



Vaccinations and your kitten



Vaccination against infectious diseases is one of the most important things you can do for your new kitten to ensure a long and healthy life.

A vaccine is a harmless form of the viruses or bacteria which cause certain diseases. The vaccine stimulates your kitten's immune system to produce antibodies against these diseases, which will then protect him/her if they encounter the real thing later in life.

The antibodies produced in response to the first vaccination only last a few weeks, so your kitten must have a second dose 3-4 weeks later. The second dose produces a much stronger and long-lasting response, giving full protection for at least 12 months. After this primary course, an annual booster vaccination will be needed to maintain protection. We will send you a postal reminder when your kitten is due.

Your kitten is not fully protected until at least seven days after the SECOND dose. Until then, you should keep your kitten confined to the house and do not allow contact with other cats.

Kittens may occasionally be a little quiet or off-colour following vaccination. If you are concerned, please contact your vet for advice.



What diseases do we vaccinate against routinely?

Infectious Enteritis

A highly infectious form of diarrhoea. Less common now due to vaccination, but can still cause rapid death in whole litters of kittens.

Cat 'Flu (Calici/Herpes viruses)

Cat flu is rarely fatal except in young cats, but it causes great suffering and loss of condition, and can cause permanent damage to the eyes and airways.

Feline Leukaemia Virus

A very serious virus, which attacks the immune system. Infected cats cannot be cured, and will usually die of cancer at a young age. Kittens and young cats are most at risk.

What other vaccines are available?

Rabies

The UK is free of the Rabies virus, so vaccination is not routinely required. However, if you plan to emigrate with your pet, or would like to take your cat abroad on holiday under the PETS Travel Scheme, vaccination is essential. Speak to your vet if you would like more information.