

FELINE VACCINATIONS

RE: Why Should Kitty Get Shots?

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 Protection against "Kitty Colds" / URIs

This is a term used to describe the vaccination for three of the most contagious diseases known to attack cats and kittens. **URI** stands for **Upper Respiratory Infection**

(**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 **P**anleukopenia: 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 Leukemia

(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.

It is important to note:

Leukemia usually needs to be direct contact with the infected cat.

FVRCP Viruses can be contacted by humans while outdoors. If you cross the path that an infected cat has crossed you can bring the virus indoors, to your kitty, on your shoes, feet, or clothing. Or, did you pet that cute kitty outdoors or at an adoption event or at the shelter? Viruses can be brought over by friends or family who may have unknowingly contacted the virus in the same manner as described above.

BE AWARE - Protect Your Pet!