

## Cat Vaccinations

Vaccines are extremely important in protecting your cat from infectious disease. Not only are they highly effective, they are the best preventative measure you can take in protecting your pet.

Young kittens are highly susceptible to infectious diseases and should be vaccinated against them as soon as they are old enough to build an immunity. These diseases include: Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR), Feline Calici Virus (FVC), Panleukopenia (FPV), Feline Leukemia and Rabies.

Other infectious diseases which vaccines are available include Rabies, Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) and Feline Pneumonitis (chlamydia infection). Rabies is not required by law for cats, but it should be noted that rabies in cats is more common than in dogs and thus is extremely recommended. Feline Infectious Peritonitis is a highly contagious disease of which there is no cure. The vaccine is given intranasally, but because the effectiveness of the vaccine is still questionable, it is usually recommended for use in high-risk cat populations. Discuss this vaccine option with your veterinarian. Feline Pneumonitis (chlamydia infection) may be indicated in certain areas. Discuss this vaccine option with your veterinarian.

All cats including kittens, adults and seniors are all susceptible to these infectious diseases. To be effective and to provide the best protection, vaccinations must be kept current.

It is important to note that not all vaccinations will prove effective as vaccine failures can occur. Causes for vaccine failure can include improper storage and handling, incorrect administration, and the inability of a cat to respond due to a debilitated condition or concurrent illness that stresses the immune system. Giving too many vaccinations at the same time can cause immune system overload and thus a failure for the body to produce antibodies. Stretching out vaccines by dividing a single dose between two cats may not give the protection needed, thus rendering the vaccine ineffective. Finally, if a cat is already infected with a infectious disease, vaccinating it will not alter the course of the disease.

The following is a suggested vaccination schedule. It should be noted that vaccination protocols will vary from veterinarian to veterinarian, as the age of your cat, the route of administration and the type and brand of the vaccine, can influence the vaccine's effectiveness. Be sure to follow your veterinarian's recommendations.

### Suggested Vaccination Schedule

Age of Cat	Vaccine Recommended
6 to 8 Weeks	1st Rhinotracheitis (FVR), Calicivirus (FVC), Panleukopenia (FPV) Given in a combination vaccine: FVRCP
11 - 12 Weeks	2nd Rhinotracheitis (FVR), Calicivirus (FCV), Panleukopenia (FCV) Blood test for Feline Leukemia - If negative, give 1st Feline Leukemia (FeLV) Can be given in combination vaccine: FVRCP & FeLV
14 - 16 Weeks	3rd Rhinotracheitis (FVR), Calicivirus (FCV), Panleukopenia (FPV) 2nd Feline Leukemia (FeLV) 1st Rabies
Annually	Rhinotracheitis (FVR), Calicivirus (FCV), Panleukopenia (FPV) Feline Leukemia (FeLV)
Every Three Years	Rabies
Optional	Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), Feline Pneumonitis (chlamydia infection)
	Check with your Veterinarian for their vaccine protocol.