

Cat Vaccinations

When to vaccinate your cat

Kittens are old enough to be vaccinated once they are 8-9 weeks old. They will have an initial injection, and then a second at 12 weeks of age.

Cats should then have an annual vaccination appointment each year, throughout their lives, in order keep their immunity topped up and maintain protection.

For adult cats, if you are not sure if your cat has had vaccinations previously, or if you know that they have not had a vaccination appointment within the last 12 months, your cat may need to restart their vaccinations with a primary course, just as if they were a kitten.

Although your cat will need a vaccination appointment every year, not all the vaccines will be given at every appointment. This is because different vaccines last for different amounts of time.



Core vaccinations

All cats in the UK, even indoor cats, need to be vaccinated against:

- **Cat flu:**
 - Protects against **Feline Herpes Virus** and **Calicivirus**
 - Both feline herpesvirus and feline calicivirus are contagious and are usually transmitted by direct or close contact between cats, such as in sneeze droplets or discharge from the eyes. They may also survive for periods in the environment and so could be transmitted via food bowls, bedding and litter trays.
- **Feline parvovirus:**
 - Also known as '**Panleukopenia**'/'**Infectious Enteritis**'
 - This is a highly contagious disease, which can be spread through bodily fluids, faeces and fleas as well as contaminated items such as food bowls, bedding and contact by hands. Unfortunately this virus is able to survive for up to several years in the environment, and is resistant to many disinfectants.

If your cat goes outside, even just in your garden, they also need a vaccine for:

- **Feline Leukaemia Virus (FeLV):**
 - This virus attacks the immune system and leaves cats more susceptible to infection and illness, as well as being prone to developing certain cancers. The disease can be transmitted from other infected cats by mutual grooming, sharing food and water, bites from infected cats or may be passed on from a queen to her kittens.
 - As this disease is only passed via bodily fluids, indoor cats may not require a vaccination against feline leukaemia.

Additional vaccinations:

- Rabies – necessary for cats that travel outside of the UK

Vaccinations are especially important (usually compulsory), for cats staying at a cattery.

To book in for your pet in for a health check, please call us on 01423 228080 or visit www.clarohillvets.co.uk