**New Kitten Information Pack**

**Vaccination Information**

**Feline Core Vaccines**

According to the American Association of Feline Practitioners’ (AAFP) vaccination guidelines, the following vaccinations are considered “core” (indispensable) vaccines for all cats in the United States:

* Rabies virus
* Panleukopenia Virus (FPV)
* Feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1)
* Feline calicivirus (FCV)

Feline Herpesvirus 1, Feline Calicivirus and Feline Panleukopenia Virus Vaccines:

* Feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1) or Feline Rhinotracheitis is an upper respiratory infection that is highly contagious.
* Calicivirus is an upper respiratory virus.
* Feline Panleukopenia can be fatal. It causes vomiting and diarrhea. Canine parvovirus mutated from it.

**Feline Rabies Virus Vaccines**

Rabies is a fatal disease in both humans and animals. The primary carrier of rabies in Michigan is bats. Cats are an important carrier of rabies, because of their interactions with bats. Kittens should be vaccinated at 4 months of age at their last vaccine booster. A Rabies booster should be given 1 year later and then every 3 years after that.

**Feline Leukemia Virus Vaccine**

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is an infection that attacks the immune system. It can be severe and cause death. It can increase their chance of cancer. It is primarily spread via saliva. An infected mother could pass it to her kittens as well.

**Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV): Feline AIDS**

FIV is a virus that attacks the immune system and can cause death as well. It is primarily spread via saliva and fighting. An infected mother can pass it to her kittens as well.

**Testing for Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)**

* On initial presentation, we recommend that all kittens or stray cats be tested for FeLV and FIV. Both viruses can attack the immune system. It is a blood test that tests for the antibodies of the virus.

***Vaccine reactions:***

The benefits of vaccination greatly outweigh possible risks. Just as in children, following vaccination your cat may experience mild and short-lived reactions (malaise), such as poor appetite, lethargy, and fever that resolve without treatment. Any signs that occur should be diss\cussed with your veterinarian. Rarely, more serious allergic reactions occur and may include vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, hives, redness, or difficulty breathing. These serious reactions appear within minutes or hours of vaccination and require **IMMEDIATE** veterinary care. A very rare reaction is a tumor at the injection site that develops months or years after vaccination (-1/10,000 cats), known as an injection site sarcoma.

**Any questions or concerns, please call (269) 673-5654**