

CATS & VACCINATIONS

POLICY STATEMENT FROM KELSHA CATTERY

The Feline Veterinary Medical Association has advanced a policy of recommending revaccination no more than once every 3 years. Titer studies have shown some vaccine antibodies lasting 7 years, the length of the project thus far. FVMA recommends a 3-Way vaccine as given by Kelsha Cattery.

For 30 years we have maintained cats do not need repeated vaccinations. We vaccinate at 9 and 11 weeks with Killed 3-Way vaccine (rhinotracheitis, calici, panleukopenia), and 3 Year Rabies at 3 months. Sires and dams test negative for toxoplasmosis, Feline Leukemia (FeLV), and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). No further vaccinations or tests are necessary for the health and safety of your indoor cat.

We do not give some vaccines as studies show the vaccine may cause disease in a significant percentage of vaccinates, and are therefore more harmful than the treatment (chlamydia). FeLV, FIV vaccines are not recommended for parent negative, indoor-only cats. Early FeLV vaccines had only a 30% immune response. **Dr. July Levy, 2002 Florida Cat Conference, University of Gainesville,** found testing 1876 free roaming, unowned cats in Florida and North Carolina, "*the rate of FeLV and FIV around 4%*". Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) vaccine can induce disease in corona virus positive cats. Corona is a benign virus found in many cats, benign unless combined with the FIP vaccine. Corona virus titer tests are considered worthless by all FIP researchers. There is no FIP test. This vaccine has a disastrous history of unacceptable immune response and disease inducement.

Dr. Susan Little, Diplomate ABVP Feline, "*Since 1991, the rate of fibrosarcomas in cats has increased in association with some vaccines (especially rabies and feline leukemia). It is extremely difficult to remove these tumors completely with surgery and many chemotherapy drugs are ineffective. Even with radiation, the cure rate is very low.*" **Wall Street Journal: 'Are Annual Shots Overkill? Evidence is building annual vaccination of dogs and cats performed for diseases like rabies, distemper and parvovirus may not be necessary and could even be harmful. Recent and continuing studies at several universities suggest protection from vaccines may last for years, which would make annual shots for some diseases a waste of money--at the very least. A sharp increase during the past decade in cancerous tumors among cats, between the shoulder blades where vaccines typically are injected, has spurred studies. Studies have found a higher than expected incidence of side effects. We see an epidemic of hyperthyroidism in cats today, which we suspect is happening because we're over-vaccinating our pets.'**

Dr. Larry Glickman, Purdue University Vet School and his colleagues theorize repeated vaccination causes dogs to produce antibodies against their own tissue, thus resulting in autoimmune problems. In a policy statement last year, the **American Veterinary Medical Association** acknowledged the practice of annual vaccinations is based on "historical precedent" and "not on scientific data." **Dr. Ronald Schultz, Chairman University of Wisconsin Dept. of Pathobiological Sciences,** has seen hundreds of necropsies, and states, "*My own pets are vaccinated once or twice as pups and kittens, then never again except for rabies.*" **Pfizer, Inc.** (a huge pharmaceutical company) decided to test its 1-year rabies vaccine on live animals and discovered it lasted at least 3 years. It sells the identical formula packaged under different labels--1 year and 3 year--to satisfy different state vaccination requirements.

The practice of repeated yearly vaccinations has been studied and is known to stress, impair and damage the immune system. Vaccines may cause health problems such as allergies, skin problems, and cancerous tumors. We recommend your healthy cat remain at home and not revaccinated, except as required by state law.

All Veterinary Schools in North America Changing Vaccination Protocols

Recent editions of the *Senior Dogs Project's Newsletter* have reported on the ever-broadening trend of eliminating vaccinations for adult dogs, except for rabies, where required by state law.

We have now had a report that all 27 veterinary schools in North America are in the process of changing their protocols for vaccinating dogs and cats.

Here are the new guidelines under consideration:

"Dogs and cats immune systems mature fully at 6 months. If a modified live virus (MLV) vaccine is given after 6 months of age, it produces immunity, which is good for the life of the pet (i.e., canine distemper, parvo, feline distemper). If another MLV vaccine is given a year later, the antibodies from the first vaccine neutralize the antigens of the second vaccine and there is little or no effect. The titer is not 'boosted' nor are more memory cells induced.

"Not only are annual boosters for parvo and distemper unnecessary, they subject the pet to potential risks of allergic reactions and immune-mediated hemolytic anemia. There is no scientific documentation to back up label claims for annual administration of MLV vaccines. Puppies receive antibodies through their mothers' milk. This natural protection can last 8-14 weeks. Puppies and kittens should NOT be vaccinated at LESS than 8 weeks. Maternal immunity will neutralize the vaccine and little protection (0-38%) will be produced.

"Vaccination at 6 weeks will, however, delay the timing of the first highly effective vaccine. Vaccinations given 2 weeks apart suppress rather than stimulate the immune system. A series of vaccinations is given starting at 8 weeks and given 3-4 weeks apart up to 16 weeks of age. Another vaccination given sometime after 6 months of age (usually at 1 year 4 months) will provide lifetime immunity."