

**Jefferson Animal Hospital &
Regional Emergency Center**
4504 Outer Loop / P. O. Box 19378
Louisville, KY 40219
Phone 502.966.4104
Fax 502.966.3904
Email jahdoctor@aol.com

Jefferson Animal Hospitals
www.jeffersonanimalhospital.com

Jefferson Animal Hospital East
5400 Del Maria Way
Louisville, KY 40291
Phone 502.499.6535
Fax 502.495.6325
Email jaheast@aol.com

Don't Over Vaccinate Your Cat

Jefferson Animal Hospitals' doctors and staff are dedicated to providing your pet with optimum healthcare. Recent research has shown that most cats maintain good immunity to some diseases for longer than one year. It is still vital for your cat to have an annual physical exam.

Why Vaccinate?

Vaccines perform the vital function of preventing many diseases that otherwise could bring severe illness and premature death to our pets. Because vaccines are so important in preserving and protecting the health of our pets, our goal is to vaccinate sufficiently without risking possible side effects or immune compromising diseases unnecessarily.

Potential Problems

Any vaccination can cause mild to moderate reactions such as fever, lethargy, hives, facial swelling, vomiting, and diarrhea. Call your veterinarian right away if these symptoms occur. In rare instances, moments after the vaccine is given, severe reactions can occur such as anaphylactic shock and cardiac arrest—which are potentially fatal. A lump appearing at the injection site can also indicate a problem. Research has shown that a vaccine-associated sarcoma, a rare type of cancer, can possibly develop at the site of the vaccination—usually months or years later. Because of this rare reaction Jefferson Animal Hospital will only vaccinate your pet when needed. If your pet is to receive the Feline Leukemia vaccine, we advise to give this vaccination three weeks following the Rabies and Feline Distemper (FVRCP) so as not to overload your pet's immune system. If your cat has a history of a reaction to any vaccine, precautionary oral or injectable antihistamines may be recommended by your Veterinarian.

Kittens

Kittens under 16 weeks of age will continue their series of boosters. It takes multiple vaccinations in a series to develop its immunity to these diseases.

Core Vaccinations

The AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) and AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) has determined through intensive research that the Rabies vaccination and FVRCP (feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia) are the Core Vaccinations to be given to all healthy cats. Feline Leukemia vaccinations should be given to cats that have exposure to outdoors or exposure to other cats not tested. When your cat is examined, our doctors will consider your cat's individual health condition, age and lifestyle to determine his/her needs for vaccinations. Over-vaccinating your cat can be dangerous to his/her health.

Vaccination Necessity Table

Vaccine	Why Vaccinate?	Who Needs This Vaccine?
Rabies	Fatal disease for all warm-blooded animals including humans. Due to human health concerns vaccinating all cats is required by law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Healthy Cats over 4 months of age. • 1-Year or 3-Year Rabies.
Feline Distemper (FVRCP)	<p>Panleukopenia (Distemper) causes severe diarrhea and can be fatal.</p> <p>Rhinotracheitis and Calici cause severe sneezing and nasal congestion and potentially lead to fatal complications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitten series beginning at 6 weeks old • Adult indoor cats given every other year • Outdoor, boarding, traveling cats given yearly lead to fatal complications.
Feline Leukemia	Viral disease acquired by intimate contact with exposure to any other possibly infected cat, causes cancers, infections, neurological disorders, anemia, suppressed immune system and is ultimately fatal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor, boarding, traveling cats or any cat with infected cat (mating, fighting, grooming, etc).