

Black Sheep Vets newsletter



Black Sheep
VETS
Louth, Lincolnshire

info@blacksheepvets.co.uk
www.blacksheepvets.co.uk



**Out of date
vaccines ?
Re start and
save £25**

Is your cat over 7? - It's time for a check up

As our cats get older, their health needs change. A cat that is 7 is about 50 years old in human years, which is the perfect time to take a closer look at their health (as we do for people). You may think, "They're still eating and purring, so they must be fine?" However the reality is, many age-related issues develop without obvious signs, particularly in cats who have evolved to hide any underlying problems, so early detection makes all the difference.

As cats age, they can develop conditions like arthritis, kidney disease, diabetes, heart problems, and dental disease: Stiff joints can sneak up on them and often just appear as them not jumping onto the sofa anymore, or not turning around to groom their rear as much (the only evidence being knots of fur at the base of their tail). The good news, is that there is now things that can be done to keep them going for many years, and many of those things are simple and inexpensive.

Let us know if your cat is doing any of these things and we can see how we can help:

- not jumping onto the sofa as easily
- having urine 'accidents' in the house or in their bed
- not eating as much, or perhaps eating more than usual
- drinking more, or from odd places like puddles or taps
- getting grumpier when you touch certain areas
- smelly breath
- knots of hair on their body that they don't like you touching.



Opening Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 6:30 pm

Saturday

8:30 am - 11:30 am

How to book an appointment ...

Telephone:

(01507) 609929

Petsapp - request an appointment via our app - click [here](#).

Website -

www.blacksheepvets.co.uk

Facebook

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Just like older people, senior cats need vaccinations too !

While we are often diligent about kitten vaccinations, it's equally important to stay on top of vaccinations as our pets grow older as their needs change and as vaccines progress to provide protection for newer disease strains that were not covered a few years ago.

As the last few years have shown us with COVID, getting older increases the risk of infection from viral and bacterial diseases, and we now know that the immunity provided by vaccination against some diseases, eg cat flu, only lasts about a year.

As they age, cats become more susceptible to various diseases that they might have shrugged off in their younger years. Cat flu (caused by Calicivirus and Herpes virus) along with Feline Infectious Enteritis can pose significant risks to older animals. Prevention through vaccination is the safest and most cost effective way to reduce these diseases.

In addition to having their yearly booster vaccination, your cat also receives a full MOT health check, where the vet will listen to your pet's heart and lungs, examine their teeth, and assess all the things that are easy to overlook. This means that we can spot the early signs of problems such as arthritis, obesity or dental disease and create a plan to keep your pet healthy. We can discuss your pet's lifestyle and diet, as even indoor cats can be at risk of some of these infections that get brought into your house by other pets, or on clothes or shoes.

We know that your life is busy, so we now send automatic reminders via email and text message to make it easier for you to keep on top of your annual boosters and health checks. If you are unsure whether your pet is up to date - just get in touch with us.

Our monthly VIP plan includes your pets annual booster vaccinations, so if you would like to set this up before your next visit, then visit our petsApp [here](#) to join.

Cat Flu: This can cause severe chronic sneezing, nasal discharge, and ulceration of the eyes and mouth, and is most commonly caused by two viruses, Feline Calci Virus, and Feline Herpes virus, both of which we vaccinate against

Feline Infectious Enteritis: This is caused by Feline Panleucopenia Virus (similar to Parvo virus in dogs), which causes damage to the bone marrow and intestines, causing life threatening diarrhoea and dehydration

Feline Leukaemia Virus: Depending on your pet's age and whether they come across other cats, your vet may recommend that your cat be vaccinated against Feline Leukaemia Virus which damages your cats immune system and can cause some forms of cancer