

Amherst Animal Hospital

Modern Medicine. Traditional Values.

Feline Vaccine Recommendations

Core vaccines are essential to your cat's health. These are the “basic” vaccines that all cats should receive. These vaccines should be administered on a regular schedule, as listed below, to minimize the risk of disease.

Non-Core vaccines are given depending upon the lifestyle of your cat (indoor vs. outdoor) or according to the recommendations of your veterinarian based upon your cat's risk of infection.

Feline Distemper Vaccine (FVRCP) – Core Vaccine:

- This vaccine protects against common viruses which cause upper respiratory infections: Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia
- Kittens or Unvaccinated Adult Cats: Two vaccines administered 3-4 weeks apart with the first dose given at 8 weeks or older and the last dose at 12 weeks of age or older.
- Booster: One year after initial series, two years from one year booster, then every 3 years, staggered with the Rabies vaccine.

Rabies Vaccine – Core Vaccine:

- This vaccine is required by NH state law for all cats, whether or not they go outside.
- Kittens or Unvaccinated Adult Cats: Cats must be at least 12 weeks old to receive this vaccine. The initial vaccine is protective for 1 year.
- Booster: One year after initial vaccine, then every 3 years.
- Purevax Rabies - Annual boosters. May have a lower risk of vaccine-related fibrosarcomas (malignant tumors).

Feline Leukemia Vaccine (FeLV) – Non-Core Vaccine:

- FeLV vaccine is recommended for all cats going outdoors and in households with infected cats.
- We advise testing your cat for FeLV prior to vaccination; however the vaccine is not harmful if administered to a previously infected cat.
- Kittens or Unvaccinated Adult Cats: Administer 2 vaccines, 3 weeks apart in cats 12 weeks or older.
- Booster: Annually.
- Feline Leukemia Virus infections are almost always fatal within 1-3 years after infection. The disease can be transmitted from mother to kittens and through saliva contact (grooming, bite wounds) or during cat fights (bite wounds).

Preventative Healthcare:

- For all cats: monthly heartworm and internal parasite preventative.
- For cats going outdoors: flea and tick preventative for the months April to December.
- Annual fecal examinations for all cats.
- Screening bloodwork as recommended by the doctor; this may include a complete blood count, serum chemistry panel, thyroid level and/or urinalysis.

Our vaccination program is provided as part of an ongoing effort to improve our services and support the bond between you and your pet.

Recommended Feline Vaccination Schedule

Kittens

- 8 weeks: FVRCP #1*
(*If first FVRCP vaccine is given prior to 8 weeks, a series of 2 additional FVRCP vaccines should be given beginning 3-4 weeks after first vaccine.)
Cite Combo Test (Feline Leukemia/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus - optional)
- 12 weeks: FVRCP #2
Rabies 1 Year
FeLV #1 (optional)
- 16 weeks: FeLV #2 (optional)
- One year: FVRCP 2 year
Rabies 3 year or 1 year-Purevax
FeLV Annual (optional)
- Annually: FeLV
Purevax Rabies
- Every 3 years: FVRCP
Rabies (unless Purevax)

For Un-vaccinated Adult Cats

- Initial Vaccines:
FVRCP #1
Rabies 1 Year,
FeLV #1 (optional)
- Boosters (3-4 weeks)
FVRCP # 2
FeLV #2 (optional)
- Boosters (One year)
FVRCP 2 Year
Rabies 3 Year
FeLV Annual (optional)
- Annually: FeLV
Purevax Rabies
- Every 3 years: FVRCP
Rabies (unless Purevax)