



Washington Veterinary Medical Clinic

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Feline Vaccinations

Protect your cat from infectious diseases by maintaining a yearly vaccination schedule. Vaccinations stimulate your cat's system to develop immunity. Because they prevent disease but do not cure disease, the veterinarian must administer them before your cat is exposed and infected.

Specific vaccination schedules vary according to several factors such as the age and health of your cat and conditions in your cat's environment. We will guide you in establishing a vaccination schedule to meet your cat's protective needs.

KITTENS should receive their first vaccinations at 8 weeks of age. They also need to have boosters every 3-4 weeks until they are 16 weeks old. Kitten shots are not effective for life, so it is important to keep up with vaccinations throughout your cat's life.

VACCINATIONS PROTECT YOUR CAT FROM MANY INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Some vaccinations are mixed so your cat does not have to receive separate shots for each disease. Examples of such mixtures are FRC which is a mixture to protect against Feline Panleukopenia (F), Rhinotracheitis (R), and Calici Virus (C).

- Panleukopenia**, also called feline distemper, is a highly contagious, often fatal disease, especially dangerous to kittens. Symptoms include loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, high fever, and depression. This disease is not transmissible to humans or dogs.
- Rhinotracheitis** is like the common cold in people, but it can cause serious problems for kittens and older cats. It causes sneezing, fever, loss of appetite, inflammation around the eyes and ulcers in the mouth. It is not transmissible to humans.
- Calici Virus Infection** can cause sneezing, fever, loss of appetite, inflammation around the eyes and ulcers in the mouth. Healthy adult cats usually recover from it. Kittens and older cats are at greater risk of serious complications. Infection is not transmissible to humans or dogs.
- Rabies** is caused by a virus that attacks the brain. It is prevalent in wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats. Rabies is readily transmissible to humans and pets by the bite of an infected animal. This vaccine is legally required by most counties.
- Feline Leukemia (FeLV)** is a virus that is one of the most common causes of illness and death in cats. It is a cancer-causing virus that can suppress the cat's ability to fight infections. Kittens can be born with the virus. Cats can have the Leukemia virus for years before showing symptoms. It is required that your pet be tested for FeLV prior to receiving a FeLV vaccination. FeLV is not transmissible to humans or dogs.
- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)** is similar to human HIV. This disease is spread through the saliva by biting and through the mother's milk when nursing. Intact roaming males are the major carriers because they are out fighting and biting. There is no effective treatment for this disease. FIV is not transmissible to humans or dogs. While we do test for this virus, current recommendations are against vaccinating until further evaluation of efficacy is completed.
- Heartworm** is a disease spread by the bite of a mosquito. Revolution is recommended applied every thirty days for prevention.

