

Show you care



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DON'T FORGET:

- Regular boosters are vital to maintain protection
- Your record of vaccination is an important document. Please keep it in a safe place
- Consult your veterinary surgeon if your cat appears unwell – you could save its life

More information

For further information please don't hesitate to contact your veterinary surgeon or visit our website



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*The importance
of vaccination
for your cat*



Vaccination is the only safe way to provide immunity against a number of dangerous diseases which continue to infect cats in the UK. When kept up-to-date, as recommended by your vet, regular vaccination can keep your pet protected for life.



Immunity and vaccination

Immunity is the body's natural ability to fight infection. Vaccination confers immunity by exposing the body to a small but entirely harmless dose of the disease in question.

Immunity in kittens

Kittens are usually protected during the first few weeks of life by an immunity passed through the mother's first milk (colostrum). However, this immunity fades rapidly, leaving the kitten susceptible to disease within a few weeks. At this point, vaccination can take over in providing protection.

The kitten's first vaccination

The first time a kitten is vaccinated, a course of two injections is usually given, separated by at least a couple of weeks. This primary course can be given to kittens as young as nine weeks of age – but if you acquire a kitten that's already older, talk to your vet as soon as possible about vaccination timings. The vet will also want to give your new kitten a general check-up.

When can my kitten meet other cats?

Vaccination doesn't work immediately; it takes a few days for immunity to develop. Your vet will advise you on when it's safe to let your kitten interact with other animals – and how to let it outside for the first time, safely.

Re-vaccination

Immunity to disease may gradually fade, leaving your cat at risk. Depending on the disease, boosters may be needed. An annual visit to your vet will allow for a general health check and for any necessary boosters to be given.

Record of vaccination

You'll be given a certificate that contains a record of the vaccination and tells you when the next booster is due. Catteries, cat shows and, of course, your vet will need to see this certificate, so always keep it in a safe place.

What diseases do we vaccinate against?

Cat 'Flu (Feline Upper Respiratory Tract Disease)

Remains depressingly common in the UK, and can be very serious, especially in kittens and elderly cats. It is spread between cats by direct contact or through sneezing.

Several microbes are known to cause the disease, all producing similar symptoms such as a runny nose and eyes, high temperatures and extreme lethargy. Injectable vaccines are available for the viral agents that cause cat 'flu, as well as an intranasal vaccine against *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. Regular vaccination is the best means of keeping the disease at bay.

Infectious Enteritis (Feline Panleucopenia)

An unpleasant and often fatal disease. Fortunately vaccination has been extremely successful in controlling the disease and it is now relatively rare.

Feline Leukaemia

A viral disease, transmitted when cats fight each other – or even during grooming. The disease can take months to develop after infection but then it begins to suppress the cat's immune system, causing secondary infections, tumours and death. Not long ago, feline leukaemia was both widespread and common, but vaccination is now gradually bringing it under control.

Chlamydophila felis

Can cause conjunctivitis. It is mainly seen in kittens in multicat households.

Rabies

A fatal disease, not found in the UK. Vaccination is mandatory if you plan to take your cat abroad.