

Juvenile Feline Wellness Program

Kitten Wellness Schedule Vaccinate, Vaccinate, Vaccinate!

6 weeks of age

- Comprehensive Physical Exam
- FVRCP Vaccine (Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia, & Chlamydia psittaci Vaccine)
- Pyrantel® Dewormer

8 weeks of age

- Comprehensive Physical Exam
- Hills® & Merial® Puppy Kit
- FVRCP Vaccine: Booster #1
- FeLV/FIV Testing
- FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus Vaccine - Indoor/Outdoor)
- First Dose of Revolution®

12 weeks of age

- Comprehensive Physical Exam
- DA2PP Vaccine
- FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus Vaccine - Indoor/Outdoor)
- FeLV Booster (Indoor/Outdoor)
- Revolution®

16 weeks of age

- Comprehensive Physical Exam
- FVRCP/Rabies Combination Vaccine
- Revolution®
- Neuter/Spay and Declaw

For more information, visit the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) website at www.catvets.com

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Wellness Vaccinations

Vaccines are the most important component of any wellness program. Vaccines stimulate immunity against the common contagious feline diseases which ensures that your kitten starts off on the right paw.

Kittens are typically vaccinated with FVRCP two to four times in the first year, depending on how old they are at the time of their first vaccination. We prefer to vaccinate for the first time at 6 weeks of age, then at 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age, primarily because animals can be exposed to these contagious diseases at young ages.

Once kittens are weaned at six weeks, they stop receiving the important immunities passed through their mother's milk. As the passive immunity declines, puppies become increasingly vulnerable to diseases. The protective passive immunity also interferes with the immunity generated by our vaccine making the early doses less effective. However, the immunity of vaccinated young puppies is far better than that of unvaccinated puppies. Once the passive immunity is completely gone (around 12 weeks) we vaccinate two more times. We can expect a full immune response by 17 weeks of age, and at that time we consider your kitten vaccinated if they have received our complete recommended vaccination protocol.

Although this is the best way to stimulate immunity, there is still the possibility for your puppy to become infected with one of these diseases if they are exposed to unvaccinated animals before 17 weeks of age.

Wellness Internal Parasite Control

Internal parasites continue to plague our pet population even today. Many of these parasites reside in the digestive tract of your pet. Your pet becomes infected by ingesting eggs or immature larvae from the environment. Cats can pick these up anywhere including your yard and the park. Some of these parasites absorb nutrients from the food of your pet while others suck blood from the intestinal walls.

Either way, if these parasites are present in large enough numbers they can cause some serious problems. Some of these parasites even have the potential to cause disease in people, especially young children and pregnant women. Once monthly Revolution® kills the worms in the digestive tract and decreases fecal shedding of their eggs.

You may have heard about heartworms in dogs, however, cats can also be infected with heartworms. Although this occurs less commonly in cats than dogs, the disease is much more severe and is difficult to detect until its too late. This is why we recommend once monthly Revolution®.

Wellness External Parasite Control

Fleas, ticks and mites are the most common external parasites plaguing pets and their owners. Fleas, ticks, and some mites survive by sucking blood from your pet, while other mites literally chew on the outer layer of your pet's skin. Fleas and mites cause serious irritation to your pet's skin which results in constant scratching, hair loss, and even skin infections. Fleas can also serve as an intermediate host for tape worms. During normal grooming, your pet can ingest the flea and become infected with the tape worm. We've come a long way from flea dips and ineffective and sometimes toxic products. Revolution® prevents flea and mite infestations, keeping you and your pet happy.

Neutering or Spaying Your Kitten

Unless you have serious intentions of breeding your kitten, we strongly recommend spaying/neutering at 16 weeks (4 months) of age. Cats can be prolific reproducers generating many litters over the course of a year. Intact male cats can also develop marking habits that can be bothersome. Spaying/neutering your cat will reduce the feral cat population leaving less starving and sick cat's roaming the streets as well as keeping unwanted guests at your house.