What do all these vaccines mean?

“Core vaccines” refer to the feline viral rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia (FVRCP) and rabies. These are the shots that your pet will get either every year or every three years when they come in for their annual wellness exams.

Three year vaccines (FVRCP and rabies vaccines are available in three-year) are the same potency as annual vaccines, but are licensed for three years. This means that your pet is just as protected and has to endure fewer shots. Everybody wins!

**FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia)**

* Also called “the feline distemper vaccine”, protects your cat against three contagious diseases:
* **Feline Rhinotracheitis virus** is a viral infectious respiratory disease. This virus is an extremely common cause of respiratory disease. It is spread easily through airborne respiratory secretions and direct contact or contaminated objects.
* **Calicivirus** is a common viral infectious respiratory disease, can also cause mouth sores resulting in severe oral pain. This again can be spread by direct contact with an infected cat or by contact with contaminated objects. The virus is very resistant to disinfectants and persists in the environment.
* **Panleukopenia is a** severe, highly infectious and sometimes fatal disease of the gastrointestinal tract, the immune system and the nervous system. This virus spreads by direct contact with infected cats or by contact with viral particles in the environment.

**RABIES**

* Rabies is a fatal disease spread through animal bites. Most states (South Carolina included) require up to date rabies vaccinations, as rabies can be spread to humans.

**Feline Leukemia**

* Feline leukemia is a cancerous disease caused by feline leukemia virus (FeLV).
* FeLV causes diseases other than leukemia including other cancers and immunodeficiency.
* Cats may not start to show signs of disease for months or years after being infected with FeLV.
* Infection with FeLV is a major cause of illness and death in domestic cats.
* FeLV can be transmitted through saliva of an infected feline, most commonly through mutual grooming, nose-to-nose contact, and shared food and water bowls. Bites are another common way FeLV can be transmitted.

Vaccine Reactions

After your kitten receives vaccines, they may be sore or lethargic. You may even feel a small lump at the vaccination site. These are normal reactions to vaccines. If your kitten stops eating or drinking, has difficulty breathing, experiences any facial swelling, loses consciousness or the ability to move, call us immediately.

 Your pet may be sensitive to vaccines and require medication prior to receiving them. If you are experiencing a medical emergency at any time and we are not open, please call the 24 hour emergency clinic at (843) 216-7554.