

The Feline Leukemia (FeLV) Vaccine



This is a "lifestyle" vaccine. We recommend vaccination for cats that are allowed outdoors, including backyards and balconies. We also recommend it initially for all kittens. We vaccinate for this disease because the benefit of this vaccination largely outweighs the risk of a severe vaccine reaction.

We use a non-adjuvanted vaccine for the safety of our feline patients.

FeLV Vaccine protects against the feline leukemia virus.

FeLV is a viral disease that suppresses the immune system and bone marrow production, leaving cats more susceptible to other serious, life-threatening diseases. It is also the most common cause of cancer in cats. FeLV is transmitted via direct contact between cats such as grooming each other, bite wounds, and sharing water/food bowls and litter boxes. Kittens can contract the disease from their mothers

Where we give the FeLV vaccine: Low on the left back leg.

What to expect: It is uncommon, however soreness or mild swelling at the injection site can occur. Lethargy for the first 24 hours after vaccination is common and not worrisome. Adult cats who have never received this vaccine before are more likely to show signs of lethargy for 24 hours following the initial dose of the vaccine.

Vaccine reactions to call us about: Also uncommon, but your pet should be seen by a veterinarian immediately if you see any of the following within the first 24 hours of vaccination:

- Facial swelling
- Vomiting/diarrhea
- Hives
- Large swelling at injection site
- Fever
- Lack of appetite
- Extreme weakness or difficulty breathing