the UK during 2005. Vet Rec 2007; 160, 503-506.

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