

FACT SHEET

VACCINATION/TESTING

RABIES

Rabies is required by **law** in Illinois. It is a *zoonotic* disease-meaning it can be transferred to humans by their pets or other animals. Cats contract the disease from a bite of an infected animal(e.g./ Skunk, bat, raccoon). Typically the last vaccination in the schedule for a **kitten at 16 weeks of age**.

FVRCP

This vaccine is commonly known as the feline distemper vaccine and is considered a **core** vaccination for all cats. It protects against 3 viral diseases: feline herpesvirus (also known as viral rhinotracheitis), calicivirus, and parvovirus (panleukopenia or feline distemper). Kittens need at least two boosters given 2-4 weeks apart, with the last booster given at or after 16 weeks of age.

FELV

The vaccine for feline leukemia virus is recommended in all kittens and also consists of two boosters given 2 to 4 weeks apart. Kittens should be tested for exposure to FeLV prior to beginning the vaccination series. As adults, re-vaccination will depend on their lifestyle and level of exposure to other cats.

TESTING

FIV/FeLV: All cats should be tested for FeLV and FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) as kittens. These viral infections are spread between cats, and both weaken the immune system, making them more prone to other infections and cancers. Cats who go outside or have contact with other cats should be re-tested annually.

Fecal Testing:

All cats should have a fecal test run at the very least *yearly*. Many parasites live in the environment that can easily be picked up by pets: roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, coccidia, and giardia are a few of the common parasites seen during a fecal test. Along with the monthly heartworm preventative, many preventions also contain protection against some of these common parasites. For new kittens, we usually want to see **two** negative fecals before considering them clear due to the lifecycle of certain worms.

