

Dear boarding kennel provider,

Earlier this year we notified your facility of a shortage of cat vaccines in Australia because of supply problems. Unfortunately, the shortage is expected to continue for a few months.

Section 6.1.1 of [Animal Welfare \(Overnight Animal Boarding Establishments\) Mandatory Code of Practice 2021](#) states:

Dogs and cats to be boarded must be up to date with vaccinations within the past 12 months (C5 for dogs and F3 for cats) and the owners must supply a current vaccination certificate that indicates adequate vaccination history for each dog before admission. If a certificate is not provided the attending staff member must call the relevant veterinary clinic to confirm up to date vaccinations.

Due to the current cat vaccine shortage, the ACT Government will not be proactively enforcing the requirement for adult cats to have their annual booster vaccinations in ACT boarding facilities until **30 April 2024**.

Science indicates that cats who have received regular vaccines and boosters are at low risk of infectious disease due to immunity duration. Biosecurity practices in boarding facilities should however be enhanced during this time to minimise any potential for the spread of contagious diseases. To protect the welfare of cats, establishments are encouraged to take on a risk-based approach to mitigating disease outbreaks.

The Australian Veterinary Association have released an article, which provides additional guidance on this topic, see <https://www.ava.com.au/news/feline-vaccine-shortage/>.

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