

# Pitts Veterinary Hospital, P.C.

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## KITTEN VACCINATION SCHEDULE

This is an example of what our doctors may recommend for your pet. Each animal is different and unique so our vaccine protocol is tailored to meet the specific needs of your pet. We feel it is beneficial for your pet to have the best possible care, so our doctors will give your kitten a full exam at the time of each vaccination. The full exam ensures the health of your kitten by checking ears, eyes, dental health, heart, lungs, and body condition. This also allows us to treat or prevent any potential health risks at an early stage.

We recommend that a fecal sample be tested from your kitten. Internal parasites are very common in young animals. Please bring a fresh sample to one of your first visits, then annually or as recommended.

We recommend that all kittens with mosquito exposure be on a once monthly heartworm preventive March-November, beginning at the first visit. No testing is required prior to starting preventive. Heartworm preventive is available in a chewable and a topical form. Depending on the product used, the topical may also be effective against fleas or ticks.

If your kitten has any record of previous vaccinations or de-worming (example: by the breeder or pet store), please bring this information with you to your first visit.

**7-11 Weeks:** Distemper/Respiratory Vaccine and +/- Feline Leukemia/FIV test

**12-15 Weeks:** Distemper/Respiratory Vaccine and +/- Feline Leukemia vaccine

**16-18 Weeks:** Distemper/Respiratory Vaccine/\*\*Purevax Rabies Vaccine Combo vaccine (1 year)

**OR**

Distemper/Respiratory Vaccine + Rabies Vaccine (booster 1 year later, then every 3 years)

\*\*The Purevax Rabies vaccine does not cause cancer at the injection site. Traditional Rabies vaccine may cause cancer at the site of injection in 1 out of every 10,000 cats\*\*

At this time your kitten can be vaccinated against Feline Leukemia. The veterinarian will suggest that your kitten be tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) before administering the vaccination. These life threatening diseases can be passed to the kitten from the mother. There is no cure for either of these diseases, so prevention is important. The Leukemia vaccine is recommended for kittens who may be venturing outdoors, that will live with a cat that goes outdoors (even if that cat is vaccinated), or may come into contact with leukemia positive cats. Your kitten will need to receive a leukemia booster shot two to three weeks after the first injection. This vaccine will then be given annually. Kittens develop stronger immunity against leukemia than those first vaccinated as adults, so even if your kitten is not expected to go outdoors, you may want to consider immunization now with the first two doses.

After this initial round of vaccines, your kitten can be spayed (female) at the age of 6 months or neutered (male) between the ages of 7-9 months. While your kitten is in for one of these procedures we recommend having a microchip inserted under the skin for identification. Please feel free to discuss the benefits of spaying/neutering and microchipping with one of our veterinarians or staff members. Kittens can be declawed no sooner than 16 weeks/4 pounds. Estimates are available for these procedures.

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