

The Ultimate Guide to Feline Vaccinations:

Protecting Your Cat For Lifelong Health

Vaccinating your cat is vital to their health and well-being, even if they do not venture outside. Indoor cats can still be exposed to infectious diseases through open windows, other pets, or contaminated surfaces. Vaccinations protect against serious illnesses like Feline Distemper (Panleukopenia), respiratory infections (Herpes and Calicivirus), and retroviruses (Feline Leukemia), and Rabies. Moreover, keeping your cat's vaccinations current helps protect other animals they may encounter.

Vaccination is a simple and effective preventive measure to ensure your cat stays healthy and safe.

CORE VACCINATIONS:

Core vaccines are recommended for all cats, including those that are strictly indoors.

HCP (Herpes, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia) Vaccine: Also known as the FVRCP vaccine, this combination vaccine is an essential element of preventative healthcare for all cats. It protects against three highly contagious and potentially life-threatening diseases. Herpes and Calicivirus can cause upper respiratory infections, as well as ocular and oral conditions, and in severe cases, may lead to pneumonia and multi-systemic illness.

Rabies Vaccine: The Rabies vaccination is mandatory for all pet cats, dogs, and ferrets, even if they live exclusively indoors. Rabies is a fatal virus spread through the bite wounds or contact with the saliva of an infected animal. In many regions, bats are the primary carriers of Rabies and can enter homes through small openings or open windows. If your cat encounters a bat - whether out of curiosity or in self-defence - they are at risk of contracting Rabies, a virus that is virtually always fatal once symptoms appear. Since Rabies is transmissible to humans, vaccinating your cat is essential for their safety and the well-being of everyone in your household.

LIFESTYLE VACCINATIONS:

Lifestyle vaccines are elective and are recommended based on your cat's specific lifestyle and potential exposure risks.

FELV (Feline Leukemia Virus) Vaccine: Feline Leukemia Virus is a serious, cat-specific viral infection that can have significant health consequences. It spreads through close contact with an infected cat's saliva, nasal discharge, urine, feces, or blood. Infected cats may exhibit symptoms such as fever, lethargy, weakness, recurrent infections, diarrhea, and jaundice. This virus also commonly leads to the development of certain cancers. Vaccination is recommended for cats at higher risk, including indoor/outdoor cats and those in multi-cat households, shelters, or catteries where exposure is more likely.

If you have any questions about which vaccines are best for your cat, feel free to reach out to us. We're here to help you make informed decisions and ensure your cat stays happy, healthy, and protected!

Sincerely,
Veterinarians and Staff of Ilderton Pet Hospital