

## 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. Since cats age four to five times faster than people we recommend your pet receive a complete physical examination twice a year 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 animals. The 1<sup>st</sup> vaccine is given at 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 most injectable Feline vaccinations have adjuvants (chemicals that increase immune reactions) and have been incriminated in potentially causing injection site cancers, we use a non-adjuvanted vaccination called Purevax to avoid this risk.
- **Flea Prevention:** Even indoor cats can get fleas! Not only do fleas make you and your cat miserable, but they can also transmit tapeworm. All cats should be on a monthly preventative year-round.
- **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. There is no effective treatment for heartworm other than symptomatic. Cats that are not currently on a heartworm preventative should have a blood test to check for exposure. We recommend a monthly topical preventative called Revolution in order to prevent infection. Revolution also prevents and treats fleas, roundworm, hookworm, and ear mites.
- **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.