

Should your cat be vaccinated?

All healthy cats should be vaccinated to give them the best chance of protection from diseases which are transmitted from other cats.

If your cat is unwell or has an underlying disease, your veterinarian may advise delaying vaccination while treatment is underway. Once your cat is back in full health, vaccination may be considered to ensure maximum protection is reinstated.

What is the vaccination process?

Kittens and previously unvaccinated or lapsed adult cats require a primary course of vaccinations.

Your vet will discuss with you how many are given and at what intervals. Regular repeat vaccinations as an adult boost their immunity, and are important to do at the recommended interval so they remain protected.

After vaccination care

Your cat may be lethargic and off it's food for a day or two following vaccination, or may have some slight swelling or tenderness at the injection site. If this happens, make sure your cat is warm and cosy, has a quiet soft place to rest and has easy access to food & water. If their response seems more severe, you should contact your veterinarian for further advice.



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Zoetis New Zealand Limited. Level 5, 8 Mahuhu Crescent,
Auckland 1010, New Zealand. Tel: 0800 963 847,
Fax: 0800 628 629. www.zoetis.co.nz CA131

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Vaccination and your **cat**

> Their health and wellbeing depends on you.



Is your precious cat protected against deadly diseases?

Your cat may be independent, but his or her health still depends on you!

Cats are natural roamers. The more this natural habit brings them into contact with other animals, the more it increases their exposure to infectious diseases.

Fortunately many diseases of cats can be prevented by vaccination.

Diseases your cat can be protected against...

Feline panleukopenia (FPL)

Feline panleukopenia virus (sometimes called feline enteritis) is highly contagious and can affect cats of any age. It causes:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Dehydration
- Weakness
- Shaking
- Collapse



The disease is severe with a high death rate seen especially in kittens. It is very similar to canine parvovirus, found in dogs which also causes severe clinical disease.

Feline respiratory disease (cat flu)

Respiratory disease - also known as cat flu has many causative agents just as human colds and flu's do.

These organisms readily pass from one cat to another when an infected cat coughs or sneezes, releasing droplets into the air. In kittens this disease can be especially debilitating and they may die from respiratory disease complications.

Cats infected with respiratory disease may have:

- Inflamed watery eyes
- Sticky discharge coming from both the nose and eyes
- Mouth sores
- Fever

Cats infected with respiratory virus feel and look miserable.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

FIV is a virus transmitted during cat fights through biting. Every time a cat goes outside it may be potentially at risk of being bitten by an already infected cat. The virus decreases the cat's immunity.

Later, it may progress into feline AIDS and lead to an increase in infections and some types of cancer.

Cats often lose weight; their appetite decreases as the underlying disease conditions progresses. Eventually the immune system becomes too weak to fight off other infections or diseases. As a result, your cat may die from one of these subsequent infections.

Feline leukaemia (FeLV)

Feline leukaemia virus suppresses a cat's immune system, leaving it unable to fight off infections. In a small number of cats it also causes cancer. The incidence of this disease in New Zealand is thought to be relatively low, but exact figures are not known.

How can I protect my cat against these diseases?

Vaccination can provide protection against each of these diseases. Vaccination works by preparing your cat's own immune system to recognise these viruses or bacteria when it comes into contact with them.

Vaccines stimulate the immune system to respond, but do not cause the disease themselves.

Vaccines against FPL, cat flu, FIV & FeLV are available from your veterinarian in New Zealand.

Which vaccines should my cat be given?

Your veterinarian is your key partner when making these decisions for your cat. During the consultation, your vet will discuss your cat's health and ask questions about your cat's lifestyle. Your veterinarian will then assess your cat's risk factors and provide their recommendation to you.