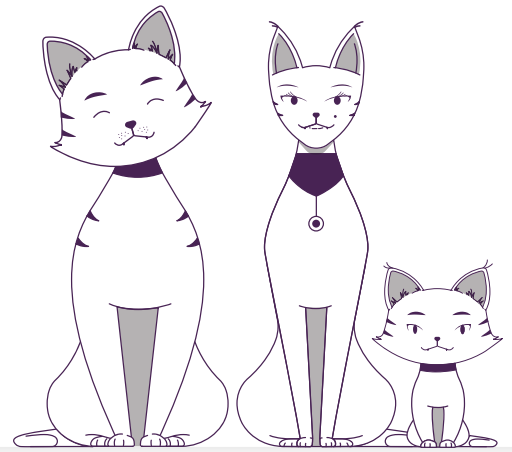




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## Pet

# Basic vaccination protocol for cats

## Why vaccinate your cat?

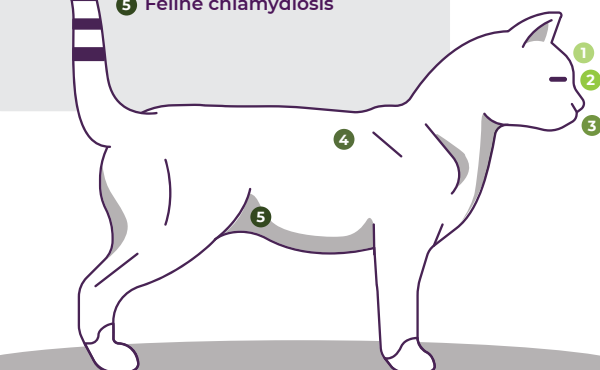
**Vaccination = Protection for your cat and family**

- **Protect your best friend:** Vaccinations protect your cat from several highly contagious diseases.
- **Protect your family:** Vaccinations also protect your cat against transmissible diseases such as rabies that can be transmitted to your family.

## What vaccinations does my kitten/adult cat need?

- **4-in-1 to protect against**
  - viral rhinotracheitis (feline herpesvirus type-1)
  - calicivirus (cause respiratory disease)
  - feline chlamydiosis
  - panleukopenia.
- **Rabies**
- **Snuffles** (bordetella bronchiseptica)
  - for cats staying at catteries.

- 1 Feline viral rhinotracheitis
- 2 Feline calicivirus (cat flu)
- 3 Feline panleukopenia
- 4 Feline leukaemia (FeLV)
- 5 Feline chlamydiosis



## How does it work?

- Vaccinations stimulate your cat's immune system to create antibodies against viruses and bacteria that cause the disease.
- Should your cat be exposed to the same diseases in future, the antibodies will help destroy those viruses and bacteria.

## Recommended vaccination schedule

Kitten	
Age	Vaccination
<b>First:</b> six to eight weeks of age	• 4-in-1
<b>Second:</b> 12 weeks of age	• 4-in-1 • rabies • snuffles (for cats staying at catteries).
<b>Third:</b> 16 weeks of age	• 4-in-1 • rabies.
<b>Booster:</b> one year of age:	• 4-in-1 and rabies • snuffles (for cats staying at catteries).

Adult	
Age	Vaccination
<b>Annually</b>	• 4-in-1 • rabies (some rabies vaccines only need to be repeated every three years).
<b>Optional</b>	• snuffles (for cats staying at catteries).

*NOTE: Your vet may also suggest additional vaccinations.*

### Please remember

- Once your pet has been vaccinated it can take up to five days before the immune system produces antibodies.
- Full protection against diseases can take up to 14 days.
- Make sure to keep record of your cat's vaccinations.
- Vaccinations must be administered by a registered veterinarian or a registered veterinarian nurse.

## Useful information

### Feline viral rhinotracheitis

Just as with the human common cold, the virus that causes this upper respiratory tract infection is easily transmitted from one cat to another. This disease is easily spread between cats in close contact. Symptoms may take the form of moderate fever, loss of appetite, sneezing, eye and nasal discharge and coughing. Kittens are particularly affected, but this disease can be dangerous in any unprotected cat, as effective treatments are limited. Even if a cat recovers, it can remain a carrier for life.

### Feline leukaemia

The feline leukaemia virus can result in a multitude of serious health problems for your cat – everything from cancerous conditions such as leukaemia to a wide range of secondary infections caused by the destruction of the immune system. After initial exposure to the virus, a cat may show no symptoms of its presence for months, if not years, yet all the while infecting other cats. Testing is available to determine the FeLV status of your cat. We strongly advise that all cats are tested, and if negative, vaccinated against this extremely dangerous disease.

### Feline calicivirus

This virus is another major cause of upper respiratory tract infection in cats. Widespread and highly contagious, its symptoms of fever, ulcers and blisters on the tongue and pneumonia can range from mild to severe, depending on the strain of virus present. Once again, treatment of this disease can be difficult. Even if recovery does take place, a recovered cat can continue to infect other animals, as well as experience chronic sneezing and runny eyes.

### Feline panleukopenia

This disease is caused by a virus so resistant; it can survive for up to one year outside a cat's body. Therefore, the infection rates in unprotected cats are high and vaccination is the only way to protect them from this potentially fatal disease. Symptoms include listlessness, diarrhoea, vomiting, severe dehydration and fever. Treatment is extremely difficult, and even if recovery takes place for a period of time, an infected cat can spread the disease to other animals.

### Feline chlamydiosis

This bacterial disease is responsible for 15 – 20% of all feline respiratory diseases. It is extremely contagious, especially in young kittens and the infection rate is very high. It causes a local infection of the mucus membranes of the eyes, but may also involve the lungs. Chlamydiosis can be transmitted to humans by direct contact.

### Rabies

This incurable and fatal disease affects the central nervous system of almost all mammals, including humans. It is spread through contact with the saliva of infected animals through bites or any break in the skin.

### Bordetella bronchiseptica

*Bordetella bronchiseptica* is one of the major causes of upper respiratory infections in cats. This is a highly contagious disease and is spread through close contact with other animals. We advise that your pets are vaccinated against this disease. In cats an intranasal vaccine is used.

