



☐ **Physical Exam-** The physical exam is the most important tool we have to assess the health status of your pet. Cats age quickly and are unable and many time unwilling to tell us if they are feeling a little off. Remember that one year in your life can be comparative to about 5-10 years in your pet's life. A lot can change in that much time. Your veterinarian has special training and experience in detecting subtle illness in pets.

☐ **Vaccinations-** All cats are at risk of being exposed to many infectious diseases, some of which are life threatening while others pose a public health risk to humans. Prevention of infectious disease is more beneficial to your pet than treating the disease once it occurs. The combination of the physical exam and vaccinations are the two most reliable and cost efficient methods of health care available.

– **Rabies-** A viral disease that is usually transmitted by bite wounds, often from wild animals. Rabies causes nervous system abnormalities. Once signs are detected, death is inevitable. Transmission to humans usually occurs through bite wounds from the infected saliva of an animal.

– **Feline Distemper Vaccine** is actually a combination of 3 vaccines in one administration. It covers:

**Panleukopenia-** A viral disease that is sometimes called feline distemper. Panleukopenia is more commonly seen in younger cats but can affect cats of any age. Since this disease is often fatal and exposure is difficult to prevent, all cats should be vaccinated. The symptoms of this disease include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and fatigue.

**Feline Rhinotracheitis and Calici-** Both are viruses that cause respiratory disease in cats and are easily transmitted through the air by coughing or sneezing. Clinical signs may include discharge from the eyes and nose, coughing, sneezing, fever, and lethargy.

– **Feline Leukemia Vaccine-** A viral disease that suppresses a cat's immune system, leaving it unable to fight off infections. Some cats may be able to fight off an FeLV infection, however, if a permanent infection does occur; death almost always results. FeLV is transmitted from infected mother to kitten, and by saliva or urine from an infected cat. This can happen when cats groom each other, share food, water bowls and litter boxes, or just by hissing at one another. We recommend that all kittens are vaccinated for feline leukemia, since this is their most susceptible time of life. For adult cats, if they may come into contact with unfamiliar or unvaccinated cats, we do recommend vaccination.

### ☐ **Feline Leukemia, FIV, and Heartworm Testing**

Feline Leukemia (FeLV) is the #1 viral killer of cats and can be passed from an infected mother to her kittens. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), often called "feline AIDS," weakens a cat's immune system, making them more vulnerable to other infections. Both FeLV and FIV spread through close contact with infected cats, such as grooming, fighting, or sharing food and water bowls.

All cats should be tested as kittens, and adult cats that go outdoors or may come into contact with other cats should be tested regularly and whenever they become sick. Our SNAP test screens for FeLV, FIV, and heartworm to help keep your cat healthy and protected.

☐ **Intestinal Parasite Exam-** Intestinal parasites aren't just gross—they can make cats sick and even spread to people. Millions of humans get infected each year. The best way to protect your family is to keep your cat parasite-free. That's why the CDC and Companion Animal Parasite Council recommend fecal testing every 6 months. At RCAH, we use the gold standard zinc sulfate centrifugation test to detect and prevent parasites, keeping your cat—and you—healthy.