



Cat Vaccination Information

Rabies

Rabies is a preventable viral disease most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system of mammals, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals like bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes, although any mammal can get rabies.

This vaccine should be given to cats and dogs every 1-3 years, depending on vaccination history.

FVRCP (commonly called "Feline Distemper")

F = Feline

V = Viral

R = Rhinotracheitis. This is triggered by the common feline herpes virus. Symptoms include sneezing, a runny nose and drooling. Your cat's eyes may become crusted with mucous, and he or she may sleep much more and eat much less than normal. If left untreated this disease causes dehydration, starvation, and eventually, death.

C = Calicivirus. Affects the the respiratory system and also causing ulcers in the mouth. It can result in pneumonia if left untreated—kittens and senior cats are especially vulnerable.

P = Panleukopenia. Also known as distemper and is easily spread from one cat to another. Distemper is so common that nearly all cats—regardless of breed or living conditions—will be exposed to it in their lifetime. It's especially common in kittens who have not yet been vaccinated against it, and symptoms include fever, vomiting and bloody diarrhea. This disease progresses rapidly and requires immediate medical attention. Without intervention, a cat can die within 12 hours of contracting the disease.

This vaccine should begin at 6-8 weeks old, and must be given every 3-4 weeks until 4 months old. After that, it should be given to cats every 1-3 years, depending on vaccination history.

Puppies and kittens are not fully vaccinated unless they have had one booster at or after 16 weeks of age. All vaccines before 16 weeks of age can have interference from maternal antibodies and not provide full protection and immunity.