



MY PET'S VET CLINIC
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VACCINATIONS FOR CATS

Many serious infectious diseases of cats can be prevented by vaccination. Most cats will come into contact with an infectious disease at some time during their lives. Even indoor animals can be exposed to viruses carried in the air, on clothing, or on your hands. Vaccines work for pets just like they do for people. Vaccinations are an inexpensive protection against costly treatments or even the premature death of your pet.

RABIES

The vaccine can first be given when a cat is 12 weeks of age or older. This must be boosted one year after the initial vaccine. Revaccinate every three years after the one year booster is given.

FVRCP-P

My Pet's Vet Clinic strongly recommends a distemper vaccination. The distemper vaccination, **FVRCP-P** actually protects against four very contagious diseases among cats and includes:

- * **FVR** = Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis. This upper respiratory disease is caused by a herpes virus. It manifests itself as a severe cold with coughing, and discharge from both eyes and the nose. The disease can be fatal in young kittens, and cause abortions in pregnant cats. This virus can be spread by air and no direct contact is necessary
- * **C** = Feline Calici Virus. A severe upper respiratory disease similar to FVR. This virus can be spread by air and no direct contact is necessary
- * **P** = Feline Panleukopenia. Also known as distemper, this virus typically affects the the intestinal system, causing a fever, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, and severe dehydration. It can cause abortion and birth defects in pregnant cats. Besides being highly contagious, the virus that causes this disease is extremely hardy and may live for a year outside of the cat's body. Panleukopenia is most commonly spread by direct contact with either an infected cat or infected material.
- * **P** = Pneumonitis. An upper respiratory infection caused by the bacterial agent *Chlamydia psittaci*. Infected cats will have discharge from both eyes and nose, sneezing, and occasionally a cough. This can also be spread in the air.

Initial vaccination should be given at 8 weeks of age or older. Boosters are given every 3 to 4 weeks until cat reaches 12 weeks of age. Thereafter, revaccinate annually to protect your cat from these infectious diseases.

FeLV (FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS)

Unlike the leukemia in their human counterparts, this disease is caused by a very contagious virus. **FeLV** suppresses your cats immune system, leading to a variety of both cancerous and non-cancerous diseases, including a large number of “opportunistic infections” which take advantage of your cats suppressed state. This virus is spread by direct contact with other cats through body fluids, not through the air.

We recommend that any cat that is outdoors, goes to cat shows, boards, or otherwise has access to cats of unknown status be tested for the **FeLV** Virus.

After a negative **FeLV** test the initial vaccine is given to cats at 10 weeks of age or older. This is a series of 2 with an annual booster to maintain maximum immunity.

FIP (FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS)

A fatal immune disease caused by a virus. **FIP** affects primarily the gastrointestinal system (stomach and intestines) but eventually involves multiple organ systems throughout the body. The largest threat is in young cats, 6 months to 2 years of age, and older cats 11 to 15 years old. This virus is spread by direct contact with other cats only, not through the air.

Initial vaccine is given at 16 weeks. This is a series of 2, with annual revaccination to protect your cat from this deadly disease.

DEWORMING

A fecal examination and deworming is recommended at least once a year. It may be necessary to treat internal parasites more frequently for some animals. The most common parasites are the roundworms and tapeworms.

Most kittens are born with roundworms because these parasites can cross the placenta from the mother to the unborn. Roundworms cause the kitten to be pot-bellied or bloated, and may cause vomiting, weight loss and diarrhea. Tapeworms are obtained from eating fleas, but can also be transferred by ingesting other animals, such as rabbits and rodents.

FLEAS AND TICKS

Fleas and ticks may be a problem at any time of the year, so remember to watch for excessive scratching, especially around the tail and ears. We carry a variety of flea and tick products to help you control the problem when it develops. Our staff is knowledgeable in flea control products and would be most happy to help you choose an effective program that is suited to meet your needs.