

Exactly what is vaccination?

Vaccinating protects your cat against serious infectious diseases that can kill.

Vaccines are made using disease organisms that stimulate the animal's immune system. This increases antibodies in your pet which in turn creates immunity against illness. When a cat is exposed to the infectious organism it has been vaccinated against, these antibodies will rapidly start working.

Immunity means that there is almost no risk of your cat falling ill with a disease when it comes in contact with it.

Why vaccinate at all?

Many of the diseases we vaccinate against are killers. A child with chicken pox will almost certainly get better, however an unvaccinated cat that contracts panleucopaenia, for example, can easily die.

Vaccination is the only sure way to prevent your pet from these diseases.



When should a cat be vaccinated?

Your local vet is the best person to advise you about your cat's vaccination and health requirements.

Vaccination programmes may vary depending on the geographical area, the age, health and lifestyle of your cat, and the vaccines used. Kitten vaccination programmes can be started as early as 6 weeks of age and completed as early as 12 weeks of age. To ensure maximum protection, regular annual boosters are recommended.

Important infectious diseases of cats in New Zealand.

Panleucopaenia – Feline Panleucopaenia virus (FPV)

Location: Widespread

Symptoms: Bloody diarrhoea, severe dehydration, depression, lethargy, loss of appetite, fever, vomiting, loss of skin elasticity due to dehydration and self-biting of the tail, lower back and back legs.

Worst-case scenario: Severe disease, death.

Viral Cat Flu – Feline Calicivirus (FCV)

Location: Widespread

Symptoms: Sneezing, nasal discharge, mouth ulcers, loss of appetite, fever, depression, conjunctivitis (eye inflammation).

Worst-case scenario: Highly contagious. Can cause lameness and fever. This is serious in young kittens. Many infected cats will become carriers and spread infection.

What are booster vaccinations?

Annual boosters are still necessary against some diseases. Each year, on your annual visit, your vet will administer only those vaccines needed to maintain protection. These days the vet's primary objective is to use the minimum number of vaccine components while at the same time maintaining the optimum protection for your pet.

'Booster' vaccinations remind the immune system how to respond if it is exposed to a life-threatening disease. These should be given regularly throughout the cat's lifetime to maintain protection against disease. The recommended frequency of each vaccine will depend on the health and lifestyle of your pet.

Viral Cat Flu – Feline Rhinotracheitis or Herpes virus (FHV)

Location: Widespread

Symptoms: Sneezing, nasal discharge, mouth ulcers, loss of appetite, fever, depression, conjunctivitis (eye inflammation).

Worst-case scenario: Extremely unpleasant and highly contagious. Particularly serious in young kittens. Many infected cats will become carriers and suffer flare-ups following stressful events.

Feline Chlamydial Disease – *Chlamydia felis*

Location: In some catteries and multi-cat households and environments

Symptoms: Causes conjunctivitis (eye inflammation). Some cats may have a fever and also lose their appetite.

Worst-case scenario: Can be persistent and sometimes severely affects overall health.

Your cat is unique.

Your veterinarian will discuss and prescribe a vaccination programme for your pet based on a series of risk factors including:

-  indoor versus outdoor lifestyle
-  travel plans
-  social contact with other cats
-  pre-existing infection or disease
-  local prevalence of disease
-  age
-  breed.

Starting your kitten off on the right paw.

Kittens usually receive some immunity (antibodies) from their mothers during the first day or two of life in the form of their first milk (colostrum).

This 'natural' immunity from the mother allows the kitten to resist disease, but can also stop vaccinations working until the kittens are 6–12 weeks of age. The antibodies then start to decrease to a point where vaccinations are effective. Vaccination minimises the period a kitten may be unprotected.

The Nobivac cat vaccine range means that it is now possible to vaccinate kittens and cats according to their lifestyle and disease risk, particularly in respect to flu viruses. Chlamydia vaccination is of particular significance to young cats.

What vaccination does your cat need?

All cats need to be vaccinated against Feline Panleucopaenia (infectious enteritis), Feline Calicivirus and Feline Herpesvirus (cat flu).

Cat flu is widespread and very contagious so vaccines should be given every year. Vaccination against Panleucopaenia may be re-administered up to 3 years apart depending on the risk factors for your cat.

Your vet will design a vaccination programme which is specific to the needs of your cat.

Other vaccines are used when your cat's lifestyle may put it at increased risk. These vaccines are usually administered prior to the risk period, or regularly depending on the particular potential disease in question. This includes Chlamydia vaccines.



