

# Kitten Vaccines

Vaccinations generally begin at 7 - 8 weeks of age and are given once monthly until the kitten is 6 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

Required	7-8 Weeks	Distemper (FVRCP)
	11-12 Weeks	2 <sup>nd</sup> Distemper (FVRCP)
	15-16 Weeks	3 <sup>rd</sup> Distemper (FVRCP) & Rabies (Then yearly)
Optional	> 9 Weeks	1 <sup>st</sup> Leukemia Vaccine (Booster 1 month later, then give yearly)
	> 9 Weeks	1 <sup>st</sup> FIV vaccination (Boosters in 1 month and then another Booster a month later)
	> 16 Weeks	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 all 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 AIDS Virus (FIV)** is another virus that spreads from the exchange of bodily fluids from bites, and nursing and mating. It is not nearly as debilitating a virus as is the Leukemia virus. In fact, many cats can live a full life carrying this virus in their system. We vaccinate only the cats that are outside on a regular basis for this virus.

**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. People with outdoor cats should consider vaccinating their pets for this disease. A blood test must be performed first to insure the vaccination will be safe for your pet.

## 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.