



“ **FVRCP - FeLV - FIP - FIV - Rabies** ”
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT DO THESE MEAN?

WHAT'S THAT?
WHY SO MANY SHOTS?

FELINE VACCINATIONS

Prevention assures the best quality of life for your pet, and it costs less than treatment. Vaccinating your cat is the best and least costly way to prevent disease. **Without a vaccination program, many cats will come down with a serious or even fatal disease.**

Nursing kittens receive antibodies from their mother's milk (called maternal antibodies) that protect against disease during the first months of its life. Unfortunately, these antibodies can also keep a vaccine from being effective. Maternal antibodies gradually decrease during the first few months of the kitten's life. That's why kittens are given a series of two or three vaccine doses spread out over six to 16 weeks of age. That way, if maternal antibodies interfere with early vaccinations, later doses will still stimulate the kitten to produce its own antibodies to the disease.

The protection provided by a vaccine gradually declines after a pet is vaccinated. That's why a regular booster vaccination along with a health check-up is always recommended.

FVRCP

This is a term used to describe the vaccination for three of the most contagious diseases known to attack cats and kittens.

(FVR) Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis: A highly contagious respiratory disease characterized by sneezing, loss of appetite, fever, and eye inflammation. As the disease progresses, a discharge is noticeable from both nose and eyes. Although few adult cats die from FVR, the death rate among kittens can range from 50 to 60 percent. Feline viral rhinotracheitis often occurs simultaneously with feline calicivirus infection.

(FCV) Feline Calicivirus: Another serious feline respiratory infection, often occurring simultaneously with feline viral rhinotracheitis. Signs of infection are similar to FVR (fever, loss of appetite, nasal discharge), but calicivirus-infected cats may also have ulcers on the tongue. Feline calicivirus most severely affects kittens and debilitated cats, and overall death loss is generally low. However, calicivirus infection may pave the way for other viral or bacterial agents which cause pneumonia.

(Distemper) Feline Panleukopenia: Among the most widespread of all cat diseases, and is extremely contagious. Characterized by fever, loss of appetite, dehydration, vomiting and diarrhea, feline panleukopenia causes high death loss, particularly among kittens. Death can occur within a week. Even older cats that recover from panleukopenia may never totally regain their health.

FeLV

(FeLV) Feline Leukemia Virus: A viral disease which can take several forms. Some cats have infections with few ill effects. Others have persistent infections varying in severity, some of which may be fatal over time. Cats are most commonly exposed to feline leukemia virus through contact with another, infected cat; thus, likelihood of infection is greater in multi-cat households or where cats are allowed to roam free. Extensive scientific research has shown **no** relationship between feline leukemia and human leukemia.

Rabies

(Feline Rabies) One of the most publicized and feared diseases, is almost always fatal. Rabies virus attacks the brain and central nervous system, and is transmitted to humans chiefly through the bite of an infected animal. In 1981-82, for the first time, more cats than dogs were reported to have rabies. Cases of feline rabies have increased steadily. This situation has led many authorities to recommend rabies rabies vaccination for **all** cats. **Especially for outdoor cats.** Many vets recommend vaccination for indoor cats as well. We, personally, do not recommend this vaccination for indoor cats.

FIV

(FIV) **Feline Immunodeficiency Virus.** This virus is the feline equivalent to HIV in humans. There is absolutely **NO CHANCE** of humans catching this virus. FIV is transmitted to other cats through a bite wound or by birth from an infected mom cat. Cats can associate with each other even if one is positive and the other is negative so long as they are socially adapted to one another. There are 3 stages of FIV infection: Fever and low white blood count; a latent or non-symptomatic stage lasting several years; the final stage is characterized by a wide range of debilitating infections. There is no effective cure. Cats with FIV have been known to live as long as 15 years.



FIP

(FIP) Feline Infectious Peritonitis. FIP is a disease with more questions than answers. It is a viral disease which is difficult to diagnose, has no definitive test, and has no cure. The virus is relatively short lived and most household disinfectants effectively destroy the virus. The disease mimics many other diseases making diagnosis difficult. The main problem: A cat is tested for FIP, the tests results come back negative for FIP. A negative tested cat can still come down with FIP and die. Similarly a cat which tests positive with a low titer may never come down with active FIP and live a long and healthy life. A cat vaccinated for FIP can still come down with FIP and die. A cat never vaccinated may never catch the disease. FIP is very frustrating. FIP Vaccinations are considered optional (therefore you will not see them mentioned below.)

VACCINATION TABLE



Nursing kittens receive antibodies from their mothers milk that protect against disease during the first months of its life. These antibodies can also keep a vaccine from being effective. Maternal antibodies gradually decrease during the first few months. That is why a kitten receives a series of vaccinations.

FVRCP. This is a 3 in 1 combination vaccine. It protects against Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia virus. These are three of the most contagious diseases know to attack cats and kittens. These diseases have the potential to be life threatening if left untreated.

- *1. If kittens are 6 weeks of age when receiving their first shot, it is recommended to give them one every 4 weeks until 16 weeks of age (3 shots). Kittens first vaccinated at 8-10 weeks of age should have a second shot at 12-16 weeks of age.
- *2. Adults not previously vaccinated are given two injections one month apart.
- *3. Boosters are given yearly. Indoor only cats can go 3 years between boosters after their first one year booster.
- *4. This vaccine is required for all hospitalized and boarded cats.

FELV: Feline Leukemia. Kittens should be tested for leukemia prior to any vaccinations. The minimum age for FELV blood testing is 9 weeks.

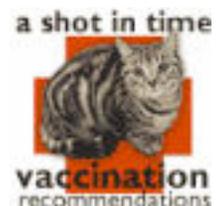
- *1. Kittens are vaccinated at 9-10 weeks of age. And again at 12-13 weeks of age.
- *2. Adults not previously vaccinated are given two injections one month apart.
- *3. Boosters are given yearly. Indoor only cats can go 3 years between boosters after their first one year booster.
- *4. Not required but very highly recommended.

RABIES: Recommended for outdoor cats. Indoor or outdoor if living on the East coast.

- *1. Kittens are vaccinated at 4 months of age or older and revaccinated in a year.
- *2. Boosters are given every 3 years. Some vets recommend boosters every year.
- *3. Not required by law. Optional. Not necessary if cat is indoors only. Vaccine's side affects are hard on cats.

FIP: Feline Infectious Peritonitis. FIP is a very frustrating disease. Cats vaccinated have only a 50/50 protection rate. Vets recommend blood testing prior to vaccinating. Blood test results are only 50% accurate. A positive test may or may not mean the cat will get FIP. A negative test may or may not mean the cat has FIP. Discuss side affects of the vaccine with your vet.

- *1. Kittens are vaccinated at 16 weeks of age and at 20 weeks.
- *2. Adult cats: Two doses one month apart.
- *3. Boosters are given yearly.
- *4. Given through the nose. Nose drops.
- *5. Not required. Optional.



FIV: Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. There is currently no cure. Similar to human HIV. There is absolutely no chance of humans catching this virus. Cats with FIV have been known to live as long as 15-18 years. A normal life expectancy of a cat is 20 years.

Cats/Kittens should be blood tested for FIV. The minimum age for blood testing is 9 weeks.

