

Vaccinations Explained

Family Matters

One of the most common questions we hear is:

"Does my pet really need vaccinations?"

It's a sensible question. After all, if your dog or cat looks healthy, why do they need protection against diseases they don't have?

The answer is simple.

Vaccinations don't treat disease—they **prevent it**.

At Amity, we believe prevention is one of the greatest gifts you can give your pet. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand not only *what* we recommend, but *why*.

How Do Vaccinations Work?

Just like people, pets have an immune system designed to fight infection.

Vaccinations safely introduce your pet's immune system to a harmless version or part of a disease-causing organism. This teaches their body to recognise and fight the real disease quickly if they're ever exposed to it.

Think of it as training your pet's immune system before it needs to face the real challenge.

Why Must My Pet Be Healthy Before Vaccination?

One of the most important parts of vaccination actually happens **before** the injection.

Your pet should be healthy at the time of vaccination because vaccines rely on the immune system mounting a strong response. If your pet is already fighting another illness, their immune system may not respond as effectively, resulting in **reduced protection** against the diseases we're trying to prevent.

In some cases, vaccinating a pet that is already unwell may also place additional strain on their immune system or temporarily worsen their existing condition.

That's why every vaccination appointment at Amity includes a thorough health check first. We only vaccinate when we're confident it's in your pet's best interests.

What Diseases Do Vaccines Protect Against?

Vaccinations protect against several serious and potentially life-threatening diseases.

Many of these diseases are uncommon today—not because they've disappeared, but because vaccination has kept them under control.

If vaccination rates fall, these diseases can quickly return.

That's why protecting your own pet also helps protect the wider pet community.

Why Do Puppies and Kittens Need More Than One Vaccination?

Young animals receive some protection from their mother's milk, but this natural immunity gradually fades.

Unfortunately, there's a period when that protection is no longer enough, but it may also interfere with vaccines.

Giving a course of vaccinations helps ensure your puppy or kitten develops reliable, long-lasting protection at the right time.

Why Are Boosters Needed?

Immunity isn't always lifelong.

Some vaccines provide protection for several years, while others require regular boosters to maintain effective immunity.

Your vaccination schedule will be tailored to your pet's age, lifestyle and individual risk factors.

More Than Just an Injection

At Amity, we don't see vaccination appointments as "just a jab."

Every vaccination includes a comprehensive health check. It's an opportunity to assess your pet's overall health, discuss nutrition, behaviour, weight, dental care, parasite prevention and answer any questions you may have.

Sometimes the most valuable part of the appointment isn't the vaccine—it's identifying another health issue before it becomes a problem.

Protecting the Ones We Love

Vaccination is one of the safest and most effective ways to protect your pet from preventable disease.

Combined with good nutrition, parasite prevention, dental care and regular health checks, it forms the foundation of lifelong healthcare.

At Amity, **Amity Essential Membership includes unlimited health checks**, because keeping your pet healthy is about much more than treating illness—it's about preventing it.

Your pet trusts you to make decisions they cannot make for themselves.

Vaccination is one of the kindest decisions you'll ever make.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.