

A number of dangerous diseases can still affect cats in the UK, and some of these can even be transmitted to humans. Vaccination is the only safe way to provide immunity against many of these diseases. If carried out regularly according to your vet's advice, it can protect your pet for life. **Regular boosters are vital to maintain protection...**

...Show you care

Vaccination

Several dangerous diseases still affect cats in the UK. Vaccination is the only safe way to provide immunity against these diseases, and if carried out regularly, can protect your cat for life. Currently cats can be vaccinated against six different diseases:-

1. Feline panleucopaenia
- feline infectious enteritis, feline parvovirus
2. Feline herpes virus type 1 (FHV-1)
- feline rhinotracheitis
3. Feline calicivirus (FCV)
4. Feline Chlamydomphila infection
5. Feline leukaemia virus (FeLV)
6. Rabies

Rabies vaccination is only required for cats who are travelling abroad or have entered the UK from abroad.

When should my kitten start their vaccinations?

A kitten's vaccination course will usually start at 9 weeks of age. A second vaccination is given 3 weeks later.

Your kitten is not fully protected until 10-14 days after the second vaccination so we advise that you keep them indoors during this time. Under specific circumstances the veterinary surgeon may advise a different regime.

Remember: Regular boosters are vital to maintain protection.

How often should booster vaccinations be given?

Just as in human vaccines, the immunity provided by vaccines wanes over time. Booster vaccination is generally carried out yearly. All cats should keep up with their boosters.

Which are the most important vaccinations to have?

We strongly recommend you have your kitten vaccinated as directed by the veterinary surgeon.

Feline panleucopaenia infection - this is a disease that causes severe and fatal gastroenteritis. Vaccination provides a high level of long-lasting protection.

Feline respiratory virus infection - commonly known as cat flu. A common disease in unvaccinated cats causing severe 'cold-like' symptoms.

Feline Chlamydomphila infection - A particular problem in colony cats. Chlamydomphilosis is a bacterial infection causing painful inflammation and swelling of the conjunctiva (Membrane around the eye).

Feline leukaemia virus - A viral disease, transmitted in the blood or saliva when cats fight each other - or even during grooming. Can take several months/years to develop after infection but then 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.

