



# Common Cat Diseases and the vaccines that help prevent them

All cats are at risk of exposure to a variety of diseases, even if they spend most of their time indoors. Vaccination helps prevent common infectious diseases and is more beneficial for your cat than treating the disease once it occurs. Preventative vaccination is one of the easiest and best ways to ensure that your cat has a great quality of life.

Disease:	Vaccine:	Spread by:	Clinical signs:	Complications:
<b>Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR)</b> <i>caused by Feline Herpesvirus-1</i>	The "R" in RCP	Aerosol, droplets	Runny nose, sneezing, eye infection & eye ulcers, poor appetite, fever, lung infection	Persistent infection may reoccur during times of stress, source of infection to other cats, ulcers of the eye, irreversible damage to nasal sinuses, death
<b>Feline Calicivirus</b>	The "C" in RCP	Aerosol, droplets, contaminated surfaces (survives in the environment)	Runny nose, eye infection, mouth ulcers, poor appetite, fever, lung infection, lameness	Persistent infection may reoccur during times of stress, source of infection to other cats, painful mouth ulcers, death
<b>Feline Panleukopenia</b> <i>also known as feline distemper, caused by a parvovirus</i>	The "P" in RCP	Primarily from contaminated surfaces (able to survive for long periods of time), direct contact with infected cats, litter boxes	Fever, poor appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, abdominal pain, tremors & lack of coordination, brain infection, heart damage	Severe illness, death
<b>Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)</b>	FeLV	Direct contact, sharing food and water bowls, grooming/sharing saliva	Suppression of the immune system results in infections, cancer tumors, leukemia	Cancer, death, stress or immune suppression may activate a silent infection
<b>Rabies</b>	Rabies vaccines are killed virus vaccines	Bite from infected animal or through infected saliva contact with mucous membranes	Spreads through the nerves to the brain with progressive disease resulting in death; signs may appear as restlessness, irritability, inability to swallow, paralysis, death	Fatal, zoonotic (contagious to people)

Source: Greene CE (ed.). *Infectious disease of the dog and cat*. 4th Ed. St. Louis: Elsevier; 2012.

