



Burlington Veterinary Center Feline Vaccination Recommendations

In the past there have been many different vaccination recommendations in dogs and cats in the United States that have been based on the best available scientific information. For many years annual revaccination was considered the appropriate standard practice. However, in recent years there has been mounting evidence that annual revaccination of pets with certain vaccines is not only unnecessary but in rare cases, potentially harmful. The introduction of better vaccines and recent duration of immunity studies suggest that certain vaccines may provide more lasting immunity than previously appreciated. Leaders in the veterinary community believe the appropriateness of various vaccinations and the interval of administration are best assessed in conjunction with a complete physical examination and health evaluation. Here at the Burlington Veterinary Center we believe the health status of the individual pet and the pet's infectious disease risks should dictate the appropriate vaccine selection. In light of the latest evidence that annual revaccination for certain pathogens are no longer scientifically justified and our desire to avoid adverse vaccine associated events the Burlington Veterinary Center recommends the following routine immunization program for our feline patients:

Feline Panleukopenia/Rhinotracheitis/Calici virus (combination modified-live or killed vaccine)

Recommended vaccination interval: Administered at 3-4 week intervals until the kitten is 12 weeks of age then boosted one year later, then administered every 3 years thereafter. This vaccine is highly recommended for all cats. Administer only the killed vaccine to pregnant queens or immunocompromised patients.

Rabies virus (killed vaccine)

Recommended vaccination interval: Administered at 12+ weeks of age and then annually thereafter. Current rabies vaccination is required by state law.

Feline Leukemia virus (recombinant vaccine)

Recommended vaccination interval: Administered at 8+ weeks of age and repeated 3 weeks later. Regarding our Feline friends recent studies have demonstrated that adult cats over 4 years of age with previous Feline Leukemia vaccination have sufficiently enhanced immunity against Feline Leukemia virus and no longer warrant annual revaccination. The BVC has elected to decrease the frequency of administration of Feline Leukemia vaccines after age 4 to once every 3 years in those cats at risk of exposure to Feline Leukemia (i.e. outdoor cats or cats visiting/interacting with other outdoor or other at risk cats).

Feline Chlamydia bacteria (avirulent live vaccine)

Recommended vaccination interval: Administered at initial vaccination series and then annually thereafter. This vaccine is recommended for cats at high risk of exposure only.