

# Vaccination Recommendations for Cats

The following is a suggested feline vaccination schedule. Please follow your veterinarian's advice as there can be many medical reasons for modifying the schedule.

## **FELINE DISTEMPER COMBO (FVRCP)**

Your cat or kitten will have received at least one vaccination while at the shelter against Panleukopenia, Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus. The dates are recorded on the medical history report.

### Kittens 8 weeks and older:

- Initial vaccination
- Booster every 3 - 4 weeks until 16 weeks of age
- Yearly booster or as recommended by your veterinarian

### Adult cats over 16 weeks of age:

- Initial vaccination
- Yearly booster

## **RABIES**

State law requires that cats over 12 weeks of age, and owned 1 month be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccines will need to be boosted at 1 year after the first vaccination, and then every 3 years thereafter. If your cat was old enough at the time of adoption, a rabies vaccine will have been administered at the time of adoption and will be listed in your animal's medical records. If they were under 12 weeks of age at the time of adoption, you should have been given a voucher to have the rabies vaccine done at our Well Pet Clinic once the kitten is old enough to receive the vaccination. Walk-In vaccines, heartworm and FeLV/FIV testing, and microchipping services are available during the following hours:

### **Monday through Saturday: 9:30am-12pm and 1:30-5pm**

A \$15 drop-in fee applies, and Doctor's visits are by appointment only. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call **303-651-0610**.

## **FELINE LEUKEMIA (FeLV), FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (FIV)**

The feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and feline leukemia virus (FeLV) are two viral infections that are transmissible from cat to cat. They are among the most common infectious diseases of cats. Both diseases are eventually fatal. Although your cat may appear to be healthy, some cats can live upwards of 7 years without showing any symptoms. It is possible for your cat, if infected, to spread the disease without showing symptoms.

Cats which are at risk for exposure with feline leukemia virus (FeLV) should receive a vaccine against feline leukemia virus. Cats at risk for exposure to FeLV include those cats which spend part

or all of their lives outdoors. Cats which live inside and do not contact other cats are not at high risk for exposure to feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and thus are not generally recommended as candidates to receive a vaccine against feline leukemia virus.

The American Assoc. of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) does recommend that all kittens receive a vaccine against feline leukemia virus due to the fact that young kittens are more susceptible to feline leukemia than more mature cats and kitten owners often do not know for certain whether they will be allowing their new kitten access to the outdoors. The AAFP further recommends that all cats which are to receive the vaccine for feline leukemia virus (FeLV) have a negative test for feline leukemia virus before vaccination.

### **PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE**

- Regular physical exams and boosters safeguard your cat if performed yearly through middle age. Elderly cats should see the vet more often, and have regular geriatric blood tests done to monitor health.
- Teeth and gums are best maintained by a healthy diet and periodic cleaning.
- Periodontal disease can significantly shorten a cat's life.
- See the vet at the first sign of health or behavior problems! Underlying medical conditions may be responsible for some undesirable behaviors.