



Cat Vaccinations

One of the most important things you can do as a responsible pet owner is to get your cat vaccinated. Vaccines work by stimulating your cat's immune system so that the cat can create protection against these specific diseases if it is encountered in the future. Vaccinations are important as they can prevent life threatening diseases and at each vaccination allows the veterinarian to give your cat a general check over. For every year that goes by in human years, your cat will age approximately 7 years and a lot can change in 7 years.

This article will go through the vaccinations offered at the Cooper Street Veterinary Hospital and the Temora Veterinary Clinic. Vaccinations vary between veterinary clinics based on their geographical location and what diseases are more prevalent in their area.

The diseases that cat are vaccinated against are:

- Feline Herpes virus – This highly contagious virus is one part of the respiratory infection commonly referred to as “Cat flu”. The signs of cat flu include fever, sneezing along with eye and nasal discharge.
- Feline Calicivirus – this is the other major virus responsible in causing “Cat flu” and along with the signs associated with feline herpes virus can cause blistering on the tongue.
- Feline parvovirus – sometimes known as Feline panleucopaenia, this disease causes a reduction in the cat's white blood cells. White blood cells are required by the body to fight infection and can predispose the cat to secondary infections.
- Feline Immunodeficiency virus (FIV) – This disease is sometimes called Feline AIDS and although AIDS cannot be spread between cats and people the virus has similar effects on the body. FIV is commonly spread through bites or scratches and therefore is most common in outdoor cats that get into fights. FIV is diagnosed through a blood test and has been found with increasing frequency in the Cootamundra and Temora area.

Cat vaccination protocol

1. Initial general health check over and vaccination at 6 – 8 weeks for: Feline Herpes virus, Feline Calicivirus and Feline Parvovirus. If your cat is likely to go outside or in a high risk FIV area then a FIV vaccine may also be given.
2. 2 weeks later, a second FIV vaccination is given
3. 2 weeks later (at approx 10 – 12 weeks) a follow up Feline Herpes virus, Feline Calicivirus and Feline Parvovirus. The final FIV booster is also given at this time if a vaccination. A second or third vaccine, in the case of FIV, is required to ensure your kitten has sufficient immunity to the diseases.
4. Then annually after the last kitten vaccination. Booster vaccinations are required to maintain your cat's level of immunity against these diseases. If FIV vaccination was not started as a kitten, a simple in clinic blood test can be run to determine if your cat has been infected with FIV, if they haven't then a vaccination policy can be started.

If you have any questions then do not hesitate to talk to your Cooper Street veterinarian at your next visit.