



CATS

VACCINES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why does my cat need the rabies vaccine if they stay indoors?

- Indoor **cats can be exposed to rabies by bats.**
- Rabies is a fatal disease that can be transmitted to humans.
- The rabies vaccine is **required by Ontario law.**



What does 'FVRCP' stand for?

- This is a **combination vaccine** that includes protection from **Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis** (aka Feline Herpesvirus-1) + **Calicivirus** + **Panleukopenia.**



What are the possible side effects of vaccines?

- The most commonly reported side effects are **lethargy, pain at the injection site**, poor appetite, and fever.
- Adverse reactions noted within 30 days of vaccination were **reported at a rate of 0.52%** in a survey done on 500,000 cats vaccinated between 2002-2005*.
- **Anaphylactic reactions are rare but possible** (1-5 per 10,000 vaccinations). Signs include vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, respiratory distress, and collapse.
- Vaccine site sarcomas are exceedingly rare but possible: **Tell us if there is swelling at the injection site that persists** for >3 months, grows >2 cm, or keeps growing 1 mo after vaccination.
- **We use PureVax non-adjuvanted vaccines in cats to reduce these risks!**

*<https://www.aaha.org/resources/2020-aahaaafp-feline-vaccination-guidelines/adverse-postvaccination-reactions/>



Why do kittens need such frequent boosters?

- Antibodies that kittens get from their mother can interfere with the efficacy of their FVRCP vaccine until 16 weeks of age.
- The FVRCP and FeLV vaccines require two doses, 3-4 weeks apart, to provide lasting protective immunity.