



## Feline Wellness Examination and Vaccinations

A wellness examination is an essential part of keeping your beloved cat healthy and happy. This comprehensive check-up, performed by our experienced veterinarians, focuses on your feline friend from head to tail. During the exam, we will carefully evaluate your cat's eyes, ears, nose, mouth, lymph nodes, heart, lungs, abdomen, joints, body condition, coat and skin, tail, and hindquarters. We'll also engage with you about your cat's daily routine, including their appetite, thirst, urination, bowel habits, diet, and overall behaviour. This thorough physical assessment is crucial for identifying early signs of illness and ensuring your pet is in good health for vaccinations.

Vaccinations are a key part of your cat's healthcare, shielding them from severe, highly contagious, and potentially life-threatening diseases. It may surprise you to know that even indoor cats can be at risk, as viruses can easily enter your home via clothing, shoes, or open windows. Taking preventive measures is definitely a smarter choice—it's safer, easier, and more economical than dealing with treatment later on.

We highly recommend annual wellness examinations, along with a combined vaccine covering feline panleukopenia, rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, chlamydia, and leukemia, plus the rabies vaccine.

**Panleukopenia:** Feline panleukopenia, or feline distemper, is a highly contagious viral disease caused by a parvovirus that can be fatal. It targets rapidly dividing cells, particularly in the bone marrow and intestines, causing symptoms like fever, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and a weakened immune system. Kittens and unvaccinated cats are most at risk, but vaccination has reduced their prevalence.

**Rhinotracheitis:** Feline herpesvirus type 1 (FHV-1) is a highly contagious upper respiratory infection in cats. Symptoms include sneezing, nasal and eye discharge, and conjunctivitis, which can lead to serious issues like corneal ulcers. Infected cats become lifelong carriers, with the virus potentially reactivating during stressful times.

**Calicivirus:** A highly contagious virus causing mild to severe respiratory infection and oral disease in cats, particularly in shelters and breeding colonies, which often affects young cats. Most recover fully, but some rare strains can be deadly.

**Chlamydia** is a common bacterial infection in cats that primarily causes conjunctivitis, characterized by eye discharge, redness, and squinting. While it can also affect the upper respiratory tract, it is most common in young cats and spreads easily through direct contact or contaminated items. The infection is treatable with antibiotics, but some cats may experience chronic eye issues.

**Leukemia:** A contagious viral disease caused by the feline leukemia virus (FeLV) weakens a cat's immune system, making them more prone to infections and cancers like leukemia. The virus spreads through close contact with an infected cat's saliva, urine, or bite wounds.

**Rabies:** Rabies is a fatal viral disease that attacks a cat's central nervous system and can spread to humans through bites from infected animals. Symptoms progress from behavioural changes and aggression to paralysis and death. It is preventable with vaccines, which are legally required in Ontario. Rabies poses a significant threat to unvaccinated cats, even those indoors, especially with rising instances of bat rabies.

In addition, our team may suggest booster vaccinations to maintain your pet's protection. It's essential to adhere to the vaccination schedule because timely vaccinations help avoid additional costs for extra boosters. Feel free to discuss any questions about vaccines with our friendly team.

We will work with you to create a personalized treatment plan that includes both the examination and the vaccines you choose for your cherished companion.