

# **BRIDGEWATER VETERINARY HOSPITAL**



## **FELINE VACCINATION PROTOCOL**



It's much easier to prevent disease than to cure it. We are fortunate enough to have modern vaccines to prevent the major illnesses of our feline friends. Below are basic guidelines to the feline vaccinations.

### **FVRCP:**

Known as the feline distemper vaccination, is actually a 4 in 1 combination that protects against Panleukopenia (Distemper), Chlamydia, Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus. These are highly contagious diseases caused by a virus and are usually fatal in kittens. Many of these diseases are airborne so it is important to vaccinate yearly, even for cats who live 100% indoors.

### **FELV:**

Known as the feline leukemia vaccination. Feline leukemia is caused by a virus and is a form of cancer. It can lead to tumor growth nearly anywhere on the body as well as a variety of other symptoms. Infected cats are unable to resist other diseases and may become fatally ill from associated infections. A test should be done before inoculations are given to detect if the cat harbors the disease. This can be done as early as 12 weeks and then at any age. Yearly boosters are given after the initial series.

### **Rabies:**

Caused by a virus that attacks the brain, rabies is always fatal. The disease can be transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected animal. After the initial vaccination, subsequent inoculations are considered legally valid for 3 years, but with the area we live in we recommend inoculating every 2 years for all cats, whether they are indoor or outdoor pets.

Hopefully we have given you a basic understanding of what these vaccinations are and the importance of them. As always, if you have any questions regarding your pet feel free to call us and we'll be happy to advise you!

