

## **Feline Immunization**

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Immunizing your cat is an important procedure that, in most cases, will provide protection against an illness that may be life threatening. Although most cats do not react adversely to vaccination, some have had allergic or other systemic reactions after receiving a vaccine. A serious additional concern has been a "lump" forming at the site of the vaccination. Why this occurs in cats is controversial at best but it is considered extremely rare. In some cats, if these lumps persist, a tumor known as a fibrosarcoma may form which may have grave consequences if ignored. If your cat develops a lump under the skin following a vaccination that persists for longer than four weeks, you should have it examined as soon as possible.

Vaccinating your cat should not be taken lightly. Failure to vaccinate could result in your pet contracting a serious preventable disease. However, unnecessary vaccinations should be avoided. A decision to vaccinate should only come after your cat's age and the risk of exposure to disease are considered by you and your veterinarian. Vaccinations given at the appropriate age and at the appropriate intervals will greatly benefit your pet and protect it against some life threatening diseases.

The following vaccines listed are considered "core" and "non-core". All cats should receive core vaccinations with boosters at appropriate intervals to be determined by exposure risk related to your pet's life style. Non-core vaccinations should not be used routinely and are only administered if your pet's exposure risk warrants it.

### **Core vaccinations for cats:**

- Rhinotracheitis (Feline Herpes)
- Calici virus
- Panleukopenia (Feline parvovirus)
- Rabies

### **Non-core vaccinations for cats:**

- FeLV – Feline Leukemia Virus

**Kitten vaccination series:** Kittens receive a series of vaccinations at 3-4 weeks intervals in order to insure that they are developing a protective immune response on their own. Maternal antibodies derived from the first few days of milk while nursing their mother will give the kitten a temporary immunity that may interfere with development of a protective immune response to the vaccine. This temporary immunity when present will persist in some kittens for as long as 20 weeks.

- FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calici virus, Panleukopenia)  
 6-8 weeks  10-12 weeks  14-16 weeks  One year, then boosters every 3 years based on risk assessment.
- FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) if kitten has exposure risk.  
 6-8 weeks  10-12 weeks  One year
- Rabies at 3-4 months. Boosters annually. (There is a 3 year vaccine approved for cats but is not recommended.)

### **Please check all of the statements that apply to your pet.**

always indoors,  primarily indoors,  equally indoors-outdoors,  primarily outdoors,  always outdoors  
 visits a boarding kennel frequently,  is groomed frequently,  travels out of the immediate area,  has exposure to wildlife (raccoon, opossums, skunks, snakes, etc.)

(Has)  (Has not) had a reaction to previous vaccinations. If occurred, describe reaction;  listlessness/fever,  local tenderness/swelling,  mild allergic reaction,  severe allergic reaction,  injection site abscess.

**Your pet's vaccinations are an important part of our overall wellness care program. Thank you for taking the time to review this information and for giving us valuable information about your pets life style so that we may tailor a vaccination program to meet your pets individual needs.**