



## **Important news regarding Cats Protection (CP) vaccines ordered through the CP veterinary wholesaler scheme, April 2013**

The CP Veterinary and Purchasing Departments, regularly meet with suppliers to ensure that the charity is getting the best possible price on the most appropriate veterinary products for cats in CP care. One way of doing this is through scheduled tenders.

We have recently completed tenders that **will have an effect on some of our widely used products.**

We have been running a tender to look at available vaccines and flea and worm products over the last couple of months and have met with the relevant suppliers. We were informed on Monday 29 April that Fevaxyn Pentofel had gone out of stock and so we have put steps in place to proceed with our selected vaccine supplier earlier than planned. Information on results of the flea and worm tender will follow in due course.

We are aware that vaccine stock issues cause inconvenience and a fast changeover is not the scenario we had wished for. We will do all we can to support AC's, branches, and vets through transition to the new product. Zoetis (formally Pfizer) have apologised, recognising the potential issue to CP, which is apparently out of their control. We sincerely hope that there will be as little impact as possible on CP cats, volunteers, staff and vets.

### **Purevax vaccines**

Cats Protection adoption centres and branches have used Fevaxyn Pentofel and Fevaxyn iCHP for a number of years. **Following the tender process, we have made the decision to move to Merial Purevax vaccines.**

#### **In making the change, we have in particular considered:**

- Killed versus modified live – killed vaccines were previously used to avoid risk of reversion to virulence (causing disease), but the ABCD (The European Advisory Board on Cat Diseases) and WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association) guidelines are now recommending live vaccine for the beneficial prevention of parvovirus in rescue animals
- Protection against Feline Calicivirus and its shedding
- Age licensed to give first vaccine - the first dose of Purevax vaccine can be given at 8 weeks of age so kittens can be homed from 8 weeks plus 48 hours, rather than at 9 weeks plus 48 hours (for cats given Fevaxyn Pentofel), saving money and time, and allowing kittens to get into a home environment faster which may be better from a behavioural point of view
- Pack size to avoid unused stock going out of date

In addition, we have considered the need for vaccination against *Chlamydophila felis* as a core vaccine.

- Chlamydophila is not a recommended core vaccine by the ABCD (European Advisory Board on Cat Diseases) or the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA).
- Chlamydophila is an intracellular bacteria so does not survive long in the environment and it easily killed with disinfectants. Transmission is via close contact of infected cats. Cat's Protection procedure of housing cats separately or in small groups along with our robust hygiene, disinfection and cleaning protocols for cats in our care should greatly reduce the risk of transmission of this disease in our care.
- Vaccination is not sterilising so will only reduce the clinical severity of disease seen if a vaccinated cat becomes infected with the bacteria.
- Unlike many of the diseases we vaccinate against, Chlamydophila can be treated with a 3-4 week course of antibiotics.

Taking this into account, it has been decided that Chlamydomphila is no longer required to be part of the standard CP adoption centre vaccination protocol, but could be given on a case by case basis if prescribed by the vet.

The Purevax range offers a product that will protect against flu, enteritis and FeLV. We would request that this is used as a standard replacement for Fevaxyn Pentofel for cats in CP care (the CP minimum veterinary standard for branches will remain as vaccination against at least flu and enteritis ). We have chosen a brand of vaccines that can include Chlamydomphila if required – where its use may be considered appropriate in situation where cats are being housed in large communal groups or in the face of an outbreak, however in line with CP policy, these situations are not the norm.

We have negotiated an increased discount which is expected to result in a large additional saving to the charity each year.

### Product comparison and order codes

Disease protection	Previously used	New product	Notes	Henry Schein code
Flu and enteritis	Fevaxyn iCHP	Purevax RCP	Recommended to meet minimum veterinary standard	MBPUR03
Flu, enteritis, Chlamydomphila	Fevaxyn iCHP Chlam	Purevax RCPCH		MBPUR04
Flu, enteritis, Chlamydomphila, FeLV	Fevaxyn Pentofel	Purevax RCPCH FeLV		MBPUR05
Flu, enteritis, FeLV	N/A	Purevax RCP FeLV	Recommended as a replacement for Fevaxyn Pentofel	MBPUR01

### CP branches and adoption centres have been advised of the following:

#### What to do now

If you have Fevaxyn vaccines in stock, please ensure tight stock controls and save any existing stocks for kittens and cats that have already received their first injection of the primary course to ensure a dose of the Fevaxyn range is available for their second vaccination.

It is recognised that using other vaccine brands for boosters presents few issues but it is good immunological practice to use the same vaccine for the primary course. This is especially so for the young cat whose immune system is not fully mature (this occurs at around 6 months of age).

i.e. we have vaccinated 10 kittens with their first injection, so let's put 10 Fevaxyn vaccines aside for their second injections.

Start using vaccines from the Purevax range for primary courses (first vaccinations) and for annual boosters. Purevax vaccines should be ordered in the normal way. We will get the Henry Schein order forms updated accordingly in due course.

