



## Kitten and Cat Vaccination Schedule

Vaccination is the single most important investment that you can make in your cat's future good health. The following are diseases for which we routinely vaccinate:

### **Feline Panleukopenia Virus:**

Also known as feline distemper, Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV) is a severe and very contagious multisystemic disease, which most commonly strikes young kittens. FPV causes anorexia, depression, high fever, persistent vomiting and diarrhea and progressive dehydration. Additionally, FPV lowers the cat's white blood cell count, which leaves the cat unable to fight off a secondary bacterial infection.

### **Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis:**

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR) is a highly contagious upper respiratory disease caused by the feline herpesvirus. FVR is spread by direct contact between cats and by contact with contaminated areas or supplies. FVR causes depression, anorexia, fever, and nasal /ocular discharge. Eye lesions are common.

### **Feline Calicivirus:**

Feline Calicivirus (FCV) is a highly contagious upper respiratory disease that is similar to FVR. FCV causes many of the same clinical signs without eye lesions and with the addition of oral ulceration and joint pain. There are many strains of this virus that can result in a range of clinical signs, from mild to acute death.

### **Feline Leukemia Virus:**

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is a severe and often fatal disease which affects the cat's immune system. FeLV is spread from cat to cat by grooming, sharing food and water dishes, and sharing litterboxes. FeLV causes clinical signs which are highly variable, and may include loss of appetite, weight loss, coughing, anemia, a tendency to develop fatal cancers, and immunosuppression. There is no effective treatment of FeLV at this time. Cats should be blood tested for FeLV before their first vaccination.

### **Rabies Virus:**

Rabies is 100 percent fatal to cats and other mammals and there is no treatment. Rabies can infect people as well if bitten by an infected animal. Pima County has a relatively high incidence of rabies in its wildlife population, especially bats. Because of the unpredictable behavior of infected wildlife, even indoor only cats must be vaccinated for rabies.

### **Vaccination Schedule:**

Your kitten (younger than 6 months old) should begin its series of vaccinations at 6 - 8 weeks of age. The kitten/cat vaccination schedule your pet should follow is:

#### **PRC**

6 - 8 weeks old: First FPRC vaccination (Rhinotracheitis, Panleukopenia, Calicivirus)

Then every 2-3 weeks until 14 - 16 weeks of age

Then booster annually

#### **Rabies Vaccination**

12 weeks old (and 3 pounds in weight): First Rabies vaccination, then booster annually

#### **FeLV**

Blood test for FeLV before their first vaccination, and evaluate cat's exposure before vaccinating.

Begin vaccinating at 10 - 12 weeks of age followed by a booster 3 - 4 weeks later.

Retest at 6 months of age.

Vaccinate every 1 - 3 years depending on risk of exposure. Adult animals without exposure may not require this vaccine.