

Middletown Animal Hospital
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Vaccination of Your Cat

As the owner of a new kitten, you should be aware that young animals are susceptible to many infectious, potentially fatal diseases. Fortunately, there are safe, effective vaccines that when properly administered prevent or limit the common diseases and provide long term protection. The following describes the vaccines available at the Middletown Animal Hospital and the diseases they help prevent.

1. **FVRCP** -- Recommended for all kittens. It can be started as early as 6 weeks of age and requires a series of injections to initially vaccinate. A booster is required 1 year after the initial series and bi-annually thereafter. This vaccine provides protection against the following diseases:

Feline Rhinotracheitis and Calici Virus -- Two highly contagious and sometimes fatal upper respiratory viral diseases.

Feline Panleukopenia -- A highly contagious, often fatal viral disease of cats. It causes fever, vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration. It is also known as Feline Distemper.

2. **Rabies Vaccine** -- Recommended for all kittens. Rabies is a fatal viral disease of the nervous system that is contagious to and fatal to people. It is a serious public health threat due to animal bites and exposure to rabid wildlife. The first vaccine lasts one year. After one year a booster is given that will last for one or three years, depending on the type of vaccine given. If the initial vaccine was given elsewhere then written proof of this vaccine will be required. The law states that if no written proof is available the vaccine will be considered the first vaccine and will be good for only one year.

3. **Feline Leukemia Vaccine** -- Feline Leukemia is a fatal virus that causes a variety of diseases, from immune suppression to severe anemia and cancer. The virus is spread by direct contact with a cat that has the disease. Outdoor cats or those exposed to other cats (multiple cat households, cats in boarding or similar facilities) are at the highest risk for contracting this disease. This vaccine is recommended for many cats and will be discussed with you by one of the veterinarians. Initially two vaccines are required 2-4 weeks apart starting no earlier than 12 weeks of age. A booster vaccine is given yearly.

The doctors and staff of the Middletown Animal Hospital wish you and your cat a happy and healthy lifetime together. Please feel free to ask any questions concerning vaccinations or other preventative medical procedures.