



Vaccines are health products that trigger protective immune responses in pets and prepare them to fight future infections from disease-causing agents. Vaccines can lessen the severity of future diseases and certain vaccines can prevent infection altogether. Today a variety of vaccines are available for use by veterinarians.

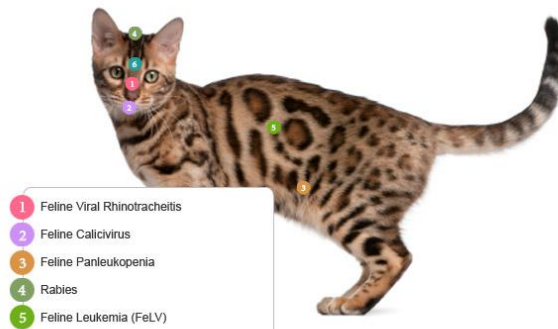
### FELINE VACCINES:

**FVRCP**→This vaccine protects a cat against Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia

- **Rhinotracheitis** is triggered by the common feline herpes virus. Symptoms can include sneezing, nasal discharge and drooling. A cat's eyes may become crusted with mucous and he or she may sleep much more and eat much less than normal. If left untreated, this disease can cause dehydration, starvation and eventually, death.
- **Calicivirus** can have similar symptoms, as it affects the respiratory system and also causes ulcers in the mouth. It can result in pneumonia if left untreated--kittens and senior cats are especially vulnerable.
- **Panleukopenia**, also known as feline distemper, is easily spread from one cat to another. Distemper is so common that nearly all cats--regardless of breed or living conditions--will be exposed to in their lifetime. It's especially common in kittens who have not yet been vaccinated. Symptoms include fever, vomiting and bloody diarrhea. This disease progresses rapidly and requires immediate medical attention. Without intervention, a cat can die within 12 hours of contracting the disease.
- ★ These three viruses can be contracted by cats at any age. Kittens should receive their first FVRCP vaccination at 6-8 weeks of age, followed by two boosters every 4 weeks. Adult cats should receive a booster once every 2-3 years, per our veterinarian's recommendation. Adult cats with unknown vaccination records should receive a FVRCP vaccination, plus a booster 2-4 weeks afterwards. OAH considers this a core vaccine.

**Feline Leukemia Vaccine:** Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is moderately contagious and is generally transmitted when a cat comes into contact with saliva from an infected cat (via social behaviors such as mutual grooming and sharing of food and water bowls). In-utero, mother-to-kitten transmission can also occur. Because FeLV can affect almost any organ system in the body, clinical signs can vary. In fact, some cats can seem perfectly healthy but can still transmit the disease to others.

At OAH we follow the Feline Practitioners Guidelines and vaccinate kittens with 2 vaccines, spaced 3-4 weeks apart. After that, cats are vaccinated according to their lifestyle. Indoor/outdoor and outdoor cats are most at risk for contracting this disease so may benefit from yearly vaccination



**Rabies:** Rabies is an infectious viral disease that is always fatal following the onset of clinical symptoms. In up to 99% of cases, domestic dogs are responsible for rabies virus transmission to humans. Yet, rabies can affect both domestic and wild animals. It is spread to people through bites or scratches, usually via saliva.

This vaccine is typically given to puppies and kittens around 16 weeks of age. The first time an animal gets a rabies vaccine, it lasts for 1 year. Both dogs and cats receive a 3 year vaccine thereafter. Rabies vaccination is required by state law for dogs and is recommended in cats, even if they don't go outside. OAH considers rabies a core vaccine.

***Prevention is better than cure, especially if something has no cure.***