

Vaccination Recommendations for Cats

Component	Class	Efficacy	Length of Immunity	Risk/Severity of Adverse Effects	Comments
Panleukopenia	Core	High	> 1 year	Low to Moderate	
Rhinitis	Core	High; reduces severity and duration of disease, but does not prevent disease or the carrier state	> 1 year	Low: may see sneezing in cats given modified live vaccine	Use intranasal vaccine for faster protection
Calicivirus	Core	Variable; reduces severity and duration of disease, but does not prevent disease or the carrier state	> 1 year	Low: may see sneezing in cats given modified live vaccine	
Rabies	Core	High	Dependent upon type of vaccine	Low to moderate; Lower for recombinant vaccines	
Feline Leukemia	Recommended for all cats that live outside full or part time, or those living full time inside but with exposure to outside cats. Also suggested for all kittens.	Variable	Revaccinate annually for cats at risk	Vaccine-related sarcomas can develop with killed (adjuvanted) vaccines	Vaccination not recommended for cats with minimal or no risk, especially after 4 months of age; blood test prior to vaccination
Chlamydia	Noncore	Low; reduces severity and duration of disease, but does not prevent disease or	< 1 year	High	Not recommended for cats at minimal or no risk

		the carrier state			
Feline Infectious Peritonitis	Noncore	Low			Not recommended
Bordetella	Noncore	Low	Short	May be more severe in kittens	
Giardia	Insufficient data to comment - not recommended				
Feline Immunodeficiency Virus	Insufficient data to comment - vaccinated cats should be permanently identified since they will likely have positive results if tested for FIV				

A possible vaccination schedule for the 'average' indoor house cat is shown below.

Cat Vaccination Schedule	
Age	Vaccination
6-7 weeks	Combination Vaccine*
10 weeks	Combination vaccine Chlamydomphila (Pneumonitis): include in combination vaccine where it is a concern.
12 weeks or older	Rabies: Given by your local veterinarian (age at vaccination may vary according to local law).
13 weeks	Combination vaccine Chlamydomphila (Pneumonitis): include in combination vaccine where it is a concern. Feline Leukemia (FeLV): for kittens at risk of exposure to feline leukemia virus.
16 & 19 weeks	Combination vaccine FeLV: for kittens at risk of exposure to feline leukemia virus.
Adult (boosters)**	Combination vaccine Chlamydomphila (Pneumonitis): include in combination vaccine where it is a concern. FeLV: for cats at risk of exposure to feline leukemia virus. Rabies: Given by your local veterinarian (time interval between vaccinations may vary according to law).

*A combination vaccine includes feline distemper, rhinotracheitis, and calicivirus. Some may also include Chlamydomphila.

**According to the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Feline Practitioners, cats at low risk of disease exposure may not need to be boosted yearly for most diseases. Consult with your local veterinarian to determine the appropriate vaccination schedule for your cat. Remember, recommendations vary depending on the age, breed, and health status of the cat, the potential of the cat to be exposed to the disease, the type of vaccine, whether the cat is used for breeding, and the geographical area where the cat lives or may visit.