

Vaccine recommendations for cats

according to their lifestyle

ABCD TOOL

This page shows the vaccination schedules for **outdoor** and **indoor-only** cats. The need for vaccination is highlighted with colour coding. For the vaccination of immunocompromised cats, see our dedicated guidelines.

Vaccines not mentioned below are not currently endorsed by the ABCD.

- Core vaccine
- Non-core vaccine

Outdoor cats

Cats that have access to outdoors and potential contact with other cats.



Indoor-only cats

Cats that have no contact with cats from outdoors.



Vaccine/agent	Kitten PV1	Kitten PV2	Kitten PV3	Final PV/ First booster	Adult cat	Adult cat	Unvaccinated cat/ No vaccination history	Notes	
					vaccinated <3 yrs ago	vaccinated >3 yrs ago			
FPV	■	8-9 weeks	12 weeks	16 weeks*	At 10-16 months of age	One immunisation, boost every 3 years or more	One immunisation, boost every 3 years or more	One immunisation, boost 1 yr later, then every 3 yrs or more	1
FHV	■	8-9 weeks	12 weeks		At 10-16 months of age	One immunisation, boost annually (or up to every 3 yrs in low-risk situations)	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost annually or up to every 3 yrs in low-risk situations	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost 1 yr later	2
FCV	■	8-9 weeks	12 weeks	16 weeks	At 10-16 months of age	One immunisation, boost annually (or up to every 3 yrs in low-risk situations)	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost annually or up to every 3 yrs in low-risk situations	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost 1 yr later	2
Rabies	■	12-16 weeks (single vaccination)			1 year later	DOI of certain vaccines is 3 yrs, but legislation may require annual boosters	One immunisation	One immunisation	Outdoor cats: 3 Indoor cats: 4
FeLV	■	8-9 weeks	12 weeks	-	1 year later	Boost every 2-3 years after 3 years of age	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost 1 yr later	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost 1 yr later	Outdoor cats: 5 Indoor cats: 6
Bordetella bronchiseptica	■	≥ 1 month of age (single vaccination)			1 year later	One immunisation in high density population only, boost annually	One immunisation in high density population only, boost annually	One immunisation in high density population only, boost annually	7
Chlamydia felis	■	8-9 weeks	12 weeks	-	1 year later	One immunisation, boost annually	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost 1 yr later	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost 1 yr later	8
FCoV/FIP	■	Not before 16 weeks	3 weeks later	-	1 year later	One immunisation, boost annually	Two immunisations, boost annually	Two immunisations, boost annually	9

* Particularly important for kittens born to queens with high antibody titres

Notes for table

- Do not use MLV in kittens <4 weeks of age. Do not use MLV in pregnant cats.
- Recovered cats should be vaccinated.
- Vaccinate in endemic areas only or if required by law. Refer to national and regional legislation for booster frequency.
- Only vaccinate if required by law. Refer to national and regional legislation for booster frequency.
- Considered 'core vaccine' only in endemic areas. Cats of uncertain FeLV status should be tested prior to vaccination (unless risk of FeLV is considered very low) and vaccinated if antigen- and provirus-negative.
- Only vaccinate if there is contact with FeLV-positive cats or with cats of unknown FeLV status.
- Do not use MLV in kittens <4 weeks of age. Consider vaccination where there is contact with dogs. Vaccine available in some European countries. Vaccinate in high-density areas where bordetellosis is confirmed.
- Where cats are kept together long term, or if there is a history of disease, vaccinate annually.
- Intranasal vaccine. Vaccine against FIP is available in some European countries. Only vaccinate seronegative cats.

Abbreviations:

FCV: feline calicivirus
FCoV/FIP: Feline coronavirus / feline infectious peritonitis
FeLV: feline leukaemia virus
FHV: feline herpesvirus
FPV: feline panleukopenia virus
MDA: maternally-derived antibodies
MLV: modified live vaccine
PV: primo-vaccination
Wk/wks: week/weeks
Yr/yrs: year/years

If you found this ABCD information valuable, please tell a colleague.

To download the ABCD fact sheets, or the full disease guidelines, please visit our website: www.abcdcatsvets.org

The ABCD is an independent panel of experts in feline health supported by Boehringer Ingelheim (the founding sponsor of the ABCD) and Virbac. February 2020.

