

Cat Vaccinations Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many vaccinations does my kitten need?

We offer kittens a course of two vaccinations. They are given at 8-9 weeks of age and the second is given 4 weeks later, but kittens must be 12 weeks if age,

2. How soon can my kitten go outside after having their vaccinations?

Your kitten will have immunity ten days after their second vaccination, however we recommend that kitten does not go outside until they have been neutered. It is really important that your kitten is familiar with their surroundings so that they know where home is. You also want to make sure your kitten is big enough and wise enough to explore the 'big wide world'. Letting your kitten out before neutering can also lead to unwanted litters of kittens!

3. What should I vaccinate my cat against?

We recommend annual vaccination for cats, the vaccine we offer covers against:

- ☛ Feline infectious enteritis (FIE, feline panleukopenia, feline parvovirus)
- ☛ Feline herpesvirus (FHV-1) and feline calicivirus (FCV) – Cat 'flu
- ☛ Feline chlamydophilosis (Chlamydomphila felis, feline chlamydomphila infection)
- ☛ Feline leukaemia virus (FeLV)

4. Does my cat have to be vaccinated every year?

Yes – kittens do not gain lifetime immunity from their initial vaccination course. Viruses change (think flu) over time and by regularly vaccinating your cat they will be covered for the new emerging strains that may not have been around a few years ago. In areas with low vaccination rates many of these diseases are very common. This demonstrates that these diseases are still out there and not eradicated. It is heart-breaking to see an animal die of a readily preventable disease.

5. My cat has missed its annual booster, what should I do?

If your cat has been unvaccinated for less than two years, only one vaccine required to regain immunity. However, if your cat has been unvaccinated for more than 2 years, they will need a course of two vaccinations 4 weeks apart.

6. Is it a legal requirement for my cat to be vaccinated?

No, it is not a legal requirement for cats to be vaccinated in the UK. However, your cat may not be accepted to a cattery without its vaccinations being up to date. Cats cannot travel abroad without annual vaccinations and your cat's insurance policy may be affected if you do not ensure your cat is up to date with its vaccinations.