

YOLINDA ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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Feline vaccines

Yolinda Animal Hospital routinely administers two feline core vaccines.

FVRCP stands for Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia.

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR) is an upper respiratory infection of cats caused by a feline type 1 herpes virus, and sometimes known as feline influenza or feline coryza. FVR causes around one half of all feline respiratory disease. It is very contagious, and results in sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, conjunctivitis, and sometimes fever and loss of appetite. Infected cats usually require intensive care to overcome the infection; some cats suffer permanent damage to the eyes and respiratory system.

Feline **Calicivirus** is a virus of the family Caliciviridae that, along with FVR, is responsible for viral respiratory infections in cats. It is also highly contagious. Symptoms are similar to those observed for FVR, but may also include stomatitis (ulceration of the mouth).

Panleukopenia is also known as feline distemper and feline enteritis, is a viral infection affecting cats. It is caused by feline parvovirus, a virus closely related to canine parvovirus, but is unrelated to canine distemper. Panleukopenia is primarily spread by contact with an infected cat's bodily fluids, feces, or fleas. The virus primarily attacks the lining of the gastrointestinal tract, causing bloody diarrhea, vomiting, severe dehydration, malnutrition, and anemia, and often death – the mortality rate is up to 90% amongst young kittens and 50% in older animals.

The FVRCP vaccine used at Yolinda Animal Hospital also protects cats against *Chlamydia psittaci*, a bacterium that causes relatively mild upper respiratory disease and conjunctivitis. If left untreated, the infection tends to become chronic, lasting weeks or month.

FeLV (feline leukemia virus) causes immunosuppression in cats. It is spread between cats by saliva or close contact, by biting another cat, *via* a shared litter-box or food/water dish, or from a infected mother cat to her kittens, either prior to their birth or whilst nursing. Some cats are able to fight it off the virus, but around 30% of cats endure the disease all the way from infection until death. Symptoms depend on the type of virus and stage of the disease, but generally include general malaise, fever, anemia, blood in the feces, diarrhea or constipation, weight loss, persistent gingivitis and other dental problems.

Does your cat ever go outside? Ask us about rabies vaccination!

Yolinda Animal Hospital strongly recommends that unless your cat lives strictly indoors only, he or she be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccination is also recommended for cats that may come into contact with skunks or bats.

Concerned about vaccine reactions? Ask us about vaccine titers!

Yolinda Animal Hospital understands that some pet owners would only like to vaccinate their pet if they are sure a vaccine is definitely required. Some more advanced “annual” vaccines can result in your pet being protected against a particular disease for more than one year. The elimination of unnecessary vaccination is particularly important for a minority of pets who experience vaccine reactions. Although these reactions are generally not serious, they do make the pet feel uncomfortable. For these reasons, we are offering vaccine titers for all vaccines except rabies. When a vaccine is due, a sample of your pet's blood is taken and the level of antibodies to the particular disease causing agent that a particular vaccine protects against is ascertained. In many cases, your pet will already have sufficient protection against that virus or bacterium and vaccination will not be required. Titers must be done annually.

In the case of rabies, vaccine titers do not directly correlate with protection against the disease because other immunologic factors also play a role in rabies prevention. Requests for deferral of rabies vaccination can be made by application to the Orange County Rabies Control Desk, and are treated on a case-by-case basis.