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Notes for table

- Do not use MLV in kittens <4 wks of age.
- Do not vaccinate pregnant cats.
- Vaccinate new cats as soon as possible.
- Recovered cats should be vaccinated.
- Consider earlier vaccination in litters from queens that have had infected litters previously.
- In high-risk situations, kittens can be vaccinated from 4-6 weeks of age, then every 2 weeks until 12 or 16 weeks of age.
- In endemic areas, all strays are potentially infected. Handle with care!
- Vaccinate in endemic areas only or if required by law. Refer to national and regional legislation for booster frequency.
- Only vaccinate if required by law
- Breeding catteries should be FeLV negative.
- Only vaccinate if there is contact with FeLV-positive cats or with cats of unknown FeLV status in high-risk area.
- Do not use MLV in kittens <4 weeks of age. Vaccine available in some European countries. Vaccinate in high-density areas where bordetellosis is confirmed.
- Where cats are kept together longterm, or if there is a history of disease, vaccinate annually.
- Intranasal vaccine. Vaccine against FIP is available in some European countries. Only vaccinate seronegative cats.

Abbreviations:
 FCV: feline calicivirus
 FCoV/FIP: Feline coronavirus / feline infectious peritonitis
 FeLV: feline leukaemia virus
 FHV: feline herpesvirus
 FPV: feline panleukopenia virus
 MDA: maternally-derived antibodies
 MLV: modified live vaccine
 PV: primo-vaccination
 Wk/wks: week/weeks
 Yr/yrs: year/years

ABCD TOOL

This page shows the vaccination schedules for **rescue shelter** and **breeding** cats. The need for vaccination is highlighted with colour coding.

- Rescue shelter cats
- Breeding cats
- Core vaccine
- Non-core vaccine

Rescue shelter cats

Cats living in shelters for un-owned and abandoned cats.



Breeding cats

Cats in any multicat environment used for breeding purposes.



Vaccine/agent		Kitten PV1	Kitten PV2	Kitten PV3	Final PV/ First booster	Adult cat	Adult cat	Unvaccinated cat/ No vaccination history	Notes
						vaccinated <3 yrs ago	vaccinated >3 yrs ago		
FPV	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 weeks*	3-4 weeks later	3-4 wks later until 16 wks	At 10-16 months of age	One immunisation, boost every 3 years or more.	One immunisation, boost 1 year later, then every 3 years	One immunisation, boost 1 year later, then every 3 years	1, 2
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8-9 weeks	12 weeks	16-20 wks		Boost queens every 3 years or yearly if low MDA			
FHV	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 weeks*	3-4 weeks later	3-4 wks later until 12 wks	At 10-16 months of age	One immunisation, boost annually	Two immunisations 2-4 weeks apart, boost annually	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost 1 year later	Rescue: 3, 4
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8-9 weeks	12 weeks			Boost queens annually and before breeding if low MDA			Breeding: 4, 5, 6
FCV	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 weeks*	3-4 weeks later	3-4 wks later until 16 wks	At 10-16 months of age	One immunisation, boost annually	Two immunisations 2-4 weeks apart, boost annually	Two immunisations 2-4 wks apart, boost 1 year later	Rescue: 3, 4
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8-9 weeks	12 weeks	16 weeks		Boost queens annually and before breeding if low MDA			Breeding: 4, 5, 6
Rabies	<input type="checkbox"/>	12-16 weeks (single vaccination)			1 year later	DOI of certain vaccines is 3 yrs, but legislation may require annual boosters	One immunisation	One immunisation	Rescue: 7, 8
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					Boost every 2-3 years after 3 years of age	Two immunisations 2-4 weeks apart, boost one year later	Two immunisations 2-4 weeks apart, boost 1 year later	Rescue: 11
FeLV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8-9 weeks	12 weeks	-	1 year later	Boost every 2-3 years after 3 years of age	Two immunisations 2-4 weeks apart, boost one year later	Two immunisations 2-4 weeks apart, boost 1 year later	Breeding: 10, 11
<i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	≥ 1 month of age (single vaccination)			1 year later	One immunisation in high density population only. Boost queens annually.	One immunisation in high density population only, boost annually	One immunisation in high density population only, boost annually	12
<i>Chlamydia felis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8-9 weeks	12 weeks	-	1 year later	One immunisation, boost annually	Two immunisations 2-4 weeks apart, boost 1 year later	Two immunisations 2-4 weeks apart, boost 1 year later	13
FCoV/FIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not before 16 weeks	3 weeks later	-	1 year later	One immunisation, boost annually	Two immunisations, boost annually	Two immunisations, boost annually	14

* in case of an outbreak, start at 4 weeks of age and vaccinate every 2 weeks