#### The cat has already had one dose of a Fevaxyn vaccine and I don't have any Fevaxyn left to finish a course

We had hoped that when announcing the tender, this wouldn't be an issue as you would have been able to run two products side by side as required. Unfortunately, as Fevaxyn have gone out of stock, if you do not have the stock available to be able to give the second vaccination with the same product, you can either

buy a Fevaxyn vaccine from your vet if they have some in stock, or you will need to start the course again using Purevax. Please liaise with your own vet in this situation.

### **Can I continue to order Fevaxyn vaccines once they come back into stock?**

We have been advised that Fevaxyn Pentofel is expected to come back into stock in 2-3 weeks time. As the window to give a second vaccination will have passed, it is unlikely that you will require any further Fevaxyn products. As always, alternative brands of vaccine are available but will be more costly as the discount that has been negotiated with Merial is so significant and the cost saving we can achieve if one range only is used, is huge, we ask that everyone moves to this product.

**Discounted Fevaxyn vaccines will no longer be available to CP branches and adoption centres from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013).**

**Please now liaise with your vet and order Merial Purevax vaccines.**

### **When will the move to Merial Purevax take place?**

Merial have acted quickly to ensure that discounts are in place now and will backdate discounts to ensure we do not have to pay full price for any Purevax product ordered from Monday 29 April onwards.

### **Can I still benefit from the discounted vaccines if I do not have a Henry Schein account?**

No. You can only order these vaccines at the discounted rate if you have a wholesale account. Please speak with your vet about getting a Henry Schein account set up to allow you to benefit. It is easy to use. Further information can be found on Catnav or please contact the Veterinary Department on 01825 741991 or [veterinary@cats.org.uk](mailto:veterinary@cats.org.uk) if you would like to discuss this.

### **I don't use the Henry Schein scheme but my vet uses Fevaxyn vaccines to vaccinate CP cats**

For those branches with cats prescribed Fevaxyn vaccines by their vet but which are not purchased through a CP HS account, it is likely that your vet will now not be able to source these vaccines for several weeks. It is recommended that your vets do not give any cats a first vaccination of Fevaxyn Pentofel if they cannot secure the stock to be available to give the second vaccination.

Please contact the Veterinary Department for information on setting up a Henry Schein account to allow supply of discounted Merial Purevax vaccines for CP cats.

### **Will I see any difference in the kitten/cat after vaccinating using Merial Purevax?**

It is unlikely; but any cat vaccine always has the potential to cause side effects and it is good practice to be aware that the cat/kitten may be quiet for 24-48 hours afterwards

### **Do I have to change the intervals between the first and second vaccination when using Merial Purevax?**

No, the second dose of a primary course should still be given 3-4 weeks after the first. Speak with your vet to confirm the date of the second vaccination.

## **QUICK VACCINE OVERVIEW**

### **Kitten timings/Primary Course:**

- If a kitten has started with one of the Fevaxyn range, please save existing stock to ensure its second vaccination is with the same vaccine
- The same applies for an older cat which has started its primary course

### **Kittens/cats presented for their **FIRST VACCINATION****

- Start with Merial Purevax RCP (minimum standard) or RCP FeLV (increased standard adopted by all AC's and many branches). The basic vaccination scheme is requirement in cats aged eight weeks and over is two injections of Purevax 3 to 4 weeks apart which will stimulate full active immunity. Your vet will advise on the best timing for second vaccination

For further information, please ask your vet to refer to the datasheets enclosed with the vaccines ordered.

### **Booster vaccinations:**

- Replace the Fevaxyn range with Purevax

If you have any queries, please contact the Veterinary Department on [veterinary@cats.org.uk](mailto:veterinary@cats.org.uk) or 01825 741991.

### **Further information about Merial Purevax vaccines**

#### **What pack sizes do the vaccines come in? How many doses is this?**

All presentations are provided in packs of 10 doses.

For the freeze dried components (RC, RCP and RCPCh), the 10 vials which contain the active ingredients/antigens are co-packaged with 10 vials of solvent.



For the combination packs (Purevax RCPFeLV and Purevax RCPChFeLV), each pack contains 10 vials with the RCP or RCPCh components (freeze dried pellet) and 10 vials of Purevax FeLV (used as the liquid solvent).



Full training and pictorial guides can be provided if required. Please contact the Veterinary Department for further information.

#### **What is the shelf life of Merial Purevax vaccines?**

The average shelf life for the product is 18 months

#### **How should the product be stored?**

Merial Purevax vaccines should be transported and stored refrigerated (2-8°C) and protected from light.

For further information on vaccinations and the CP veterinary wholesaler scheme, see your copy of CP – The Veterinary Guide, which can also be found on line at [www.cats.org.uk/cat-care](http://www.cats.org.uk/cat-care) – click on Information for vets.