



EMERY & CARBON ANIMAL HEALTH

Vaccination Guidelines for Cats

Most owners know that their cat needs vaccinations. Vaccinations are particles of virus that are given to the cat to stimulate the cat's immune system to form antibodies that will help protect if exposed to the natural virus. Deciding what vaccinations to give can be complex. Cat's may need different vaccinations depending on their lifestyle, environment and if they travel. This handout is meant to help give a basic idea of what vaccinations are needed in our area.

Kittens are given frequent vaccinations. During the weeks between 6 and 16 we give vaccinations every 3 to 4 weeks with the last vaccination being given between 14 to 16 weeks. This is to try to stimulate the kitten's immune system to form antibodies, while antibodies they have received from their mother are degrading and will no longer work.

All kittens should receive:

- Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia and Chlamydia Psittaci. (Given every 3 to 4 weeks from 6 weeks and ending between 14 and 16 wks.)
- Feline Leukemia virus. (Two vaccinations given 3 weeks apart starting after 9 weeks of age.)
- Rabies virus. (Given once as a kitten after 12 weeks of age.)

Owners and veterinarians may decide to give kittens other vaccinations based on their lifestyle.

Young adult cats should have these vaccinations again about one year after the end of the kitten series. Most young cats are about 16 months old. A life stage wellness exam should also be done to help decide what vaccinations to give. Owners and veterinarians may choose not to give the feline leukemia vaccination to strictly indoor cats who have strictly indoor housemates. Chlamydia Psittaci may also not be given due to possible lameness reactions.

Cats should continue to receive an annual life stage wellness exam and vaccinations that are recommended at exam. Senior cats (over 7 years of age) should receive their life stage wellness exam every 6 months. A general vaccination plan is as follows for adult cats.

Adult cats should receive:

- Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia are given every 3 years.
- Rabies is given every 3 years.

Adult cats may receive:

- Feline leukemia virus vaccine given yearly.

*Other vaccines are available and owners and their veterinarians may choose to give them depending on the cat's lifestyle.

Reference <http://www.catvets.com/professionals/guidelines/publications/?Id=176> American Association of Feline Practitioners Feline vaccination guidelines.

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