



VACCINE AND DEWORMING BASICS FOR KITTENS

Recommended vaccines for all kittens and cats:

- 1) **PANL:** This vaccine protects your cat from the distemper (panleukopenia) virus, a strain of feline influenza, and a new variant of calicivirus that has been known to kill cats in some circumstances. The first time this vaccine is given, it will need to be boosted in 3-4 weeks and after that is administered on a yearly basis. We vaccinate indoor cats against these diseases because they can be contracted even without direct cat to cat contact (i.e., the viruses can be transported on your clothing).
- 2) **Rabies:** This vaccine protects your cat from the fatal disease of Rabies. We recommend this vaccine even for indoor cats in the event of exposure to an infected bat or other animal that your cat gets into your house, and because if your cat ever bites anyone, from a legal standpoint you are much better off if your cat is up to date on its Rabies vaccine. The first time your cat gets the Rabies vaccine, it is good for one year. Thereafter, the vaccine is good for THREE years.

Optional vaccines for cats:

- 1) **Feline Leukemia:** This vaccine is recommended for all strictly-outdoor cats and most indoor/outdoor cats. Leukemia is a disease that cats get from contacting the blood, urine, or saliva of an infected cat. There is no cure for feline leukemia and contracting the disease will substantially shorten the lifespan of your beloved pet.

Additional new kitten/cat information:

- 1) Each and every kitten needs to be dewormed for roundworms and hookworms at least twice, even if they show no clinical signs of these parasites. This is because about 60% of kittens have one of these worms present, many have gotten them through nursing from their mother.
- 2) We also recommend checking a poop sample on each kitten after deworming them to make sure we have eradicated any intestinal worms. We do not regularly check poop samples on strictly indoor cats as adults, but we do recommend it on outdoor cats.
- 3) For kittens or older cats that you just adopted and we don't know their history or exposure to other cats, we recommend performing a Feline Leukemia/FIV blood test to make sure they are negative for either of these devastating diseases before you make them a permanent part of your family. Testing for these two diseases costs about \$40 dollars and can be done at the time of vaccination or spaying.
- 4) We recommend spaying or neutering your kitten/cat for several reasons (health, behavioral, reducing pet overpopulation). Cats need to be at least FOUR months of age prior to performing this procedure. We recommend female cats undergoing the spay procedure spend the night in the clinic; male cats being neutered are discharged the same day. If you are thinking about getting your cat declawed, it is recommended to do it at the same time of spaying/neutering, as cats will only have to undergo anesthesia once, and it saves some money to do both procedures at the same time. Cats that are declawed must spend the night at the clinic. All surgery patients receive in-clinic pain medication. Declaw patients are sent home on a four-day course of oral pain medication after their surgery.