



RECOMMENDED WELLNESS GUIDELINES FOR CATS

DEWORMING/FLEA CONTROL

We recommend that kittens have a series of four dewormings, one every 2 weeks starting at 6–8 weeks old and be on monthly flea preventatives. As adults, we recommend that cats be on a monthly product that prevents fleas and internal parasites. Outdoor cats should also be on a monthly heartworm preventative. We also recommend an occasional microscopic fecal examination, especially for animals that spend time outdoors.

DENTAL CARE

Cats suffer from dental disease just like people do, and by the time they are young adults they already have some degree of gingivitis and may have some visible tartar and calculus build-up on their teeth. Many cat owners successfully brush their cats' teeth daily or several times a week. While this is ideal, some cats will not tolerate teeth brushing, in which case we recommend trying an oral rinse, drinking water additive, dental chews or treats, and/or a dental diet such as Hill's T/D. Even with these strategies, it is likely that your cat will need a complete dental cleaning every year or two. Your veterinarian will check your cat's teeth at their annual exam and recommend a dental care plan.

Due to the number of animals that pass through HSSC and limited resources, dentals are only performed for those animals who have severe dental disease that is significantly impacting their quality of life. Depending on the level of severity and schedule availability, these dentals may be done before or after adoption. For those animals who have mild or moderate disease, we recommend following up with your veterinarian post adoption.

PET INSURANCE

We highly recommend that you consider purchasing a pet insurance plan for your new kitten or cat to help with unexpected medical costs that may be incurred during your cat's lifetime. Companion Protect is an excellent company with high marks within the veterinary industry, but there are many others to choose from as well.

Ensuring every animal receives protection, compassion, love & care.

5345 Hwy. 12 West, Santa Rosa CA 95407 · (707) 542-0882 | 555 Westside Rd, Healdsburg CA 95448 · (707) 431-3386



MICROCHIPPING

All animals adopted from HSSC have a microchip implanted below the skin between their shoulder blades. Please remember to update your information with the microchip company; this can be done online or by telephone. The adoptions staff will provide you with the animal's microchip number and instructions on how to register it. This microchip will only show the contact information that has been registered to it so if you do not keep your contact information up to date then it will not be able to help reunite you with your lost pet.

VACCINATIONS

Core vaccines:

FVRCP: A combo vaccine for Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia. This vaccine protects against the most common upper respiratory pathogens that cats are routinely exposed to and panleukopenia virus.

This vaccine should be started early at 6–8 weeks, then given every 3 to 4 weeks until at least 4 months old. A booster vaccine is given in 1 year, then every 3 years for life. Some veterinarians are now recommending a booster vaccine 6 months after the kitten series.

- **Rhinotracheitis** is the disease triggered by exposure to the herpes virus and is the most common cause of upper respiratory infections (URIs) in cats.
- **Calicivirus** causes more severe upper respiratory syndrome and infected cats often develop painful ulcers on their tongues.
- **Panleukopenia** is often referred to as cat distemper, and causes vomiting, diarrhea, and can lead to rapid death.

Rabies: We recommend the cat-specific version of this vaccine that is safer for cats than the one that can be used for dogs or cats. Rabies is a deadly neurologic disease that has no treatment or cure. This vaccine can be given as early as 3 months of age and requires annual boosters.

Recommended for some cats:

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV): This is a virus that can be transmitted from

Ensuring every animal receives protection, compassion, love & care.

5345 Hwy. 12 West, Santa Rosa CA 95407 · (707) 542-0882 | 555 Westside Rd, Healdsburg CA 95448 · (707) 431-3386



one cat to another through close social contact, primarily from saliva but also by sharing food and water dishes, using the same litterbox, mutual grooming, and bite wounds. Cats that go outdoors and cats that live in a household with an FeLV-infected cat should all be vaccinated against this virus. Cats should be tested for FeLV before being vaccinated. Following an initial vaccine, a booster is needed three to four weeks later, then annually afterwards.

RECOMMENDED VACCINATION SCHEDULE

8 weeks of age: FVRCP vaccine

12 weeks of age: FVRCP booster, FeLV vaccine, Rabies vaccine

16 weeks of age: FVRCP booster, FeLV booster, Rabies (if not given previously)

1 year old: FVRCP booster (good for 3 years), FeLV booster, Rabies booster

2 years old: FeLV booster, Rabies booster

3 years old: FeLV booster, Rabies booster

4 years old: FVRCP booster (good for 3 years), FeLV booster, Rabies booster

Continue this schedule for life

VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS / VACCINE REACTIONS

It is common for dogs and cats to have MILD side effects from vaccines, not unlike what we experience following a flu vaccine. These can start within a few hours after the vaccine and can potentially last for a day or two.

Mild side effects may include:

- local swelling/discomfort at vaccination site
- decreased appetite
- decreased energy or activity level
- very mild fever
- sneezing
- an occasional cough
- runny nose (after receiving an intranasal vaccine)

More serious side effects are rare. Immediate veterinary care is advised if any of the following develop:

- persistent repeated vomiting
- bumps or hives
- swelling of the muzzle (face/neck/eyes)
- difficulty breathing
- collapse

Ensuring every animal receives protection, compassion, love & care.

5345 Hwy. 12 West, Santa Rosa CA 95407 · (707) 542-0882 | 555 Westside Rd, Healdsburg CA 95448 · (707) 431-3386