



Cat Vaccination Information

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR)

This virus is part of what the **FVRCP**, or 3 in 1, vaccine fights. It is a respiratory problem, like the flu. FVR is very contagious, and spreads like other respiratory diseases, by coughing & sneezing on others.

This is the most severe and widespread upper-respiratory virus to which cats are susceptible. FVR is very serious in young kittens, but cats of all ages are susceptible. Clinical signs include: *moderate fever, ocular discharge, nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing, and abortions in pregnant cats*. Treatment is difficult and limited to supportive and symptomatic therapy. Recovered cats become carriers for life and can shed virus intermittently, especially during periods of stress. This "chronic carrier" condition makes prevention most important.

Vaccination is the best means of prevention and control.

Calicivirus

Another component of the 3 in 1, or FVRCP vaccine. Calicivirus is a respiratory virus, causing oral ulcers and blisters, leading to pneumonia & possibly death.

Feline Calicivirus is another of the major upper-respiratory viruses to which cats are susceptible. It is widespread, highly contagious, and accounts for about 40% of the respiratory diseases in cats. The severity of the infection varies with the strain of the virus present. Clinical signs include: *moderate fever, pneumonia and ulcers or blisters on the tongue*. The only treatment option is supportive and symptomatic therapy.

Calicivirus also can create a "chronic-carrier" state, in which recovered cats become carriers for life. These carriers shed virus continuously, making prevention very important. **Vaccination** is highly recommended.

Panleukopenia

Part of the 3 in 1 vaccine, or FVRCP. It is the *distemper* shot for cats. Caused by feline parvovirus, feline distemper is a virus that usually causes death, and is very contagious through feces, vomit, and sputum.

Panleukopenia, or *feline distemper*, is a contagious viral disease that primarily affects young kittens, but any aged cat is susceptible. This virus is generally widespread, and natural exposure



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is common. Despite early maternal protection, infection of newborn kittens is frequent. Clinical signs include: *fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, depression, diarrhea, dehydration, and death.*

Treatment of infected cats is difficult, and mortality in kittens is very high. Even when recovery occurs, a kitten may become a carrier and infect others. The most effective means of controlling this disease is **early vaccination** with yearly re-vaccination.

Chlamydia Psittaci

Feline Chlamydia mainly causes conjunctivitis in the cat. Conjunctivitis may be defined as the inflammation of the delicate membranes or conjunctiva that cover the inner surface of the eyelids and over the white part of the eye (the sclera).

Clinical signs normally develop within a few days after infection, beginning as a watery discharge from one or both eyes. Due to the discomfort, affected cats may hold their eyes partially closed. As the disease progresses, severe swelling and reddening of the conjunctiva may be seen and the discharge changes from watery to a thicker yellowish substance. There may also be very mild sneezing and nasal discharge in some cats with a mild fever resulting in lethargy. If left untreated, the conjunctivitis can often persist for six to eight weeks or longer and cats may continue to shed the organism for many months.

Chlamydia organisms are very fragile and cannot survive for any period of time in the environment. Infection therefore typically occurs through direct contact and disease is more commonly seen where large groups of cats are kept together, such as multi-cat households, breeding catteries and shelters. Although cats of all ages can be infected, disease is most commonly seen in young kittens (5 - 12 weeks old) with persistent or recurrent infection. These vaccines do not always prevent infection but are certainly helpful in preventing severe clinical disease.

Rabies

Rabies is a fatal virus that affects the central nervous system of almost all mammals. The virus is most common in cats, bats, dogs, and raccoons. Rabies vaccinations should be given at 12 or 16 weeks (according to state law), boosted in 1 year, then boosted every 1 or 3 years depending on the vaccine used, and the state law. Peggy Adams uses a **3-year approved Rabies vaccine** only; but it must be given annually in some cases. Our staff will inform you when this applies.



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Rabies is a viral disease. Transmission is through injection of saliva, commonly by biting. When an animal or human is bitten by a rabid animal, the virus particles are injected by the teeth through the skin. Once inside the new host, the virus travels toward the brain through the nerves and spinal cord. From the brain, the virus spreads to other parts of the body and gets into the saliva by entering the salivary glands.

The average period of time for the cycle of transmission to be completed is usually between two to six weeks. Occasionally this cycle takes much longer, a feature of rabies, which has an impact on control procedures. Once the virus particles enter the saliva, the animal is in the terminal stage of the disease and usually dies in a few days.

It is important to remember that dogs are not the only hazard. **Recently more cats** have been diagnosed annually as "rabid" than dogs. Farm animals, wild animals, particularly skunks, raccoons, foxes, and bats, are routinely diagnosed as rabid and present a potential threat.

Please NOTE: *We must see proof of prior rabies vaccination to issue a Rabies Certificate longer than one year. Proof means written documentation that the pet presented is the same pet and has had a rabies vaccine given by a vet in the past. Without such documentation we can only mark a rabies vaccination as good for one year*