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New Year, New Vaccine

Last month we were introducing SuperStart for puppies to boost their immunity to infectious diseases at the start of their lives, and get them ready for exploring the outside world. Our adult pets also like exploring, so this month we are explaining how to get your adult dog's immunity up to speed :)

As we've said in previous articles, it's the release of the new L4 Leptospirosis vaccine and the beautiful area we all live in that has prompted this discussion. Dogs that live and walk in rural areas are at higher risk than most from Leptospirosis because they come in contact with lots of water courses and river banks. Infected hosts such as rodents that live in the banks of the rivers and ponds shed the bacteria in their urine into the water. Then when our dogs jump into the river during their walk they become exposed and possibly infected. Early signs of Leptospirosis are lethargy and not wanting to exercise normally, but it can progress to extremely serious liver and kidney disease.

Now, the observant among you will already have noticed that in your dog's vaccination card there is a sticker every year that says L2 on it. This is the sticker of the Leptospirosis 2 vaccine which covers two of the types of Leptospirosis bacteria. The new L4 vaccine covers four of the types of Leptospirosis bacteria. Every year the vets at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency monitor the type of Leptospirosis bacteria that causes disease in dogs in the UK and the results show us that :

- Old L2 vaccine - covers 34% of cases
- New L4 vaccine- covers 85% of cases.

Here at Border Vets we always aim to use preventative measures like vaccination to avoid illness and diseases, and a vaccine that protects our pets from 85% of the Leptospirosis strains out there is better than one that protects against 34%, so we are doing a deal for all of our regular annual booster vaccination clients.

The new Lepto 4 vaccine will be incorporated into your annual booster but requires a 2nd dose 4 weeks after, and as a favour to all our loyal clients we'll do this for free. When you get your reminder card or text during 2014 just come along as usual during the month you are due and once you have had your booster you'll be given an appointment to get the 2nd part ... and we'll do the 2nd injection **free of charge** ! The offer will last all year :)

Carla & Mel

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