



## Vaccinating your Cat

At Lanes Vets we believe that vaccination is an essential part of keeping your cat well. Vaccination protects against a number of life threatening diseases, including Feline Leukaemia, Feline Herpesvirus, Feline Calicivirus, Feline Panleukopaenia, Chlamydia. There is no treatment for many of these diseases and can prove fatal. Vaccination provides a simple form of protection.

Rabies vaccinations are essential if your cat is travelling abroad, please also see the Pet Passport information sheet.

Vaccinating your cat regularly is very important. We perform health checks at vaccination appointments so that we can pick up on any problems at an early stage and make sure that your cat stays well.

## How are vaccines given to my cat?

The majority of vaccines are given by injection under the skin; most cats do not seem to object to this. Following vaccination some animals may be a little lethargic for 24 hours but side effects are rare.

## When should I bring my cat for vaccination?

We recommend all cats are vaccinated as kittens but it is never too late to start a vaccine course to protect your pet.

Kittens can be vaccinated from 9 weeks old with follow on vaccines 3 weeks later. Kittens can go out 2 weeks after the second vaccine.

Booster vaccinations should be given yearly because immunity is not life long and a cat loses its immunity over time leaving your pet at risk of infection.

Rabies vaccines for cats travelling abroad are given every 2 years.

## More about the Diseases.

**Feline Panleucopaenia** (Feline Infectious Enteritis) is a contagious viral disease causing severe vomiting and diarrhoea. This disease is often fatal because it is most common in young unvaccinated kittens and results in severe dehydration within a few days of symptoms developing. Panleucopaenia is spread in the faeces of infected animals and can survive in the environment for extended periods of time acting as a source of infection for other animals.

**Cat Flu (Feline Calicivirus and Feline Herpesvirus).** Nearly all cases of respiratory infection in cats are caused by either calicivirus or herpesvirus. Cat flu is rarely fatal in adult animals but can present a significant risk to young kittens, old cats or those that are already ill for another reason. Once a cat has been infected they will start to sneeze and

can develop eye infections and ulcers in the mouth. A cat can carry the virus long after apparent symptoms have resolved, producing infection in others.

**Feline Leukaemia (FeLV)** is one of the most important viral diseases in cats. A cat can get the virus and not develop disease but in cats that do develop the disease there is no cure and it is fatal. Some treatments can extend the cats life for a time. The virus affects the cat's immune system and leaves it susceptible to other diseases. FeLV can also cause fatal cancers and tumours. This virus is spread by close contact with an infected cat so cats that go outside are at risk.

**Chlamydia** is a bacterial infection, which can cause painful eye infections and ulcers as well as infertility in some female cats. It is of biggest significance where large numbers of cats are housed together such as catteries and breeding establishments. Once the infection has been introduced into a colony it is difficult to eradicate. A long course of antibiotic can treat the infection but it often comes back. Cats living on their own are at minimal risk.

**Rabies** is a viral infection and is not present in this country. If your cat is travelling abroad it is a legal requirement to have a rabies vaccine every three years.

## Pet Health Plans

At Lanes Vets we provide the option of joining our VIP Pet Health Plan. The plan allows you to spread the cost of vaccination, worming and flea control over 12 months, as a direct debit. Please ask for details.

## Lanes Vets Locations & Contact Information.

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The information contained within this factsheet and the Lanes Vets website is provided by qualified, practicing professionals in good faith. The information is not intended to replace the advice of your own veterinarian nor should persons use this information as a basis for diagnosis of any animal(s).