



THE BASICS: THE FVRCP VACCINE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The FVRCP vaccine is a **core vaccine recommended for all cats** (including indoor-only cats) as the diseases it protects against are widespread, highly contagious, and potentially fatal. FVRCP is a combination vaccine that protects your cat against three serious viral diseases in a single shot:

- **Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR):** Caused by feline herpesvirus type 1 (FHV-1), this is one of the leading causes of upper respiratory infections in cats. Infected cats may carry the virus for life, with periodic flare-ups during times of stress.
- **Calicivirus (C):** Another common cause of upper respiratory infections, calicivirus can also cause painful mouth ulcers and, in some strains, more severe systemic illness and joint pain.
- **Panleukopenia (P):** Also known as feline distemper, panleukopenia is caused by feline parvovirus. It attacks rapidly dividing cells in the intestines, bone marrow, and immune system, and can be fatal—especially in kittens. Nearly all cats will be exposed to this virus at some point in their lives.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit avma.org or the Cornell Feline Health Center at vet.cornell.edu and search “Feline Panleukopenia”

SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR

Because the FVRCP vaccine protects against three diseases, the symptoms it helps prevent can vary. Watch for the following signs:

- **Sneezing, nasal discharge, or congestion**
- **Watery, red, or crusty eyes**
- **Mouth ulcers or excessive drooling**
- **Fever**
- **Loss of appetite or refusal to eat**
- **Lethargy or depression**
- **Vomiting or severe diarrhea (which may be bloody)**
- **Joint pain or stiffness**



Kittens and immunocompromised cats are at the greatest risk for serious illness. If your cat is showing any of these symptoms, contact your veterinarian right away.

PREVENTING FVRCP

Staying on schedule with the FVRCP vaccine is the best way to keep your cat protected throughout their life.

- Kittens should receive their first FVRCP vaccine at 6–8 weeks of age, followed by booster shots every 3–4 weeks until they are 16–20 weeks old.
- After the initial series, adult cats should receive FVRCP boosters every three years.
- If you've adopted an adult cat with an unknown vaccination history, your veterinarian will likely recommend one or two initial doses, followed by the standard booster schedule.

Even indoor cats should be vaccinated, as these viruses can be brought into the home on clothing, shoes, or other objects, and some can survive in the environment for extended periods.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit [cdc.gov/leptospirosis](https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis)