

## **FELINE VACCINATION AMNESTY**

There has been a recent case of Feline Infectious Enteritis, a highly infectious and often fatal disease, in two local kittens. Vet Beccy Skellern said "Prevention is always better than cure, particularly with such an infectious disease in the local area, Coombefield vets are running a 3 month campaign giving cat owners the chance to get their cat vaccinations started for just the price of a booster. The cats most at risk are aged under 4 years old but we are extending the amnesty to ALL unvaccinated cats or cats that have not been vaccinated in the last 14 months"

### Feline Infectious Enteritis

This disease, that killed the two cats was Feline Infectious Enteritis or panleukopaenia. Infection typically causes severe vomiting and diarrhoea, and is often fatal, particularly in young kittens.

Treatment of affected cats is difficult and often unsuccessful. Infection of pregnant cats can result in the birth of kittens with permanent neurological problems. The virus which causes the disease is able to survive for long periods of time, and can be transmitted on contaminated food bowls, shoes, clothing, pretty much anything really - so even indoor cats which don't have direct contact with other cats are potentially at risk.

### Why vaccinate your cat?

Cats of all ages can and do become seriously ill or die from infectious diseases that could have been prevented through vaccination. Vaccination offers the most effective way of protecting your cat against many of the most serious infectious diseases, including Cat flu, Feline Infectious Enteritis, Feline Leukaemia Virus and Chlamydia. Many of these diseases are commonly reported in the UK, and they represent a potentially significant threat to your pet's health.

Tim Lawrence, senior partner at CVH said "The reason we are letting people know is because as practicing vets we haven't seen a case like this for more than 30 years and that worries us that it is in the area and it is a killer." While most diseases need to be transmitted through direct contact some of the viruses which cause disease can also survive in the outside environment. This means that your cat does not always need to come into contact with other cats to get sick, so vaccination is important for all cats, even those which live mainly indoors.

If you would like to have your cat vaccinated please call us on 01297 630500 to arrange an appointment and receive the discounted offer.