

# VACCINATIONS FOR CATS



Beaconsfield

Veterinary Centre

Dr Steve Wait B.V.Sc and Associates  
14 Wood Street Beaconsfield, Victoria 3807  
Telephone: (03) 9769 8777 (24hr contact)  
www.beaconsfieldvet.com.au

## Why should I get my cat vaccinated?

There are several diseases that cats can pick up from their environment that can cause severe discomfort and even death. Vaccination against these diseases is the best method of protection. Vaccinations are relatively cheap compared with the potential costs of treatment, should your cat contract one of these viruses.

We would recommend that you routinely vaccinate your cat for:

### Feline Enteritis

This is a highly contagious viral disease which is fatal in a high proportion of affected cats. The typical symptoms are uncontrollable vomiting and bloody diarrhoea, with severe abdominal pain.

### Feline Respiratory Diseases (Cat Flu)

There are several different types of 'cat flu' that affect cats in slightly different ways and degrees of severity. The three types of cat flu that we recommend vaccinating against are:

**Feline Herpesvirus**  
**Feline Calicivirus**  
**Chlamydia**

Cat flu is extremely common and very contagious. Although it is not life threatening, it is very distressing and uncomfortable for the cat, and even with treatment can re-occur throughout their life. Symptoms are sneezing, coughing, runny eyes, nasal discharge, and tongue ulcers.

## How often should my cat be vaccinated?

Kittens : 1<sup>st</sup> vacc at 6-8 weeks  
          2<sup>nd</sup> vacc at 12-14 weeks  
          3<sup>rd</sup> vacc at 16-18 weeks

Adult Cats: Booster vaccination annually

### Other Infectious Diseases

It is also possible to vaccinate your cat against Feline Leukaemia and Feline Aids (FIV), however these are not routinely given. Please ask us about these diseases if you are concerned that your cat may be at high risk, or if you have any questions about these vaccinations. Your cat may be at higher risk if it outdoors a lot and is involved in cat fights.

## What happens at the vaccination consultation?

When your cat comes into the clinic for its vaccination the vet will give it a full physical check-up. This is also the time to ask any questions that you may have about your cat's general health and behaviour.

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## **Vaccination reactions**

The chances of any complications with the vaccine are rare. Occasionally reactions do occur and are usually quite mild. Your cat may be a little lethargic, or there may be pain at the injection site, but this is very unusual. If any of these symptoms occur you should contact the clinic. If you are aware that your cat has had a vaccination reaction in the past it is important that you let us know so that we can take preventative measures.

It is important to remember that no vaccine can be 100% effective, but if your animal does contract one of the diseases it is far less likely to be severe.

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