

FELINE VACCINE INFORMATION AND CONSENT

Cambridge Animal Hospital
1610 Pace Street #400
Longmont, CO 80501

Cambridge
Animal Hospital



Date: _____
Owner: _____
Street: _____
City: _____
Pet's Name: _____
Breed: _____

Vaccines in general are very safe and protect your pet from many diseases, some of which can be life threatening. However, they are not without some risk. We ask that you review the following information and weigh the risks and benefits of each vaccine along with your pet's life-style before deciding which vaccines to have administered to your pet. While we can help provide you with appropriate information, it is ultimately your decision as to which vaccines you wish your pet to receive. Please feel free to ask the doctors or staff any questions you may have.

According to the American Veterinary medical Association (AVMA), the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) there are two broad categories of vaccines: CORE and NON-CORE.

CORE VACCINES are those that every cat should receive. These include **RABIES, FELINE PANLEUKOPENIA (feline distemper), CALICIVIRUS,** and **HERPES (feline viral rhinotracheitis)**. These are given as a series of vaccinations initially, then boosted 1 year later. Rabies can then be administered every 1 or 3 years (depending on the vaccine you choose). Although many feline distemper vaccines are labeled to be administered every year in adult cats, evidence now supports that the protection lasts longer. For this reason, we administered this vaccine every three years as well, following the initial 1 year shot.

NON-CORE VACCINES are those vaccines that may or may not be necessary based on your pet's lifestyle and the prevalence of the disease in various areas of the state or country. These vaccines are available and can be given if you elect.

Feline Leukemia: is a deadly virus that infects cats worldwide. It causes a variety of symptoms in cats including cancers, anemia and immunosuppression, which leads to infections from other organisms. Early in the course of the disease, cats may have no symptoms for months to years; however, it is highly contagious even with casual contact (grooming, sharing water bowls and food dishes, biting) between cats. It cannot be transmitted to people and is not related to human leukemia's. Though no cat is a zero risk for this disease, indoor only cats are at a lower risk. This vaccine is recommended for cats with access to the outdoors, cats that have contact with other cats, and cats that live in a household where new cats are introduced frequently. It is also recommended in cats (especially kittens) who have a tendency to escape or for whom you have not decided if they will be indoor or outdoor cats.

VACCINATION SIDE EFFECTS: Most cats will not have any side effects from vaccine. The most common side effects are localized pain/swelling at the site of the injection, mild lethargy and low-grade fever. These usually resolve on their own within 24 hours and do not require treatment. More severe reactions are less common, but can present as vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, and/or wheezing. If your pet shows signs of a reaction such as this, please seek medical attention. With any vaccine, anaphylaxis (a very severe and

potentially fatal hypersensitivity reaction) is a risk but is rare. Also, while there is no direct cause and effect relationship between vaccines and certain auto-immune diseases, this continues to be investigated.

It is normal to feel a small lump at the vaccine site for up to 1 month following vaccination. However, if it persists longer than 1 month, please let us know. In cats, there is another rare but serious reaction called a **Vaccine-associated sarcoma**. This is where an aggressive cancer forms at the site of a vaccine, another injection or even a trauma, sometimes weeks to even years after the incident occurred. It is estimated to occur in 1 in 10,000 cats and the exact cause is unknown. For this reason, any lump persisting longer than one month should be checked out by a vet.

Overall, the risk of vaccines is quite small compared to the risk of the diseases these vaccines can prevent and we at Cambridge Animal Hospital do recommend vaccination of pets. However, it is important for you to consider all information and make an informed decision about what vaccine protocol is best for your individual pet and your family. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions that you may have. We are always happy to discuss this with you.

I have read the above information and feel that I am able to make an informed decision about my pet and vaccines. Any questions and concerns I have, have been addressed.

Signature of owner/authorized agent:

Date: _____

VIRAL TESTING INFORMATION AND CONSENT

As discussed above, Feline Leukemia is a highly contagious disease in cats that can lead to serious and life-threatening conditions. A similar virus is the Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). This virus is contagious among cats and is transmitted via bites. **IT IS NOT RELATED TO THE HIV VIRUS IN HUMANS AND CANNOT BE TRANSMITTED TO NOR CAUSE DISEASE IN HUMANS!** However, it causes similar effects in the feline that HIV does in humans and it can lay dormant for months to years before causing disease symptoms.

Cambridge Animal Hospital offers a "combo" test for these viruses that requires only a few drops of blood from your cat and results are available within 10 minutes.

All cats should be tested at least once in their lives. Indoor only cats should be tested when they are initially brought into the home. Cats with outdoor access or cats living with infected cats should be tested annually. Also, cats should be tested before receiving their first Feline Leukemia vaccine as vaccination will not provide protection if the patient is already infected. It is also recommended that any sick cat be tested, regardless of previous test patterns and results.

PLEASE INITIAL YOUR CHOICE BELOW:

_____ **I choose to have my cat tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV**

_____ **I elect NOT to pursue feline leukemia and FIV testing at this time and understand the risk to my cat.**