



Vaccination Policy

The European Advisory Board of Cat Diseases (**ABCD**) have published consensus guidelines suggesting vaccination protocols for cats in Europe. They recommend that we should aim to vaccinate the maximum possible number of cats, but to avoid “over-vaccination” of each individual cat:

Aim to vaccinate more cats, but less often

Their recommendations are based on the best scientific information that is available, and have been developed after discussions between all members of the Board – 17 feline infectious disease experts from a range of European countries.

Their recommendations are not in-line with the vaccine manufacturer’s data-sheets. This is because the manufacturers’ recommendations are based on their own studies that prove that their vaccines do provide cover for 1 year, but they do not have to look at how long beyond that the immunity continues. Some independent studies have now been done, and it is clear that for some diseases the vaccines do last for longer than 1 year, but the vaccine companies cannot recommend vaccinating less often because they would have to run very expensive studies if they wanted to change their data sheet recommendations.

Vaccinating every year certainly ensures the best protection that can be achieved, but there are concerns about the possibility of side effects from vaccines, and the more often a vaccine is given the more likely it is that a cat will suffer from side effects. These side effects do happen – they are rare, and they are usually mild, and they usually settle down within a short space of time – BUT sometimes they are very serious, and very rarely they are even fatal ... so we do need to be careful that we don’t cause side effects more often than we have to. This means that our aim is to:

Vaccinate more cats, but less often and in accordance with what we assess the risk to be within our local environment



We therefore plan to adopt the **ABCD guide-lines** for most of our patients. This means that we will be recommending:

- **Feline Panleukopenia** (“P” part of PureVax Vaccine) – vaccination is required for *all* cats, even indoor only cats, because the virus is common in the environment and can be transmitted via fomites (shoes, clothes, baskets etc). Our vaccination recommendations are in line with the data-sheet:

Kittens need two vaccinations 3-4 weeks apart, starting at 8-9 weeks old.

First booster 1 year later

Further boosters every 3 years after that.

- **Feline Herpesvirus and Calicivirus** (the “RC” part of PureVax Vaccine). Vaccination is required for *all* cats, even indoor only cats, because the virus is common in the environment and can be transmitted via fomites (shoes, clothes, baskets etc). Vaccination prevents severe signs of disease but does *not* prevent infection, carrier status and shedding. Our vaccination recommendations are in line with the data-sheet:

Kittens need two vaccinations, at 3-4 weeks apart, starting at around 9 weeks of age.

Boosters are needed annually.

- **Feline Leukaemia** (the “FeLV” part of PureVax Vaccine): recommended for all cats that have free access to the outdoors. Our vaccination policy is *not* in line with the data-sheet:

Kittens need two vaccinations - at 8-9 weeks of age and again at 12 weeks of age

First booster 1 year later

Second booster 1 year later

Booster vaccines every 3 years after that.



SUMMARY

Outdoor Cats

- Kittens RCPFeLV at 9 weeks, 12-13 weeks, and 1 year
- At 2 years: RCFeLV
- At 3 years: RC only
- Thereafter – RC every year, FeLV every third year, P every 3 years

Indoor Only Cats

- Kittens RCP at 9 weeks, 12-13 weeks, and 1 year
- At 2 years – RC only
- At 3 years – RC only
- At 4 years – RCP
- Thereafter RC every year, P every three years

Please remember that in addition to having their vaccination, your cat also gets a very important Health-check including mouth/teeth, listening to heart and lungs and checking for abnormalities felt within the abdomen and signs of parasites. We hope that in carrying out the Health-check we can pick up signs of problems at an earlier stage, which may allow us to intervene or provide supportive treatment and thus hopefully extending quality of life for your cat. It is also a chance to discuss any concerns you may have including weight/diet and parasite treatment or any behavioural changes, with the Vet.