

# Vaccinations for cats



## Vaccinations for cats

Vaccinations are vital to ensure good health for all cats. The vaccination routinely given at our clinic is a 4-in-1 vaccine called Fel-O-Vax 4. This vaccination protects against the following diseases:

- **Cat flu** – Cat flu is a term used for a group of three microbes – herpesvirus, calicivirus and chlamydia – that all cause flu-like symptoms. In addition to causing typical signs such as sneezing, nasal congestion and conjunctivitis, these germs may also cause more serious issues such as eye ulcers, pneumonia or chronic mouth inflammation. Once infected, many cats can become life-long carriers of these germs and can develop symptoms again in times of stress.
- **Feline enteritis** – This virus causes severe vomiting and diarrhoea in young cats. It has also been shown to cause birth defects if the infection occurs during pregnancy. The virus is very resistant to sterilisation and may last in the environment for years.

If you are intending to allow your cat outside, we also recommend vaccinating against two additional diseases:

- **Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)** – This virus causes feline AIDS, a condition where the immune system is gradually destroyed, leaving the cat susceptible to infections or cancers. It is spread through close contact with infected cats, such as fighting or mating. Once infected, there is no effective treatment against the virus. The virus is relatively common amongst stray and feral cats. Please note: this virus is NOT transmittable to humans.
- **Feline leukaemia virus (FeLV)** – This virus causes very similar symptoms to FIV infection, causing damage to the immune system and making the cat much more susceptible to tumours. It is spread in saliva, such as through bites or social grooming. It may also be spread via shared food and water dishes.

Our vaccination protocol is to give an **initial course of three to four vaccinations**, followed by **yearly booster** injections throughout your cat's life. We are always happy to discuss our vaccination courses for indoor and outdoor cats. Please ask at our clinic for more information.

Yearly booster injections throughout your cat's life are required to maintain immunity. The annual vaccination is also a valuable opportunity for a complete health check and to discuss any concerns you may have about your cat.