



putting your pet first

Guernsey

Guernsey Vets4Pets Limited, Heritage House, La Grande Rue, St Martins, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY4 6LH

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## Pets FAQs

### Most Frequently Asked Questions by Clients

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Q01) How old does my puppy need to be before it can have its 1st vaccination?

- At least 7 weeks of age.

Q02) How old does my kitten need to be before it can have its 1st vaccination?

- At least 9 weeks of age.

Q03) How often should I worm my puppy/kitten?

- Every 2-3 weeks from 2-12 weeks of age. Then monthly until 6 months of age. Thereafter worming should be carried out at a minimum of 3 monthly intervals based on the lifestyle of your pet. To reduce the risk of transmission of roundworm to humans, it is recommended that treatment against roundworm should be carried out monthly.

Q04) What should I be feeding my young puppy?

- Puppies need to be given a food especially formulated for growth which includes all the vitamins, minerals and proteins to help them in this stage of life. We recommend introducing dry complete diet as soon as your puppy is weaned though it can take some time to get your puppy to eat dry food (only).

Q05) Do my pet's teeth need attention?

- Yes, special dental products such as pet toothbrushes and toothpastes are available from your Guernsey vet to help prevent plaque build up. Our Guernsey staff can help you to apply these techniques correctly to achieve the best results. Training your pet to accept dental care measures at an early age is very important. Feeding complete specially formulated dry diets can also help to prevent further tartar build up (this is recommended for adult animals). Dental disease can cause significant problems as your pet gets older and so should be controlled from an early age.

Q06) How often should a dog/cat be vaccinated?

- After the initial vaccination course (2 injections 2-4 weeks apart) it is recommended that your pet is vaccinated every 12 months. This vaccination appointment also includes a full health check. [Click here to make an appointment with a Guernsey Vet](#)

Q07) What are dogs/cats vaccinated against?

- Dogs are routinely vaccinated against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Para influenza and Leptospirosis. A vaccine against Infectious Bronchitis is also available. Cats are routinely vaccinated against Feline Infectious Enteritis, Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Viral Leukaemia with additional vaccines against Chlamydia and Bordetella available if needed.

Q08) What is microchipping?

- A small capsule, the size of a large grain of rice, containing the animal's unique 15 digit registration number is simply inserted under the skin at the back of the animal's neck. The microchip number can be read via a hand-held scanner. Guernsey Vets, Guernsey police and Guernsey pet rescue centres all have suitable microchip scanners. The Guernsey name and address details relating to the microchip number are all stored on a national database. If your pet becomes lost or is stolen, it can be easily identified and you will be contacted.

Q09) How often should I worm my adult cat/dog?

- The minimum recommendations is every 3 months or 4 times yearly. In situations where your pet frequently comes into contact with young children we recommend treatment for roundworm monthly.

Q10) I've found a rice-like segment stuck to my cat's tail near its bottom. What is it?

- This is probably a tape worm segment. Adult cats that hunt wildlife or have fleas are prone to getting them. Dosing with either a tablet or a prescription spot-on treatment from your vet will help solve the problem.

Q11) How long will my female dog be in season?

- On average a bitch will be in season for 3 weeks twice a year. It is advisable to keep her away from male dogs for the full 3 weeks. We recommend neutering to prevent her seasons occurring in the first place and there are a number of other health benefits to her in the long term.

Q12) How old does my cat need to be before it can be neutered?

- From 5 months of age or older.

Q13) How old does my male dog need to be before he can be castrated?

- From 5 months of age or older.

Q14) How old does my female dog need to be before it can be spayed?

- 5 months or older. If she has started her seasons then half way between seasons is the best time. Most dogs will have 2 seasons per year and so having her spayed 3 months after she has finished her latest season is an appropriate time.

Q15) What should I look for when taking out pet insurance?

Here are some general points to consider that are not specific to any particular policy:

- What is the maximum amount covered per condition under the policy?

- Does the policy offer lifelong cover with no time limit on claiming?

- Are there any exclusions or situations where your insurance company will not pay?

- What is the excess on your policy?

- Is the insurance company's name one that you recognise?

Q16) I've found fleas on my dog/cat. What should I do?

- You should get advice from your Guernsey Veterinary Practice. It is important to treat both your pet and your house. Guernsey Vets4Pets Limited can supply either spot-on medications, tablets or in certain cases injections to remove the problem from your pet. Treatment to prevent fleas needs to be regularly repeated to avoid re-infestation, particularly in warmer weather. Products purchased from supermarkets and other outlets frequently do not work effectively and the best source of efficient medication is your vet.

Q17) What is Fly-Strike in rabbits?

- Fly-strike usually happens in warm weather and the rabbit is dirty around its bottom. Flies lay eggs in the soiled area which hatch out into maggots and these then eat their way into the rabbit's skin. This is often not seen by the owner as it occurs very quickly. If prompt Guernsey veterinary attention is not sought, this condition can often be fatal. All rabbits should be handled and checked carefully daily. Preventative treatments are available from your vet for this condition.

Q18) What diseases should I get my rabbit vaccinated against?

- Myxomatosis and Viral Haemorrhagic Disease. Vaccinations can be started at 6 weeks of age and booster injections are recommended annually.

Q19) Should I have my rabbit neutered?

- Yes, neutering can help prevent future health problems in your rabbit. It is appropriate for males and females and is routinely carried out from 4 months of age onwards. Apart from preventing unwanted offspring, it can help to improve temperament particularly in rabbits which are difficult to handle.

If you have a problem that you would like to discuss with your Guernsey Vet, please feel free to contact [Guernsey Vets4Pets Centre](#)

[Guernsey](#)

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