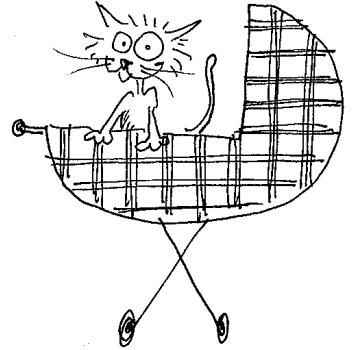


# COMMUNITY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

921 Route 53  
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[www.communityanimalhosp.com](http://www.communityanimalhosp.com)

Congratulations on your new kitten—this a very exciting time that goes quickly, so take lots of pictures! In order to keep your kitten happy and healthy, you must make sure that she is well vaccinated against common, serious infections, even if she will be living indoors. Plan on bringing your kitten to see us for an exam and booster shots every 3 weeks until she is 16 weeks of age. After that, we will see your cat at least once a year for a thorough wellness exam, bloodwork, and necessary vaccination boosters.



## **“CORE” VACCINES** (given to all cats)

**Panleukopenia, Herpesvirus, Calicivirus (FVRCP):** Your kitten will be receiving this vaccine every 3 weeks until she is between 16 and 20 weeks of age. Panleukopenia is a potentially fatal infection that she can pick up from other cats, or that you can bring into your house on your shoes and clothing. Herpesvirus and calicivirus cause upper respiratory tract infections, and the vaccine helps to prevent serious complications. She will get a booster at her first annual visit, and then every 3 years after that.

**Rabies:** This vaccine will be given once at 12 weeks of age. After that, the Purevax rabies vaccine is given every year. The yearly Purevax rabies vaccine has been shown to decrease the incidence of vaccine reactions in cats. Rabies is 100% fatal for both animals and people—it is an extremely important disease to protect against regularly, even in indoor cats. We have had many cases of indoor cats coming into contact with bats, one of the most common carriers of rabies in our area. If your cat is unvaccinated for rabies and gets bitten by a bat (or other rabies suspect), the health department can require a six-month quarantine or euthanasia of your cat.



## **“NON-CORE” VACCINES** (tell your doctor if you would like these vaccines for your cat)

**Feline Leukemia (FeLV):** This is a fatal disease that is spread by close contact with infected cats. We recommend this vaccine if your cat will be at high risk—for example, if your cat spends any time outside, is prone to dashing through open doors, or if you will be bringing any untested strays into your home. The vaccine we use is the Purevax FeLV, given transdermally (a needleless system). This system has been shown to have a much lower risk of vaccine side effects in cats. This vaccine is initially given as a series of two, 3 weeks apart, once the cat is at least 12 weeks of age. After that, the FeLV vaccine is given yearly.

## **FELINE LEUKEMIA (FeLV) AND FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (FIV) TESTING**

Your kitten will be tested for FeLV and FIV during one of her first kitten visits, if she hasn't been tested previously. These diseases are very common among stray cats and kittens, and it is important to know if your cat is positive. These diseases are incurable but can often be managed for quite a long time, if proper precautions are taken. However, they are contagious to other cats, so in a multicat household, it is important to know the FeLV and FIV status of any new cats that come into your home. In addition, cats that are positive should be kept strictly indoors, for their health as well as the health of any cats outside.