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FELINE IMMUNIZATIONS

Many of the serious diseases of cats are preventable by vaccination. Even if you always keep your cat indoors, he/she can be exposed to viruses carried in the air, in dust, or on clothing. Immunization is inexpensive protection against costly treatment, or even premature death of your cat.

FELINE PANLEUKOPENIA

Known as “cat distemper”, panleukopenia is a highly contagious and often fatal disease in young cats. It is easily transmitted from cat to cat. Signs include depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea. Kittens can become infected before birth, resulting in neurologic problems such as incoordination.

FELINE RESPIRATORY COMPLEX

Several different infectious agents are responsible for feline respiratory disease. These diseases include Rhinotracheitis virus, Calici virus, Feline Herpes virus, and Chlamydia. All are highly contagious and are widespread. High death rates occur in young cats and old cats. Signs of these diseases include sneezing, fever, nasal discharges, runny nose, coughing, Conjunctivitis (eyelid infections), mouth ulcers, and general depression. Even a stray cat that seems healthy may be a “carrier” infecting your cat, even through a screen window. Protection against Rhinotracheitis virus and Calici virus is included in a single vaccination. A series of vaccinations is necessary to build the antibody protection needed to help your cat develop a high degree of immunity against these diseases.

FELINE LEUKEMIA (FeLV)

Feline leukemia is a viral disease that is transmitted through blood and saliva. The virus is a cancer-causing virus that often suppresses a cat’s ability to fight other infections. Kittens can be born with the virus. Cats can have the leukemia virus for years before showing signs of the disease. Feline Leukemia is not transmissible to humans or dogs. Wild cats, cats living in multi-cat households and cats with outdoor access are at the greatest risk of contracting FeLV. All cats receiving the FeLV vaccine for the first time must first be tested for the disease.

RABIES

Rabies is a fatal infection of the nervous system that attacks all warm-blooded animals, including humans. Cats have outnumbered dogs in reported cases since 1981. Rabies is a public health hazard and personal risk to you. It is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Even indoor cats may be infected through contact with a carrier (such as bats, raccoons, skunks) in a basement, garage, or attic. Because there is no cure for rabies, vaccination is your cat’s only protection.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

The virus that causes FIV is similar to the virus that causes AIDS in humans. However, FIV cannot be transmitted to humans. FIV attacks a cat’s immune system, making the cat unable to fight even the simplest infection. The virus is spread through bodily fluids such as saliva and blood. Wild cats, cats living in multi-cat households, and cats with outdoor access are at the greatest risk of contracting FIV.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

The virus that causes FIP is a mutant of the Feline Corona virus. Signs include loss of weight, labored breathing, enlarged abdomen, and generalized illness. There is no successful treatment once signs appear!

VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

It is very important that your cat receive a complete series of vaccinations as a kitten. As is said—an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The cost of a complete vaccination series can save you the heartache and expense of an ill pet in the future.

At Grand Coulee Veterinary Clinic, the doctors and staff do their best to provide you with the most up to date vaccination recommendations and the best possible care for your pet. Therefore, our clinic recommends the follow vaccination plan for kittens and adult cats.

It is very important that your kitten and adult cat receive their booster at the appropriate time. Even a few weeks lapse between vaccinations can make your cat open to becoming sick.

OUTDOOR CAT PROTOCOL

If your cat is going to spend a portion of its day outside or if your cat lives indoors but has contact with a cat that goes outdoors, the following protocol is recommended:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Vaccination</u>
8weeks	FeLV Test FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia Virus) Deworming Fecal Examination
12 weeks	FVRCP FeLV Deworming
15 weeks	FeLV Rabies Deworming
Adult	FVRCP FeLV* Deworming Rabies[†]

* FeLV vaccine is optional for middle aged to older cats

[†] Rabies vaccination is due every 3 years after the booster at 1 year of age. Other vaccinations are due on a yearly basis

INDOOR CAT PROTOCOL

If your cat is going to be strictly indoors and does not contact a cat that goes outdoors then the following protocol is recommended:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Vaccination</u>
8weeks	FeLV Test FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia Virus) Deworming Fecal Examination
12 weeks	FVRCP Rabies Deworming
Adult	FVRCP Deworming Rabies[†]

[†] Rabies vaccination is due every 3 years after the booster at 1 year of age. Other vaccinations are due on a yearly basis

FIV, FIP, Bordatella, and Ringworm vaccines are not considered core vaccinations and are therefore not recommended.

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Remember, you can always count on the doctors and staff at Grand Coulee Veterinary Clinic to provide you and your pet with the best possible care and service.