

Kitten Vaccines



Vaccinations generally begin at 7 - 8 weeks of age and are given once monthly until the kitten is over four months of age. If a kitten has had one vaccination, then its next visit is due one month from that date. The timing is as important as the ingredients in each vaccination, so it is important to follow the schedule listed below, to insure maximum protection for your pet.

Vaccination schedules

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| Core Vaccines | 7-8 Weeks | Distemper (FVRCP) |
| | 11-12 Weeks | 2 nd Distemper (FVRCP) |
| | 15-16 Weeks | 3 rd Distemper (FVRCP) & Rabies (Then yearly) |
| Optional | > 9 Weeks | 1 st Leukemia Vaccine (Booster 1 month later, then give yearly) |
| | > 16 Weeks | 1 st FIP Vaccine (Booster 2-3 weeks later then yearly) Needs negative FIP Titer (a blood test) first. |

Vaccines

Distemper (FVRCP) is a combination vaccination for four different diseases in one shot. All four can be caught without direct contact with a sick cat and therefore are required for indoor and outdoor cats.

Distemper (Feline Panleukopenia) causes severe vomiting and diarrhea and is often fatal
Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Chlamydia are organisms that cause severe respiratory and eye infections.

Rabies vaccination is required by law in Massachusetts. Rabies is a fatal disease which can also affect people. We vaccinate cats for Rabies once yearly.

Feline Leukemia (FELV) is a virus that is spread from Bites, Mating, and from Mother to kitten in the womb. All outdoor cats should be vaccinated against this disease. Also any cats that may escape should also be vaccinated against this disease. If a cat catches Leukemia, the virus destroys their immune system making them vulnerable to infections and cancer. Most cats with Leukemia die within two years of being diagnosed.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a virus that causes severe blood vessel problems. FIP is fatal. Cats catch this virus by walking in the yards of infected cats and then drinking or eating contaminated material. We currently only advocate using this vaccine in households where another cat has died from FIP in the recent past. A blood test must be performed first to insure the vaccination will be safe for your pet.

Other Vaccines: There are currently several other vaccines available for cats for diseases that we do not believe are serious enough for us to warrant their use.

Blood Tests

All kittens must be blood tested for Feline Leukemia (FELV) prior to being spayed and neutered. We also strongly recommend that new kittens or cats in a multi-cat household be tested for Feline AIDS (FIV) as well.