



## FELINE VACCINE SCHEDULE

### CORE VACCINES

- These diseases involved have significant morbidity/mortality rates and are widely distributed throughout the population
- Vaccination results in relatively good protection from diseases

### DISTEMPER

- **Under the age of 16 weeks**
  - Between the ages of 6 weeks and 16 weeks of age the kitten will receive a vaccine every 3 weeks
  - Kittens presented at the age of 16 weeks should receive two vaccines three weeks apart
  - Kittens that are in a high-risk environment should have their final vaccine between the ages of 16 and 20 weeks
  - High-risk environments include
    - High occurrence of distemper positive cases in the population
    - Kitten with significant exposure to other cats or contaminated environments
- **16 to 20-weeks old**
  - Two vaccines three weeks apart
- **Boosters**
  - All cats will need a booster in one year
  - This vaccine will then provide 3 years of protection

### RABIES

- **One vaccine for all kittens no earlier than 12-weeks old**
- **Boosters**
  - A second dose is required within a year of the initial vaccine
  - We offer a 1yr vaccine or a 3yr vaccine but prefer to use the 1yr vaccine due to safety reasons for your cat
    - A non-adjuvant vaccine (1yr)
      - The vaccine strain in the vaccine is a "carrier" virus that has been given a gene that makes it able to produce part of rabies virus called "glycoprotein G"
      - When a cat is given the vaccine, the immune system recognizes the rabies glycoprotein G as "foreign" and makes antibodies against it so the immune system can respond and protect against infection if exposed to the rabies virus in real life
      - The vaccine delivers everything needed to induce immunity without any of the unnecessary adjuvants that have posed risk to feline patients in the past, such as injection site reactions, chronic inflammation, and cancerous growth formation
    - An adjuvant vaccine (3yr)
      - A substance is added to the vaccine to stimulate the immune system and increase the effectiveness of the vaccine
      - In recent years some of the vaccines carrying an adjuvant have been linked to serious vaccine reactions like chronic injection site inflammation and cancerous growth formation

### NON-CORE VACCINES

- Optional vaccine that should be considered in light of the exposure risk if your pet goes outside unsupervised

### LEUKEMIA

- **As early as eight weeks old all kittens can receive 2 vaccines three weeks apart**
  - Kittens/cats should test negative for feline leukemia and feline AIDS before the vaccine is given
  - Cats should be tested annually because of the possibility of exposure and infection