



Kitten Visit Protocol

If you just acquired a new kitten, you're probably wondering when you need to bring him/her to their first veterinary appointment. Kittens need a series of Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia (FVRCP) vaccines from roughly 6-8 weeks old to 16 weeks of age due to their "maternal" immunity waning and their own immunity needing stimulated and developed during this period. At Ely Veterinary Care (EVC), we recommend the following protocol to help protect your new kitten from harmful viruses in their environment and keep them happy and healthy for many years to come:

Kitten Visit Protocol:

- **8 weeks of age:**
 - Annual Exam
 - First FVRCP vaccine (1 of 3)
 - Deworming
 - Kittens are recommended to be dewormed with pyrantel pamoate at 2,4,6, and 8 weeks of age to protect against hookworms and roundworms.
 - If this is your kitten's first deworming, then he/she will be sent home with another dose of dewormer to be given two weeks later based on his/her anticipated weight at that time.
 - Owners can also choose to have a fecal floatation performed (in-house vs. laboratory send out) on a sample of their kitten's stool to rule out a current parasitic infection.
- **12 weeks of age**
 - Brief examination
 - Second FVRCP vaccine (2 of 3)
 - Perform a Feline Immunodeficiency and Leukemia Virus (FIV/FelV) blood test on your kitten if the Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) lifestyle vaccine is desired.
 - The FeLV lifestyle vaccine is not required. It is recommended if your kitten will frequent the outdoors, possibly being exposed to other stray cats affected by this lifelong virus.
 - There is no recommended vaccine against FIV currently.
 - If your kitten's FIV/FeLV test comes back negative, then the first FeLV (1 of 2) vaccine can be administered.
 - In our experience, cats are less prone to vaccine reactions than dogs. But to be safe, we can perform the FIV/FeLV blood test at a different time to help split up the vaccinations for your cat.
- **16 weeks of age**
 - Brief examination
 - Third FVRCP vaccine (3 of 3; 1 year vaccine)



- One year rabies vaccine
- FeLV (2 of 2; 1 year) vaccine booster if elected at last visit.
- Preventative discussion and initiation
 - Revolution Plus is a topical monthly flea, tick, and heartworm preventative for cats.
- **5-6 months of age:**
 - Cats can be spayed or neutered around 5 - 6 months of age.
 - If left unspayed, your cat will go into her estrus (heat) cycles every 2-3 weeks until she gets pregnant.
- **Roughly 16 months of age:**
 - All cats need their FVRCP and rabies boosters one year after their last set of kitten vaccinations.
 - After these annual boosters, both the FVRCP and rabies vaccines will be due every 3 years thereafter.
 - The FeLV annual booster will be due at this time as well and every year thereafter.

*For more information on the different types of vaccines available and the potential of vaccine reactions, please see the handouts on our website titled "Feline Vaccines Available at EVC" and "Vaccine Reactions."

* To purchase your pet's preventative medications, please see our online pharmacy link at <https://elyvetcarepllc.securevetsource.com/index.pml>