

Animal Hospital of Colorado

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Vaccination Recommendations for Cats

Recent advances in veterinary medical science have resulted in an increase in the number and type of vaccines that are available for use in cats, and improvements are continuously being made in their safety and efficacy. Some vaccines are more or less routinely advocated for all cats ('core' vaccines) whereas others are used more selectively according to circumstances. However, in all cases the selection of the correct vaccination program for each individual cat, including the frequency of repeat, or booster, vaccinations, requires professional advice.

Currently cats can be vaccinated against several different diseases:

"Core" Vaccines, as recommended by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) for all kittens and cats:

1. Feline panleukopenia, FPV or FPL (also called feline infectious enteritis) caused by FPL virus or feline parvovirus
2. Feline viral rhinotracheitis, FVR caused by FVR virus, also known as herpes virus type 1, FHV-1
3. Feline caliciviral disease caused by various strains of Feline caliciviruses, FCV
4. Rabies caused by Rabies virus

"Non-core" or discretionary vaccines, recommended for kittens and cats with realistic risk of exposure to specific diseases:

1. Feline chlamydial infection
2. Feline leukemia disease complex caused by Feline leukemia virus, FeLV
3. Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) caused by FIP virus or Feline Coronavirus
4. Giardiasis caused by the protozoal parasite Giardia
5. Bordetellosis caused by the bacterium Bordetella bronchiseptica
6. Ringworm
7. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)