

BRICK TOWN VETERINARY HOSPITAL, P.A.
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FELINE VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

All cats should be vaccinated against the following : distemper, rhinotracheitis, pneumonitis, calicivirus, and rabies.

Feline distemper, rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and pneumonitis are given in a 4-in –1 combination vaccine. Kittens less than nine weeks of age should be vaccinated every 3 – 4 weeks until 12 weeks of age. Kittens nine weeks and older or adult cats with no previous history of vaccination require a series of two vaccines. The second vaccine should be given 3-4 weeks after the initial vaccine. Annual revaccination with one dose is recommended.

Feline Leukemia (FeLV) vaccines are highly recommended for cats at risk of contracting this viral infection (outdoor cats, cats living in a household with an FeLV- positive cat) . Vaccinations against FeLV can be given any time after nine weeks of age. They are given in a series of two vaccines with the second vaccine 3-4 weeks after the first. Annual revaccination is recommended. The manufacturer of the FeLV vaccine recommends testing the blood for the virus either prior to administering any vaccine or at the time of the first vaccine.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) vaccination is recommended for cats at risk of contracting this infection (outdoor cats, cats living in a household with FIV infected cats). Cats can be vaccinated at 8 weeks of age or older. Initial vaccination is given as a set of 3 vaccines, 2 to 3 weeks apart. Annual vaccination is recommended. Cats should have a negative blood test before receiving their first vaccine. Currently available FIV tests cannot differentiate between a vaccinated cat and an FIV- infected cat: both cats will show a positive result on blood test.

All cats, indoor or outdoor should be vaccinated against rabies. The rabies vaccine can be given any time after 12 weeks of age. Rabies vaccines given to an animal under 1 year of age or a previously unvaccinated animal are only effective for one year. The vaccine given to previously vaccinated cats over one year of age is effective for 3 years. Revaccination is advised accordingly.