

CAT VACCINES

WHAT IS NEEDED?



Vaccines help protect your feline friend from a host of nasty diseases, some of which are contagious, serious, or even fatal.

Core Vaccines

These are the “fur-sure” vaccines—recommended for all cats, regardless of whether they’re indoor loungers or outdoor adventurers:

- **FVRCP:** This combo vaccine protects against Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia.
- **Rabies:** No kitten around on this one—it’s the law in many places. Rabies is fatal and can spread to humans, so this vaccine is non-negotiable.

Kittens typically start their vaccine series at 6–8 weeks old, with boosters every 3–4 weeks until about 16 weeks. After that, boosters are given annually or every three years, depending on the vaccine and your vet’s advice.

Optional Vaccines

- **Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV):**
Recommended for kittens and outdoor cats who might mingle with other felines.
- **Bordetella:** Like a flu shot—recommended for cats in multi-cat homes, visiting groomers, or boarding. Give at least 48 hours before boarding; may require boosters every 6 months.
- **Chlamydia:** Not the most common, but sometimes included in the FVRCP combo if your cat is at risk.

The Cost of Keeping Your Cat Purring Along

The average cost of cat vaccines ranges from \$33 to \$49, depending on your location and the specific vaccine. For kittens, the initial series can cost \$100 to \$200 in total. It’s good to anticipate that you may spend around \$65-110 annually on vaccines for your cat. Some veterinary clinics bundle vaccines with wellness exams, and you can often find free or low cost vaccine clinics in your area!

Vaccines are a vital part of keeping your cat safe and living their best nine lives. As always, consult your vet—because when it comes to vaccines, it’s better to be safe than sorry.