



EASTGATE VETERINARY CENTRE

133 Eastgate  
Pickering  
N. Yorkshire  
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### Vaccinating your Cat

We recommend annual vaccination for all cats and kittens. Vaccination gives immunity to a number of often fatal diseases that are very difficult or impossible to treat if caught. Vaccination is the only effective way to protect your pet from these conditions. Annual vaccination also allows your cat to have a check up for general health, and gives you the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns you might have about your pet with a vet.

#### Starting Vaccinations

Vaccinations can be started from 9 weeks of age in kittens, and any age in adults. Cats that have not been vaccinated or whose vaccinations have lapsed by a significant amount are required to have an initial course of two injections 3 weeks apart. Vaccinations take a short amount of time to work, so we recommend leaving a week between the initial course of vaccination and allowing your cat out to mix with other cats. Annual boosters are required to maintain good immunity throughout your pet's life.

#### Boosters

Immunity to disease doesn't last indefinitely, and will gradually fade, leaving your cat at risk. Annual boosters are required to ensure your cat maintains life-long protection.

#### Record of vaccination

On completion of your cat's primary course, you'll be given a certificate that contains a record of the vaccination and tells you when the next booster is due. Catteries, cat shows and vets will need to see this certificate, so always keep it in a safe place.

#### What diseases do we vaccinate against in the UK?

##### ***Cat 'Flu (Feline Infectious Respiratory Disease)***

Common in the UK, and can be very serious, especially in kittens and elderly cats. It is spread between cats by direct contact or through sneezing. Several microbes are known to cause the disease, all producing similar symptoms such as a runny nose and eyes, high temperatures and extreme lethargy. Vaccines are available for most of the agents that cause cat 'flu and regular vaccination is the best means of keeping the disease at bay.

##### ***Infectious Enteritis (Feline Panleucopenia or Feline Parvovirus)***

An unpleasant and often fatal virus that attacks the gut. It causes fever, severe vomiting, bloody diarrhoea and eventually death. Cases are more often seen in feral cats.

##### ***Feline Leukaemia***

A viral disease, transmitted in the blood and saliva when cats fight each other - or even during grooming. The disease can take months to develop after infection but then it begins to suppress the cat's immune system, causing secondary infections, tumours and death. Vaccination is bringing this disease under control, but it is still common in feral cat populations.

##### ***Rabies***

A fatal disease, not found in the UK. Vaccination is mandatory if you plan to take your cat abroad.

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