



Vaccination and Preventative Care Recommendations for ADULT FELINE (CAT) PATIENTS

Vaccination and prevention of many diseases is highly recommended in order to keep our pets and working animals healthy and safe. There are many preventable diseases that are very difficult and expensive to treat. Many of these diseases cause serious health problems that can lead to permanent damage and even death. Prevention keeps our patients healthier, increases their life expectancy, improves athletic ability, and is often much less expensive than treating the diseases after they become a problem.

VACCINATIONS:

Rabies: REQUIRED by LAW. The first vaccine is valid for 1 year, boosters are valid for 3 years if given on time. Rabies is a fatal disease that is transmissible to humans. There is no treatment or cure.

Distemper Vaccination: This vaccination protects against many viruses. It is recommended for all patients every year. The distemper vaccine includes protection against the following diseases:

Feline Calicivirus: a member of the “feline respiratory disease complex”. It is a virus that attacks the respiratory system. This virus is easily transmitted through the air, can progress to pneumonia, and can be deadly in young, old, and malnourished patients.

Feline Chlamydia (pneumonitis): another member of the “feline respiratory disease complex”. It is a virus that attacks the respiratory system. This virus is easily transmitted through the air, can progress to pneumonia, and can be deadly in young, old, and malnourished patients.

Feline Rhinotracheitis: a third member of the “feline respiratory disease complex”. It is a virus that attacks the respiratory system. This virus is easily transmitted through the air, can progress to pneumonia, and can be deadly in young, old, and malnourished patients.

Feline Panleukopenia: a virus that attacks the gastrointestinal and blood systems. There is no cure for this virus and death is common.

Feline Leukemia: a viral disease that attacks the immune system and eventually causes death. There is no cure for this virus and it is frequently transmitted from cat to cat. Patients can be born with this disease. Outdoor cats, cats that have been in a shelter, kennel, or pet store, and cats that have not been spayed or neutered are especially susceptible to this disease.

Kennel cough: This vaccine protects against the most common type of kennel cough. Kennel cough can be difficult to treat and can progress to pneumonia in severe cases. Patients that go to kennels and groomers are the most susceptible to this disease. The vaccine is recommended every 6 months to high risk patients.

Other prevention:

Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) Testing: These diseases are very contagious and fatal. There is no cure for either disease. Knowing your pet has one or both of these diseases is important. Feline Leukemia is preventable with a vaccine. Testing is recommended annually for cats that spend time outdoors. Testing is also recommended for new cats before they are introduced to the household, any cat that is sick or has reoccurring infections, cats that have been exposed to infected cats, and cats that tend to fight with other cats. This test also checks for HEARTWORMS in cats.

Feline Heartworm Disease: This disease is transmitted by mosquito, is very common in this area, causes multiple health problems, can be fatal, and is easy to prevent. There is no treatment for heartworm disease in cats. Testing is recommended. A monthly preventative is available for all cats.

Fecal Test: This test is inexpensive and checks for intestinal parasites/worms. Many parasites are transmissible to humans, especially children. Parasites can cause many health problems, including death in severe cases and in young animals. Many parasites are easy to treat if caught early enough.

Deworming: All dogs and cats are susceptible to intestinal parasites. Many types of parasites are present in the soil, outdoor water supply, wildlife, and other animals. Some parasites are visible in the stool but most are too small to see. Periodic deworming helps to decrease the health problems caused by parasites and also decreases transmission rate to humans.

Please don't hesitate to ask about what preventative care program would be best suited for you and your pets...
quality preventative care improves the life of all your special family members!