

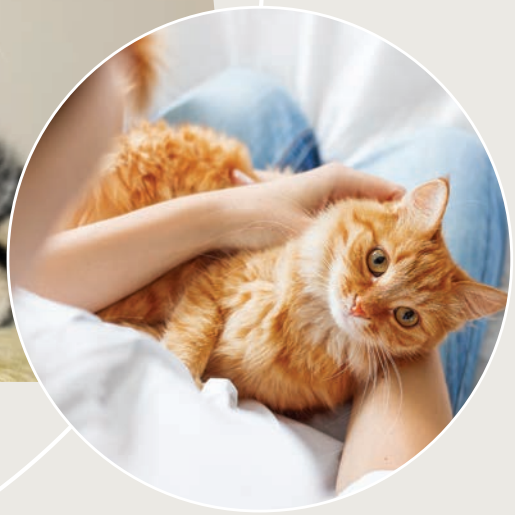
Cat Vaccination

The Importance of Vaccinating Your Cat

Shaping the future of animal health

Virbac





Does my cat need to be vaccinated?

Yes! Just like us, our cats are exposed to many harmful diseases throughout their life.

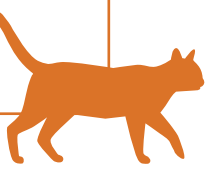
Vaccination is very important for cats - it protects them from several serious diseases that could make them very ill and in some cases can even be fatal.

Each day the inquisitive nature of our cats will inevitably expose them to the risk of serious infection. A primary vaccination course, followed by regular boosters, will help protect your cat from this risk, allowing them to enjoy life and providing you with peace of mind.

What is a vaccine?

Vaccines contain specially adapted viruses and other infectious agents that are administered via an injection and help to train your pet's immune system to fight diseases that they won't have encountered before.

If your cat hasn't been vaccinated yet, don't worry - just make sure you talk to your vet about it as soon as possible.



What can my cat be protected against?

Feline Leukaemia

A contagious and potentially fatal disease that attacks the immune system.

A cat already infected will **not** respond to vaccination.

A wide variety of clinical signs can be present in an infected cat, such as gum disease, fever, weight loss and anaemia. The infection causes a rapid decline in health.

Cat Flu (Feline rhinotracheitis and feline calicivirus)

An extremely common, highly contagious and unpleasant disease that can prove fatal to both older cats and kittens.

Sneezing mucus, coughing, runny eyes, exposed eyelids, ulcerated mouth and nose, loss of appetite.

Feline Enteritis (Feline Panleucopenia Virus)

Attacks the white blood cells, reducing immunity to other illnesses. Relatively uncommon in the UK but highly contagious and potentially fatal. Can be transmitted without direct contact with other cats.

The most common symptom is severe gastroenteritis - vomiting and diarrhoea which causes dehydration and depression.

Will a vaccine protect my cat forever?

No, not forever - your cat will need regular booster vaccines to make sure they stay protected.

Different vaccines have different duration of immunities - your cat's vaccination record will state when your cat is next due a vaccine.

Kittens need a primary course of vaccines, followed by annual booster vaccines.

Keeping a record of vaccination

Whenever you take your cat to the vet for their booster vaccination, it is important that you remember to take along your vaccination record. Your vet will need to see it to ensure that the correct vaccinations are being given at the appropriate time and you will need to have the document updated if you intend to put your cat into a cattery.

Putting your cat into a cattery

All reputable catteries will require proof that your cat is up to date with their vaccines.

Regular health checks

Taking your cat along for annual booster vaccinations will give your vet the opportunity to carry out regular health checks - which will become ever more important as your cat gets older.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What happens if my cat misses a year?

A. Vaccine doses are designed to provide the optimum protection for your pet given that they will receive a booster at the appropriate interval. Whilst there is an allowance for a certain amount of "overlap protection", its effectiveness reduces with time, increasing your cat's risk of infection. Your cat may then need to restart their primary vaccine course.

Q. Does it hurt?

A. Some cats don't feel anything, but some may feel a small pinch. But it won't be for long and after a good sleep, your cat will have forgotten all about it. You will also be reassured that your cat is protected against catching some really serious diseases.

Q. Does my cat need protection against rabies?

A. Thankfully, the UK is clear of rabies, so if your cat is resident in the UK rabies vaccination will not be necessary. However, speak to your vet if you are planning to take your cat abroad.

Q. If my cat catches a disease, will a vaccination cure it?

A. No. Vaccination is a preventative measure, not a cure. Your cat must be healthy at the time the vaccination is administered. If your cat has been diagnosed with any of the diseases mentioned in this booklet, you will need to speak to your vet to discuss a vaccination plan.





Vaccines aren't so scary!

Your vet will use a combination of vaccines as the basis of providing your pet with immunity against all the major infectious disease risks faced by cats in the UK.





For more information on protecting your cat from potentially deadly diseases, talk to your vet

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