

Vaccination in cats

Why does my cat need vaccinations?

If your cat is not vaccinated, it is at risk of developing a number of severe and possibly fatal diseases. This can be easily prevented by regular vaccinations.

Why does my cat need two injections when it starts its vaccinations?

Kittens are usually protected against many of the infectious diseases for the first few weeks of life by immunity in the mother's first milk (as long as the mother was vaccinated). However, this immunity falls at different times in different kittens and it is essential that 2 vaccinations are given.

Does my pet really need yearly boosters?

Immunity does not last forever and will gradually fall leaving your pet vulnerable. Every pet responds differently, and our recommendations are based on the minimum period of protection for any animal for the specific vaccine. Major studies have been carried out to determine whether this minimum period can be increased, and occasionally we are able to increase the time interval for certain diseases on recommendation from the authorities. The yearly booster is also an opportunity for the veterinary surgeon to fully examine your pet and discuss any concerns or problems you may have.

When do I vaccinate my kitten?

- 1st vaccine at 9 weeks
- 2nd vaccine at 12 weeks
- Regular boosters every year

What can my cat be vaccinated against?

- **Cat Flu** – very common in the UK, and can be very serious especially in kittens and elderly cats. It is spread between cats by direct contact or through sneezing.
- **Infectious Enteritis (Feline Panleukopaenia)** – An unpleasant and often fatal disease. Fortunately vaccination has been very successful in controlling the disease and it is now relatively rare outside the feral population.
- **Feline Leukaemia (FeLV)** – A viral disease, transmitted in the blood and saliva when cats fight each other – or even during grooming. The disease can take months to develop after infection but then it begins to suppress the cat's immune system causing secondary infections, tumours and death.
Not long ago Feline Leukaemia was both widespread and common but vaccination is gradually bringing it under control.
- **Rabies** – A fatal disease not currently found in the UK. Rabies vaccinations are needed if you are planning on travelling outside the UK under the pet passport scheme.