

## Love your pet... love your vet

### Is your cat at risk?

Cat flu is still very common. Surprisingly, only around a third of the cat population is vaccinated against it, yet any unvaccinated cat is put at an unnecessary risk. And, while many cat owners are aware of the viral infectious agents involved in cat flu – feline herpes virus (FHV) and feline calicivirus (FCV), fewer know about the *Bordetella bronchiseptica* (Bb) bacterium. In fact, dog owners are probably more familiar with *Bordetella* because it is one of the main causes of kennel cough.

There are a number of important risk factors, which increase the likelihood of a cat acquiring a *Bordetella* infection. These include your cat living with other cats, those cats that visit boarding and breeding catteries, cats in rescue shelters and cats that come into contact with dogs with kennel cough, since *Bb* is also capable of transmitting from dogs to cats.

Without the proper protection, your cat could be at risk from any of these causes of flu. Symptoms include sneezing, snuffling, conjunctivitis, discharge from the nostrils, swollen glands, loss of appetite, depression and fever. Coughing can also occur in some cats, as well as mouth and eye ulcers. In the very young and weakened, the disease can lead to pneumonia and even death.

For comprehensive prevention against cat flu, regular protection against *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, FHV and FCV is vital. Vaccination against *Bb* could not be easier - a simple intranasal vaccination for *Bordetella* will offer immunity for a full 12 months.

To find out more on protecting your cat from feline flu, simply phone the surgery on 01202 698899 to book a pet health check and discuss vaccination requirements with your vet.



*Disclaimer: The information and advice contained in this handout is for general information only. It is not intended to be a substitute for a veterinary examination and/or specific treatment or advice. You should always seek advice from your veterinary surgeon.*

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