



Vaccinations – advice for adopters

Who is this handout for? This handout is for adopters that are considering a third vaccination in the initial vaccination course, and explains Cats Protection’s current vaccination recommendations.

In accordance with the manufacturer’s datasheet and on Cats Protection’s veterinary advice, it is Cats Protection policy for kittens and cats to be given two vaccinations three weeks apart for their initial course of vaccinations. If your vet suggests that a third vaccination as part of the initial course is necessary, this should be discussed with your vet and the decision to provide this will be at your discretion. The charity is not able to fund the cost of a third or subsequent vaccination beyond the initial two injections.

All cats should receive a booster vaccination one year after their initial course of vaccines. This should then be followed up by a single yearly booster vaccination, depending on veterinary advice regarding the lifestyle and specific needs for your cat.

The following is an extract from a leaflet provided for cat owners by Merial, the manufacturer of Purevax® vaccinations:

Why vaccination is important

Cats of all ages can and do become seriously ill or die from infectious diseases that could have been prevented through vaccination.

Vaccination offers the most effective way of protecting your cat against many of the most serious infectious diseases, including Cat flu, Feline Infectious Enteritis, Feline Leukaemia Virus and Chlamydia.

Many of these diseases are commonly reported in the UK, and they represent a potentially significant threat to your pet’s health.

How vaccines work

Vaccines work by stimulating the body’s immune system to mount a protective response against specific disease(s). The immune system then remembers these diseases, enabling it to defend the body against any natural exposure to that disease in the future.

Every vaccine lasts for different lengths of time, depending on the disease it is protecting against. Most animals require regular boosters to “remind” the immune system and enhance the level of protection.

Vaccination schedule

PRIMARY VACCINATION

In the first few weeks of life, kittens are normally protected against disease by antibodies (immunity) from their mother’s milk. This immunity decreases over time and has usually disappeared by approximately 12 weeks of age. Vaccination is then needed to protect your kitten against disease.

Kittens generally receive a course of two vaccinations, with an interval of 3 to 4 weeks between injections. This primary course ensures that your kitten’s immune system has the best chance of mounting a strong protective response.

BOOSTER VACCINATION

The immunity generated by the kitten course of vaccinations does not last for life. Regular booster vaccinations are necessary to maintain the highest possible level of protection against serious infectious diseases.

These regular annual visits also allow the vet to give your cat a full clinical examination and check up, and spot the early signs of any disease conditions which may be developing.

Diseases

The diseases against which cats are commonly vaccinated can cause serious, often fatal disease and can be very difficult to treat effectively. Prevention is much better than cure.



Source: www.merial.co.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Purevax%20cat%20vaccine%20leaflet%202012.pdf

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