CAT VACCINATIONS

Vaccination helps to control infectious disease in our pets. Kittens are born with some protective antibodies acquired from their mother's milk but need to be vaccinated in order to mount their own immune response.

Kitten vaccination

We recommend a course of three vaccinations to protect your kitten again the most common infectious diseases. The **first vaccination** should be given **between 6 and 8 weeks of age**. The **second vaccination** is given at **12 weeks** and the **third vaccination** given at **16 weeks**. We advise avoiding contact with other cats of unknown vaccination status until this series of vaccines is completed.

Adult cat vaccination

Annual health checks and vaccination boosters help to provide the best protection against disease. We recommend a yearly F3 vaccine.

Infectious disease that we vaccinate against

Feline enteritis (Panleucopaenia/Feline Parvovirus) causes severe gastrointestinal signs of vomiting and bloody diarrhoea. Pregnant cats infected with the virus may miscarry or give birth to kittens with brain damage. The virus is highly contagious and may spread readily in the environment.

Feline respiratory disease (cat flu) is a combination of highly contagious viruses which may include Herpesvirus (rhinotracheitis) and calicivirus. These viruses cause sneezing, coughing, runny eyes, nasal discharge, inappetence and tongue ulcers. The fatality rate is low but the virus may persist in its for long periods and recur when the cat is stressed.

Additional available vaccinations

Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) is the feline equivalent of HIV - a disease which affects the cat's immune system leaving it susceptible to other diseases. FIV is most often spread by bites from infected cats. The vaccination regime for FIV is three initial injections at 2-3 weeks intervals and then a yearly booster. Older cats must be tested for the disease before commencing a vaccination regime. We offer an in-house blood test to determine whether your cat has been infected.