

The Vaccine Timeline for Cats



When it comes to vaccinations, a lot has changed in the past 30 years. Except in certain circumstances, annual vaccinations are a thing of the past. Vaccinations are still an important part of your pet's preventive health care plan, but veterinarians now tailor them to the needs of individual animals, based on their lifestyle, potential risks, and overall health. The following recommendations from the American Animal Hospital Association and the American Association of Feline Practitioners will help you understand your pet's vaccination needs so you can work with your veterinarian to prevent disease and maintain good health.

Core Vaccinations for Cats

These are vaccinations every cat should have. They are given at specific intervals during kittenhood. Vaccine schedules can vary based on the type of vaccine, whether vaccines are combined, and the way the vaccine is delivered, such as by injection or intranasally.

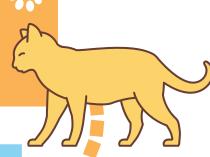


6 weeks or older:

initial dose of feline panleukopenia virus (FPV), feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1), and feline calicivirus vaccines, repeated every 3 to 4 weeks (every 2 to 3 weeks in shelters) until kittens are 16 to 20 weeks old.

8 weeks or older:

initial dose of feline leukemia virus (FeLV) vaccine, followed by second dose 3 to 4 weeks later.

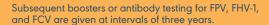


18 months:

revaccination for feline panleukopenia virus (FPV), feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1), and feline calicivirus, if not vaccinated at six months. Revaccinate for FeLV 12 months after the last booster and then consider revaccination annually for at-risk cats (those who go outdoors, get in fights, or live with FeLV-positive cats).

6 months:

revaccination for feline panleukopenia virus (FPV), feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1), and feline calicivirus, to reduce the risk of interference from maternal derived antibodies.



Rabies vaccines are given at 1- or 3-year intervals; the amount and type of vaccine is the same for both. Where rabies vaccination is required, frequency may differ based on local statutes or requirements. Your veterinarian will be familiar with, and adhere to, local requirements. When local laws or regulations permit, a three-year vaccination interval using a three-year-labeled vaccine is recommended.



Non-Core Vaccinations for Cats

Bordetella: given only in the event of confirmed infection in a multicat household. Not routinely administered to pet cats and does not provide complete protection.

Feline Leukemia Virus: for low-risk cats—adults who live indoors and are not exposed to FeLV-positive cats—this vaccine is considered non-core.

Chlamydia: given only in the event of confirmed infection in a multicat household. Does not provide complete protection. Cats who receive this vaccine are at greater risk for side effects such as lethargy, limb soreness, and loss of appetite.