

Cat vaccination guide



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Animal Health



Vaccinations: why & when?

Your cat counts on you for protection.

One of the best things you can do to give your cat a long and healthy life is to ensure that he or she is vaccinated against common feline diseases.

Your cat's mother gave her kitten immunity from disease for the first few weeks of life by providing disease-fighting antibodies in her milk. After that period, it's up to you, with the help and advice of your veterinarian, to provide that protection through vaccination.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines stimulate your cat's immune system to produce antibodies to protect your cat against disease.



When should your cat be vaccinated?

Generally, the immunity that a kitten has at birth begins to diminish after 6 weeks. It is then time to begin the initial vaccinations, with boosters following every 3 to 4 weeks until the kitten is 12 to 16 weeks old.

Thereafter, your cat will require repeat vaccinations for the rest of their life. Of course, these are only guidelines. Your veterinarian will determine the exact schedule that's right for your cat.

Which vaccinations should your cat receive?

Most veterinarians believe that your cat should be protected against those diseases that are most common, highly contagious, and that cause serious illness. Such diseases include feline panleukopenia, feline viral rhinotracheitis, feline calicivirus, rabies, and, depending on lifestyle, feline leukemia. Other vaccinations may be recommended, based on your veterinarian's evaluation of the risks posed by such factors as your cat's environment and lifestyle.

Is vaccination safe?

Common side effects are mild and include soreness or swelling at the injection site, fever, or decreased appetite. Risks of side effects are much smaller than risks posed by disease. Rare side effects, such as allergic reactions, may occur within hours. If this happens, call your veterinarian immediately.





Every cat is different, but they all need protection

Your cat's lifestyle determines what kind of vaccinations he or she needs.

Where do you live?

How old is your cat?

Is your cat spayed or neutered?

Does your cat interact with other animals?
(boarding, at groomer, houseguests, etc.)

Does your cat venture outside?
(hunting, roaming, escaping)

Throughout their life, your cat benefits from regular check-ups—including ear, eye, and dental exams—and the expertise of your veterinarian. It is recommended that kittens be microchipped, spayed or neutered, and vaccinated. Make a visit to your veterinarian a regular part of your schedule. Your cats may be afflicted by conditions your veterinarian can recognize and treat.

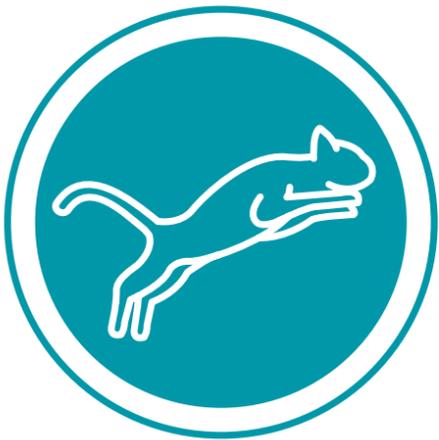


What kind of cat do you have?



HOMEBODY

Stays in a controlled environment away from other pets, but is still at risk of exposure from visitors entering the home



FREE SPIRIT

Loves to hunt and roam mainly outside and is therefore exposed to an uncontrolled level of risk



SOCIAL

Lives both inside and outside, frequently interacting with other animals, and is exposed to risk both at home and at play



Feline diseases and symptoms

Feline Leukemia (FeLV)

FeLV is one of the most common infectious diseases of cats. It can lead to many serious feline health problems, like leukemia and other cancerous conditions, and a wide range of secondary infections. After initial exposure to the virus, a cat may show no signs for months, if not years.

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis

Just like the common cold in humans, the virus that causes this upper respiratory tract infection is easily transmitted from one cat to another—so vaccination is important if your pet will come in contact with other cats. The symptoms of this virus may take the form of fever, loss of appetite, sneezing, and eye and nasal discharges.



Feline Panleukopenia

Sometimes known as feline distemper, feline panleukopenia is caused by a virus so resistant, it can survive up to 1 year outside a cat's body! With fatality rates between 25% and 100%, vaccination against this potentially fatal disease is absolutely essential. Symptoms can include lethargy, severe diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, fever, and death.

Rabies

This incurable viral disease affects the central nervous system of all mammals, including humans. It is spread through contact with the saliva of infected animals (including skunks, foxes, raccoons, and bats) through bites or any break in the skin. Vaccination will provide cats with a much greater resistance to rabies if they are exposed to the disease. However, there is no cure once it occurs.

Feline Calicivirus

Another major cause of upper respiratory tract infection in cats, feline calicivirus, is widespread and highly contagious. Cats may experience mild-to-severe fever, ulcers and blisters on the tongue, as well as pneumonia, depending on the strain of virus. Treatment of this disease can be difficult. Even if a cat recovers, it can continue to be contagious and may experience continual sneezing, runny eyes, and severe gum disease. With this in mind, vaccination is extremely important.

Other Vaccinations

Depending on your cat's lifestyle and risk factors, your veterinarian may also recommend vaccination against other infectious diseases.

Chlamydia felis is a bacterial pathogen that infects the eyes, causing conjunctivitis. It may also infect the lungs, digestive tract, and reproductive tract. This disease is more common in young kittens, especially in multi-cat environments.

Vaccination can be an important part of controlling *Chlamydia felis* infection where large groups of cats are kept together.

Merck Animal Health, the maker of Nobivac[®] vaccines, is committed to **making a difference**



Every purchase of Nobivac[®] vaccines helps provide ongoing support and vaccine donations to Mission Rabies and Rabies Free Africa.

For more information visit www.afya.org

All cats need love.
All cats need protection.

TALK TO YOUR VETERINARIAN
TODAY ABOUT WHAT VACCINATIONS
THEY RECOMMEND.

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