

Feline Wellness

Thank you for choosing the Monroe Animal Hospital. We are here to provide you and your pet the highest quality veterinary medicine in a caring and professional environment. At least twice a year, your pet needs a complete physical examination to maintain good health. These exams give your veterinarian the opportunity to discuss diet, behavior, and to customize appropriate vaccination, flea and heartworm prevention programs. The staff at Monroe Animal Hospital can help you decide what preventative measures are necessary for your pet!

- **The “Distemper” Vaccine:** Commonly called the FVRCP. These initials represent **Feline Viral, R:** Rhinotracheitis, **C:** Calicivirus, and **P:** Panleukopenia virus. Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus are contagious viral respiratory infections. Panleukopenia, otherwise known as feline distemper, is a viral disease that can cause life threatening immunosuppression, diarrhea, and vomiting. We recommend all kittens get a series of these vaccinations, a booster at 1 year of age, and then every 3 years of life thereafter.
- **Rabies:** This vaccine is required by law and must be given to have your pet licensed. This disease is fatal to both humans and dogs. 1st vaccine is given between 8-12 weeks and is valid for 1 year. Due to concerns about 3 Year Rabies vaccinations causing injection site cancers, we use a non-adjuvanted 1 year vaccine for all cats.
- **Feline Leukemia/FIV:** These two retroviral diseases in cats suppress the immune system and can result in infections, cancers and death. They are spread from infected parents and through bite wounds. We recommend screening all cats for these diseases and testing outdoor cats yearly.
- **Feline Leukemia:** Cat that go outdoors should receive this vaccination yearly. Since all injectable Feline vaccinations have adjuvants (chemicals that increase immune reactions) and have been incriminated in causing injection site cancers, we use a needleless injection device and a non-adjuvanted vaccination called Purevax to avoid this risk.
- **Heartworm Prevention:** Heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes; symptoms can range from none, asthma signs, GI signs, or even acute death. One study showed that 28% of positive cats were strictly indoor cats. Therefore we recommend all cats be put on a monthly topical preventative called Revolution.
- **Wellness Bloodwork/Urine:** A baseline wellness profile should be performed every year on cats over 7 years of age and every 6 months on cats over 10 years of age so in order to find early changes in the internal organs (liver, kidney, blood sugar, thyroid, etc.) that may affect your pet's health.
- **Fecal Analysis:** Once a year a stool sample should be tested to check for parasites/ giardia.