

“Core” Feline Vaccinations (updated Jan 2011)

Currently, vaccination is a hot topic in veterinary medicine. The trend is toward decreasing the number of vaccinations your pet receives while maximizing his or her protection from the numerous viruses or bacteria that can cause harm.

At Baker Animal Hospital, we tailor each protocol according to your pet’s age, health, indoor/outdoor status, and potential risk. We strive to keep up with current medical recommendations in the area of vaccines, and promise to do our best to offer the most up-to-date practices. Some of our vaccinations are becoming possible to booster only every three years. This is wonderful and will hopefully bring about the need for only one vaccine per year in the future.

However, please do not forget that the purpose of your pet’s visit is not solely to get a “shot”, but rather to have an annual **comprehensive physical examination**. Your pet’s overall health is the emphasis of every yearly check-up.

Vaccines are broken into “core” vaccines and “non-core” vaccines. **All cats require a “core” set of vaccinations.** These vaccines are given in a series as kittens, then boosted at 1 year of age. After that, some of these vaccine intervals may be able to be spread to two or three years.

In cats, the core vaccines include **R**hinotracheitis, **C**alicivirus, **P**anleukopenia (RCP) and rabies.

The rhino, calici, and panleuk components (RCP) are given in a combination vaccine (upper respiratory/distemper). In kittens, these must be given as a series of vaccinations at 6-8 weeks, 9-11 weeks, and 12-14 weeks.

Rabies cannot be given until the kitten is 12 weeks or older.

“Core” Kitten Vaccination Schedule

8 weeks	11 weeks	14 weeks	1 year after last kitten vaccinations
RCP ₁	RCP ₂	RCP ₃	RCP _A
		Rabies ₁	Rabies ₃

“Core” Adult Vaccination Schedule

2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 yrs	7 yrs	8 yrs	9 yrs	10 yrs	11 yrs	12 yrs	13 yrs
RC			RC			RC			RC		
	Pan			Pan			Pan			Pan	
		Rabies				Rabies			Rabies		Rabies

Rabies - Caused by a virus, rabies is transmitted through the saliva by the bite of an infected animal. Rabies attacks the central nervous system, especially the brain. Pets usually become

infected by bites from raccoons or bats, but any mammal can transmit the disease. Infection is almost always fatal, and vaccination is the best method of control. Vaccination may also save your pet from being destroyed in the event of a biting incident.

RCP – Feline viral Rhinotracheitis/Calicivirus/Panleukopenia. Rhinotracheitis is an upper respiratory infection of young kittens caused by a herpes virus. Nasal and eye discharge can be severe. Calicivirus is another component of the feline upper respiratory complex. Ulcers of the mouth and tongue lead to excess drooling. Panleukopenia is a virus that causes severe vomiting and diarrhea. Commonly called “feline distemper”, panleukopenia is highly contagious among young kittens and highly fatal.