

PET'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## VACCINES FOR YOUR CAT

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Vaccines recommended by Clovercroft Veterinary Hospital follow guidelines put forth by The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP). Two categories: core and non-core.

**Core Vaccines** - All cats should receive these vaccines, regardless of lifestyle and exposure to other cats.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Rabies is a core vaccine required by Law.</b> Initial rabies vaccine is administered around 4 months of age and repeated one year later. Additional Rabies immunizations are repeated every 3 years for the rest of your cat's life. Tennessee state and local laws require cats receive Rabies vaccinations and that pet owners maintain a current Rabies license and tag.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Panleukopenia (parvovirus that causes severe diarrhea), Herpesvirus-1 (respiratory virus), Calicivirus (respiratory virus) are core vaccines. They are combined into one injection.</b> Shots to protect against these viral diseases begin as a series of kitten vaccinations. A booster shot is given one year after the last kitten immunization. Additional booster shots are administered every 3 years throughout your cat's life. Vaccination against Panleukopenia is known to be very effective, whereas vaccination against the respiratory viruses is not as reliable at preventing disease.
KITTENS ONLY  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Feline Leukemia (FeLV) has recently been added to the core vaccine list for all kittens.</b> All cats under 1 year of age should be vaccinated. As early as 8 weeks of age a kitten should receive an immunization and a booster shot 3 weeks later. One year later, another booster shot should be given. Thereafter, booster shots depend upon lifestyle and risk factors. Feline Leukemia virus causes a diverse assortment of symptoms. Immediately following exposure, cats may have fever and general malaise. If the cat's immune system does not eliminate the virus, the cat will become persistently/permanently infected. Long periods of time can pass while the infected cat appears healthy, but eventually FeLV associated diseases will occur. FeLV-associated diseases include anemia, liver and GI disease, cancer, and chronic, recurrent infections associated with immunosuppression. The virus is most often transmitted during pregnancy as well as through nursing, licking, biting, and sharing dishes and litter pans. Young cats, especially those less than 6 months of age are most susceptible to lifelong infection when exposed to the virus. <b>***kittens should be tested for Feline Leukemia virus infection (blood test) prior to vaccinating</b>

**Non-Core Vaccines**- Vaccines considered important for cats with certain lifestyles. Although diseases in this category often occur sporadically, occur in specific geographic regions or are new and emerging diseases, they can be life threatening or cause significant illness. This handout is intended to educate you about these diseases and invite you to begin a discussion regarding whether or not your pet should receive any non-core immunizations.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Feline Leukemia:</b> Recommended for all cats more than a year of age with access to the outdoors, cats that live with FeLV positive cats, and cats living in multi-cat environments where the FeLV status of all cats is unknown.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Chlamydophila felis vaccine:</b> This vaccine is given to protect against the bacteria <u>Chlamydophila felis</u> , which can cause or contribute to upper respiratory and eye infections. It may cause a mild upper respiratory infection and conjunctivitis. Incidence of infection is low, and vaccination is not recommended unless this agent identified in the cat's environment.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Bordetella or "kennel cough" Vaccine:</b> This vaccine is commonly given to dogs in order to help protect against highly contagious bronchitis. Many species can develop infections with this bacteria, including cats; However, risk is extremely small and therefore not typically recommended. Infections may cause conjunctivitis, tracheobronchitis and pneumonia. Incidence of infection is low, and vaccination is not recommended unless this agent has been identified in the cat's environment.

**Vaccines available, but NOT recommended:** FIV, FIP, ringworm

**General Risks (Side Effects) of vaccines:** Currently available feline vaccines have an excellent safety record. Most common reactions are lethargy, anorexia, fever, vomiting, breathing difficulties, facial swelling and itching for a few days after vaccination, or local inflammation at the site of injection. Rarely anaphylaxis is seen. In one study, more than 1.25 million doses of various vaccines were administered to nearly 0.5 million cats. Adverse reactions within 30 days of vaccination were 0.52%, with 92% of these reactions occurring within the first 3 days. **Feline injection-site sarcomas (FISS):** Current information suggests the risk of sarcoma development following vaccination is actually very low (probably well below 1/10,000 doses of vaccine). Based on current understanding, it is likely that vaccines are not uniquely implicated in the development of injection site sarcomas in cats, and that any injection carries risk. **The Advisory Panel of the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP)** recommends post-vaccination monitoring. Cat owners should use the **3-2-1 Rule** to monitor the vaccine site for swelling or lumps in order to detect potential sarcomas very early. Biopsy of any mass detected at injection site is warranted if it (a) remains present 3 months after vaccination, (b) is larger than 2 cm in diameter, or (c) is increasing in size 1 month after vaccination. (AAFP Feline Vaccination Advisory Panel Report)

**A word about Physical Examinations.....** We recommend most pets receive a complete physical examination by a veterinarian once a year. Certain patients, like kittens and geriatrics, often benefit from more frequent examinations. Many topics are discussed during annual visits, including internal (heartworm, intestinal worms, etc.) and external (fleas, ticks, etc.) parasite control, weight, nutrition, and many more.

Thank you, The Doctors and Staff at Clovercroft Veterinary Hospital

Pet Owner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_