

Keeping your cat happy and healthy



Vaccines keep your cat healthy

Vaccines have saved millions of lives and are the best way to prepare your pet's immune system to stop infection when the "real" disease strikes.

Cat owners need to know about a number of infectious diseases that can be prevented with vaccines. These diseases fall into four general categories:

- Respiratory disease
- Gastrointestinal disease
- Nervous system disease
- Immunosuppressive disease



When should your cat be vaccinated?



Kittens should be taken to the veterinarian for their initial course of 2 – 3 sets of vaccinations starting around 8 weeks of age.

Protective immune responses decline over time, so the vaccines that your kitten receives cannot protect your cat for the rest of its life. As immunity weakens over time, your pet can again become susceptible to disease.

Some researchers are suggesting certain vaccines may protect animals for periods longer than one year,

Is your cat at risk?

There are many ways for your indoor or outdoor cat to be exposed to these diseases. Even cats that appear healthy can spread viruses and bacteria. You could unknowingly carry disease-causing organisms to your pet on your hands, clothing or shoes.

Your veterinarian will recommend a vaccine program that takes into consideration the health of your pet, where you live and your cat's lifestyle.

but this is not true for all vaccines and the scientific evidence remains inconclusive.

Your veterinarian will do an assessment of lifestyle and/or risk factors to determine your pet's vaccination needs. This ensures that your pet only receives necessary vaccines.

For maximum protection, follow your veterinarian's advice and make sure that your cat receives an annual wellness examination along with the necessary booster vaccines.

After vaccination care

The great majority of pets respond well to vaccines and serious side effects are very rare.

Much like people experience after a tetanus or flu shot, your cat may develop a low-grade fever, lethargy or decreased appetite for a day or two. Some may have slight swelling or tenderness around the injection site. These are part of a normal immune response and are usually short-lived, requiring no treatment.

If your cat experiences more severe symptoms of distress, or the above symptoms persist beyond 24 hours, please contact your veterinarian immediately.



Clinic name:

Telephone:



Respiratory disease

Feline Calicivirus (FCV)

FCV is a virus that affects the feline upper respiratory system and accounts for approximately 40 percent of all respiratory diseases in cats. Clinical signs may include moderate fever, ulcers and blisters on the tongue.

FCV is a very hardy virus, that can be carried on the clothing, shoes or hands of a pet owner; putting every cat at risk, even those that live strictly indoors.

Feline Herpes Virus (FHV)

Herpes is the most common upper respiratory infection in cats. Even if successfully treated, FHV can lead to lifelong infection. Clinical signs may include moderate fever, appetite loss, sneezing, tearing, discharge from the nose or eyes, mouth breathing or coughing.

All cats are at risk for FHV throughout their lives.

Feline Chlamydiosis (Ch)

This disease normally causes a mild upper respiratory infection, affecting the mucous membranes of the eyes. In about 30% of cats, chlamydiosis can cause severe and persistent conjunctivitis. Kittens are more severely affected when also infected with other respiratory diseases. This organism can be shed for many months and can also be transmitted to humans.

Kittens, as well as cats who are boarded are at increased risk of chlamydia infection and disease.

Gastrointestinal disease

Feline Panleukopenia (FPV)

FPV is the most dangerous viral disease affecting cats. It is very contagious and the death rate is high. Symptoms may include depression, loss of appetite, uncontrollable vomiting and diarrhea, often with blood and severe abdominal pain.

Since most cats are exposed to FPV in their lifetime, regular vaccination against this illness is of critical importance.



Neurologic disease

Rabies (R)

Rabies is a fatal viral disease of mammals including cats, dogs, livestock, wildlife and humans.

Symptoms of rabies may include foaming at the mouth, seizures and eventually results in death.

As rabies is a major human health concern, it is extremely important that your pet be vaccinated for it and in fact, in many provinces rabies vaccine is required by law.

Immunosuppressive disease

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

This viral disease attacks the immune system and leaves the cat vulnerable to secondary infections, leukemia and tumors. Death often occurs within three years of infection. Some cats can be infected and show no signs at all.

Because the transmission of FeLV usually occurs through contact with other cats, those cats that live in multi-cat households or are allowed outdoors are particularly at risk.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

FIV compromises your cat's immune system, making it more susceptible to other infections. It is not the same as the human HIV virus and does not cause disease in humans, but FIV is closely related.

While some infected cats show no sign of disease, others may display initial symptoms such as fever, loss of appetite, diarrhea, lethargy and swollen lymph nodes. As the disease progresses, symptoms may occur such as weight loss, sores in and around the mouth, eye lesions, poor coat and chronic infections.

Eventually, the immune system becomes too weak to fight off other infections and diseases. As a result, the cat may die from one of these subsequent infections.

There is no cure for FIV and up to one in 12 cats in North America test positive.

FIV is almost always transmitted by a bite from an infected cat, so cats who go outside or live in multi-cat households are most at risk.

