**Vaccinating Your Cat**

To protect your pet from contagious diseases, keep his essential vaccinations up-to-date. This is important even if your pet is kept mostly indoors. Many contagious diseases are airborne and your pet could easily be exposed through an open window. There is also always a risk that your pet could accidentally slip out the door. Boarding kennels, dog parks and grooming salons are all areas where your pet is likely to be exposed to contagious diseases so be sure to consult with your veterinarian before taking your pet to any of these places  
It is also important to keep in mind that vaccinations take a few days to a few weeks to become effective.

**ESSENTIAL VACCINES FOR YOUR CAT**

* **Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia (FVRCP).** Commonly called the “distemper” shot , this combination vaccine protects against three diseases: feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia (sometimes called “feline distemper”).
* [**Rabies.**](https://www.americanhumane.org/animals/adoption-pet-care/caring-for-your-pet/rabies-facts-tips.html) Rabies virus is fatal and all mammals, including humans, are susceptible to infection. Rabies vaccinations for cats are required by law in most states.

**OTHER VACCINES FOR CATS**

Your veterinarian may also recommend other vaccines for your cat depending on where you live and your cat’s lifestyle:

* **Chlamydia.** Chlamydia is a bacterial infection that causes severe conjunctivitis, and the vaccination for it is often included in the distemper combination vaccine (making it an FVRCP-C).
* **Feline Leukemia (Felv).** Felv is a viral infection that is only transmitted through close contact, and this vaccine is generally only recommended for cats that go outdoors.
* **Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).** FIV is a viral infection that is only transmitted through close contact, and this vaccine is generally only recommended for cats that go outdoors.