



Maidstone Veterinary Clinic

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CAT VACCINATIONS

CI 8 catvax

Diseases that are caused by contagious and infective viruses tend to come in cycles. This can range from a low grade simmering infection in some of the population (due to a low virulent virus) up to the epidemic that spreads like wildfire - infecting and causing illness in almost all those it comes in contact with (a highly virulent new strain).

The purpose of vaccinating your cat is to prevent the development of clinical disease by either preventing your pet from catching the virus - or if they do get infected - by limiting the severity and the effects of any infection. Our job, as your pet's veterinarian, is to recommend what we think is the best vaccination course for your cat / kitten to ensure it can live a healthy and "disease free" life.

Recommended Vaccination Protocol & Costs

The 'core' infectious cat diseases currently present in NZ that WE RECOMMEND your cat should be vaccinated against are: Feline Snuffles / Enteritis / Aids. (PTO for disease info)

The initial course for an unvaccinated cat/kitten can start at 9 weeks of age or older depending on your kitten's health. We prefer to vaccinate a few weeks after the rehoming process. If you are having your pet vaccinated prior to surgery or a boarding cattery, please recognise that a vaccination course will not provide its maximum protection until **10 days after the final vaccination of the course!!**

Vaccination / Treatment Needed	Available Packages			
	Standard - Kitten -or- Adult Cat	Kitten - Plus (< than 4mths)	Adult - Plus	Adult FIV only
Blood Test (ensure the cat is FIV/FelV free) - <i>best done during week-day hours</i>			Y	Y
Microchip (\$50- less 20% = \$40-) & Registration (\$15-)		<i>Optional</i>	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Optional</i>
FIV Vax - 1 st dose		Y	Y	Y
FVRCP Vax - 9 wks or older	Y	Y	Y	
<i>Prepaying the below Boosters will provide you a discount of 15%!</i>				
FIV Vax - 2 nd dose @ 3 wks time		Y	Y	Y
FVRCP Vax - booster @ 3 wks time	Y	Y	Y	
FIV Vax - 3 rd dose @ 6 wks time		Y	Y	Y
<i>TOTAL PRICE</i> (Nov 08) \$	<i>94-00</i>	<i>179-00</i>	<i>224-00</i>	<i>150-00</i>
<i>Savings if Prepaying Boosters</i> \$	<i>6-00</i>	<i>15.00</i>	<i>15.00</i>	<i>10.50</i>

Package Price: a special deal available to those clients who want to pay the remaining part of the course up front. A credit balance will show on your account until the services provided uses the balance up!

As natural boosting is uncertain and a chance affair, we strongly recommend that you ensure your pet receives an annual booster to maintain its immunity. Adult cats are also susceptible to these infections particularly as they grow old and their immune system becomes less efficient.

SNUFFLES (Cat Flu & Rhinotracheitis caused by FHV – a herpesvirus & FCV – a calicivirus)

This is the most common and highly contagious viral disease in NZ cats. The symptoms of this condition, which is caused by two specific viruses, resembles that of human colds and flu's.

These include the loss of appetite, discharges from nose and eyes, sneezing and mouth ulcers. Snuffles is often associated with a raised temperature and if left untreated it can cause permanent damage to the nasal turbinate bones or spread to the lungs. It can be fatal in young kittens.

Once a cat has been infected with this disease they can remain infected and carriers for the rest of their life. They can have regular relapses, where they go through bouts of sneezing and runny eyes or else be chronic 'snufflers'. These cats act as reservoir hosts for the virus so that the disease can then be passed on to other cats.

FELINE INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS (Panleukopaenia caused by FPV – a parvovirus)

This is a highly infectious and fatal disease is a close relative to the canine parvovirus and is spread through contact with an infected cat's bodily fluids, faeces or fleas. The signs are usually those of acute and severe gastroenteritis, depression, vomiting, diarrhoea, rapid dehydration and death (which can occur within 12 hours after the onset of signs. Sub-clinical infection of pregnant queens will cause cerebellar hypoplasia (small & defective brain syndrome) in the foetuses.

Unfortunately this disease is hard and expensive to treat and not always ending with a favourable outcome.

FELINE IMMUNO-DEFICIENCY VIRUS (Feline Aids caused by FIV – a lentivirus)

Feline AIDS is ultimately a potentially fatal viral disease that interferes with the immune system of a cat. . Even though the feline virus is related to human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV), no human has ever been reported infected with FIV. This fatal virus is transmitted by saliva, bites and by blood products.

The disease presents itself by recurrent infections, severe weight loss and can be detected by a blood test. Because Upper Hutt as a city has lots of open spaces our cats spend a lot of time outdoors and thus more in contact with other and also feral cats. There is now **a new and effective vaccine out for FIV**, which is protective of NZ strains! Because we have seen an increasing incidence of FIV we are now recommending vaccination of your cat for this disease.

As there is a lot of information about this disease process and vaccination procedure, we have created an **additional handout solely for FIV information** (available on request or on our website).

The 'non-core' infectious cat diseases that we DO NOT recommend vaccinating against:

FELINE LEUKAEMIA VIRUS (FeLV – a retrovirus)

Cats fewer than 3 months of age are most susceptible to this disease. Transmission between infected cats is mainly by saliva or nasal secretions, for example - when sharing a feeding dish. Whilst the majority of cats are able to combat this infection, 30% will become persistently infected and if not defeated by the animal's immune system, the virus can be lethal. This virus can produce a variety of illnesses including tumours, leukaemia, reproductive and kidney failure. Although FeLV & FIV are in the same biological family and although the diseases caused by them are similar, the viruses and the specific ways in which they cause disease differ in many ways.

With the advent of better and specific tests for both viruses, FeLV infections have been noted to be declining in N.Z over the last decade. Because its true threat is probably fairly low to most cats in a domestic situation, we offer the FeLV vaccine only as an additional injection at this clinic. We recommend it is use only in cats that will be at high risk and in contact with many differing cats throughout its life, e.g. breeding cats.

Current vaccines provide a good level of protection and do not interfere with routine testing for the virus.

CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia in cats is characterised by conjunctivitis and sneezing. In N.Z. it is thought that about 15% of cats with conjunctivitis test positive to Chlamydia. Although this bacteria is contagious to other cats, it is hard to culture and thus confirm diagnosis but it is easily treated with antibiotics and once recovered there is no long-term damage. We do not recommend the vaccine, as the 'delayed lethargy syndrome' it could cause was far worse than the disease we were trying to prevent.

This clinic posts / emails an annual vaccination reminder as part of our service.

Please notify the clinic if you lose your pet or change your address.