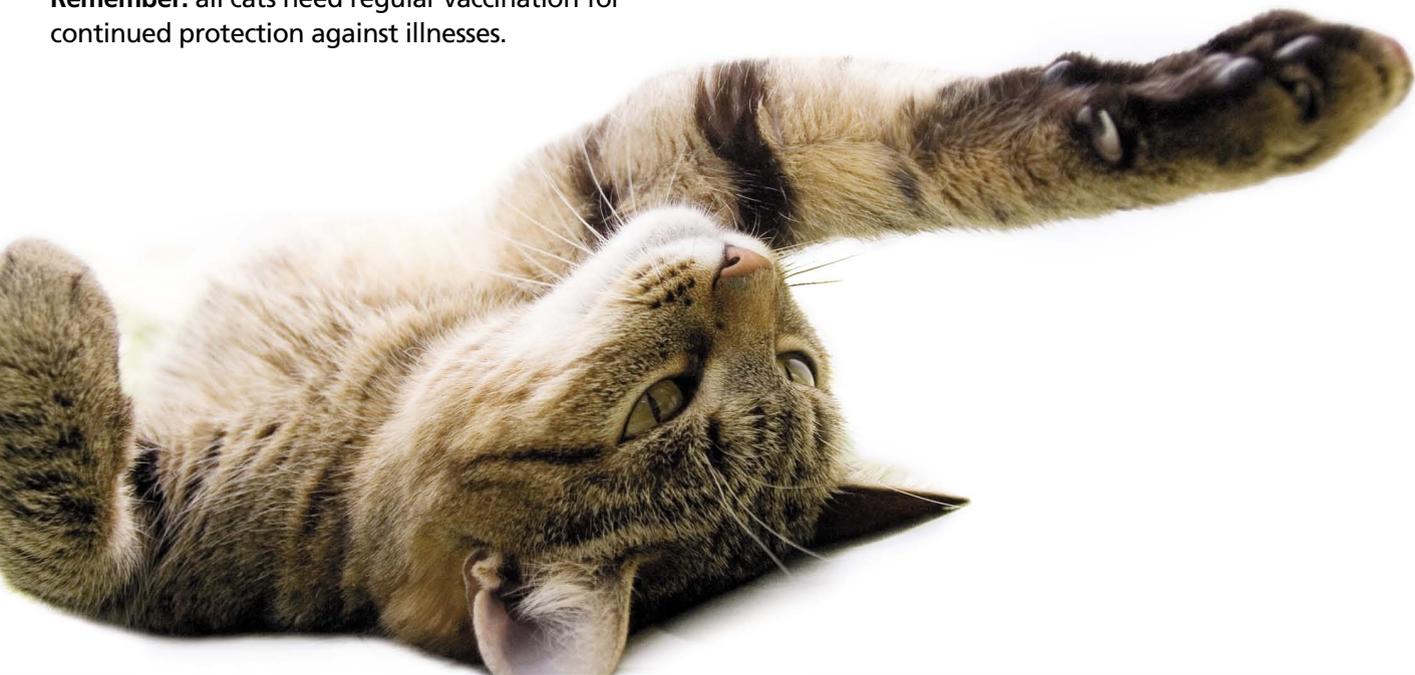
Healthy cat checks.

Your cat should have regular assessments to monitor its health. It not only helps pick up any developing conditions your cat may have, but it gives you a time to speak with your veterinarian about any concerns you may have.

It's important to note that your cat ages faster than any human, so frequent and regular check ups are important. A little time spent on preventative health-care will help your cat have a long and happy life.

Only healthy cats should be vaccinated, so your vet will assess your pet's suitability for vaccination as part of this regular process. You can record all of your cat's information in *The Purrfect Book*.

Remember: all cats need regular vaccination for continued protection against illnesses.



After vaccination.

Vaccinating your cat will usually be painless and have no side effects. Very occasionally, some cats may become a little off-colour, or have some swelling or tenderness at the vaccination site.

If you have any concerns about your cat following vaccination, call your veterinarian. The risk of catching serious infectious diseases if unvaccinated far outweighs any risk from vaccination.

Your vet should prescribe the Nobivac range of vaccines to ensure the Health and Happiness of you and your cat.



The Purrfect Book for cats is a publication made available by Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health. It aims to give all pet owners tips and tricks about how to keep their cats happy and healthy, so you can get the most love and respect possible out of your best friend.

In a way it's like a car manual or Plunket book but for your cat. It is filled to the brim with useful cat information. *The Purrfect Book* is a helpful resource that contains practical advice of when to vaccinate,

how to care for your cat, as well as what to look for in a sick cat.

It also has sections where you can log and keep memories and pictures about your cat. And last but certainly not least, it includes tables that can help you plan a preventative health programme and make sure that they remain healthy for the years to come.

You can pick up your copy of *The Purrfect Book* free, by simply asking any veterinarian who prescribes the Nobivac® vaccine range.

Nobivac Essential protection for essential bonds

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Don't risk your cat's life. Vaccinate today.

Cats are inquisitive creatures. As they explore their home, street and neighbours, you have no control over the other cats that they come in contact with. Wild and unvaccinated cats in your neighbourhood may be putting your cat at risk of contracting several different infectious diseases.

You can control this potential risk by regularly vaccinating your cat against the main serious diseases.

A preventative healthcare programme incorporates regular health assessments and vaccinations which will help keep your pet in the good health.

