



HEALTH RECORD OF _____

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Breed _____

Sex _____

Markings _____

Microchip ID Number _____



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Immunization

Many feline diseases can now be prevented through vaccination. A vaccination schedule prepared by your veterinarian can thus greatly contribute to good health and a longer life span for your cat. Below are the most important diseases for which vaccines are currently available:

Rabies, one of the world's most publicized and feared diseases, is always fatal. Rabies virus attacks the nervous system, and is transmitted chiefly through the bite of an infected animal.

Feline panleukopenia (feline distemper) is among the most widespread of all cat diseases and is extremely contagious. Characterized by fever, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea which can lead to severe dehydration, feline panleukopenia results in a high mortality rate, particularly among kittens.

Feline viral rhinotracheitis (FVR) is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by feline herpesvirus-1 and is characterized by loss of appetite, fever, eye inflammation and marked sneezing. As the disease progresses, a discharge is noticeable from both nose and eyes.

Feline calicivirus (FCV) is another serious feline respiratory infection that often occurs simultaneously with feline viral rhinotracheitis. Signs of infection are similar to FVR (fever, loss of appetite, nasal discharge), but calicivirus-infected cats may also have ulcers on the tongue.

Feline pneumonitis is caused by the organism *Chlamydia psittaci (Chlamydophila felis)*. Signs of pneumonitis are similar to those of FVR and FCV (sneezing, fever, loss of appetite, nasal discharge and inflamed eyes.)

Feline leukemia is an important cause of lymphoma (cancer of the lymphatic system), immunosuppression and disease of the bone marrow (anemia, leukemia). Some cats have transient infections with few ill effects. Others have persistent infections varying in severity, some of which may be fatal over time.

FIP is a complex disease of cats caused by feline infectious peritonitis virus. The most commonly diagnosed clinical manifestation is accumulation of fluid within the abdominal cavity. This disease can affect a wide range of body systems including eyes, brain, heart, lungs and abdominal organs.

Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) A virus that significantly impairs the cat's immune system. The clinical signs are related to secondary infections, although severe gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) can often be associated with FIV. Compared to FeLV, this virus is not as contagious; it's mainly transmitted by bites, or it transmitted before birth, from a mother cat to the fetus.

Parasite Control

Like many other animals, cats may be at risk to a wide variety of internal (such as heartworm, roundworm and hookworm) and external parasites (such as fleas, and ear mites). Unfortunately, many of these parasites have complex life cycles which enable them to survive even in the best-kept households.

The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommends year-round treatment with heartworm preventatives that have broad spectrum activity against parasites that have zoonotic (can be transferred to humans) potential.

Nutrition

Just like you, your cat has specific nutritional requirements: protein for growth and tissue repair; carbohydrates for energy; vitamins and minerals for general health. Young kittens should be fed three to four times daily. At six months of age this can be reduced to twice a day, and mature cats can be fed once or twice a day. Allow 15-20 minutes to eat, and then try removing food until the next scheduled feeding time. Adult pets may need to have the amount of food adjusted to prevent excessive weight gain. Pregnant cats should be fed twice a day from the fourth week of pregnancy. They will be more comfortable if fed smaller amounts three to four times a day during the final week.

Travel Tips

- Be certain your cat is in good health. Some states and all foreign countries require current rabies and health certificates. Arrange with your veterinarian for a physical examination and necessary vaccinations and certificates.
- Beginning a week or more before a car trip, take a few short rides with your cat to acquaint it with travel.
- Plan to keep control of your cat at all times, using a leash if possible. (A harness is better than a collar for a cat.) Keep car windows closed far enough to prevent the cat from jumping out.
- Never leave your cat unattended in a closed car during hot weather. Heat builds rapidly in an enclosed space, resulting in heat stroke and death within minutes.
- If motion sickness has been a problem, medication is available to prevent it and help calm the cat. Always reduce food and water before traveling.
- Many motels and hotels welcome pets, but you should check to be sure when making reservations. You may want to carry a covered litter box in the trunk of your car.
- Upon arrival, give food and water sparingly and offer plenty of understanding and affection.

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