



Saint Mary Animal Hospital
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I. FVRCP

Often referred to as the “Feline Distemper Combination”, though not related to the Canine Distemper Virus, the 3 in 1 vaccination provides protection from

1- Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR)

It is a respiratory problem, like the flu. FVR is very contagious, and spreads like other respiratory diseases, by coughing & sneezing on others. It is very serious in young kittens. It also causes ulceration of the eye cornea, nasal planum

2- Calicivirus

It is a respiratory virus, causing oral ulcers and blisters, leading to pneumonia & possibly death. It is widespread, and highly contagious

3- Panleukopenia

It is the distemper shot for cats, and is the most important vaccine for cats. The disease is caused by feline parvovirus; feline distemper is a virus that usually causes death, and is very contagious through feces, vomits, and sputum.

. This vaccination should start between 8 -10 weeks-of-age in healthy cats, boosted every 2-4 weeks until at least 12 weeks-of-age, then annually. Advise your doctor if your cat or kitten has had any recent changes in health, weight, or is **pregnant** before vaccinating.

II. Feline Leukemia (FeLV)

This virus causes fatal infection in cats if they become persistently viremic or develop tumors. Cats can be born with this virus, or contract it from other cats. However, the virus can be prevented if the cat is not already infected. Therefore, we recommend vaccinating because there is no cure once a cat become persistently viremic or develop tumors. We also recommend the **FeLV test** to all cat owners if their cat has never been tested.

III. Rabies

Rabies is a fatal virus that affects the central nervous system of almost all mammals. The virus is most common in cats, bats, dogs, and raccoons. Rabies vaccinations should be given at 12 or 16 weeks (according to state law), boosted in 1 year, then boosted every 1 or 3 years depending on the vaccine used.

Related Feline Diagnostic Disease Testing

I. Feline Leukemia (FeLV) Test

The **Feline Leukemia Test** is available to determine the **FeLV status** of the individual cat. If the cat is negative, the Feline Leukemia vaccination is recommended especially where cats have a higher risk of exposure such as in catteries or multiple cat households. The test is done in-house and results can be obtained in 20 minute

Leukemia testing is performed with a blood sample. Depending on the territory, the test may be performed immediately in house while the customer waits for the result or, alternatively, the tests may be sent out to reference laboratory. Cats can be tested as young as 9 weeks of age, but **any positive result in a young cat should be re-tested in 3 months, as the cat can fight off the infection and then be negative.**

Cats with oral ulcers, chronic diarrhea, fever and wasting, or exposed to multiple cats should be tested for leukemia. It should be recommended that all kittens be tested as leukemia can be passed to the kitten from the mother. Once cats are tested negative, they should receive leukemia vaccination. If pre-vaccination testing is not done, the client should be advised that their cat might already be infected with the virus. If that is the case, vaccination will not hurt the animal, but the onset of signs of the disease will usually occur from months to several years later.

II. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus - FIV (Feline AIDS)

This test is performed with a blood sample. Also, any cat tested for FIV that is under 6 months of age should be re-tested after 6 months of age because the kitten can become negative. A cat can be positive for either Leukemia or AIDS, or both. The test is done in-house and results can be obtained in 20 minutes

FIV is fatal once a cat is infected, there is no cure. It is just like human HIV, or AIDS. It causes problems with the immune system, making the cat susceptible to serious illness or death from things that normally aren't severe. For example, a cold becomes pneumonia and can kill in an FIV infected cat.