

# Vaccinating your cat or dog

The purpose of vaccination is to protect your dog or cat from some common diseases that can be fatal or result in serious illness. After vaccination your pet will develop immunity to the disease.

## Types of disease - Canine

**Parvovirus** causes severe, life threatening gastroenteritis which is often fatal, especially in young puppies. Clinical signs are vomiting, diarrhoea and severe lethargy. It is highly contagious and the virus survives in the environment for long periods.

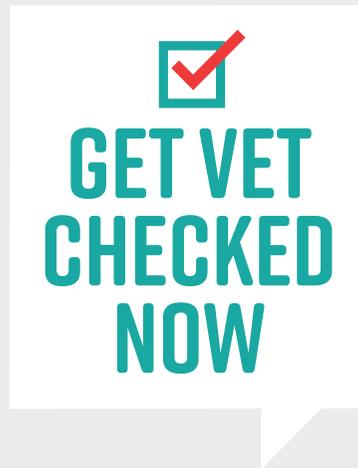
**Distemper** causes fever, skin rashes, eye and nasal discharge, nervous signs, blindness and convulsions. It is usually fatal.

**Hepatitis** affects the liver & kidneys. Can cause sudden death in young puppies while older dogs can develop fever, abdominal pain and lethargy. Recovery may occur with intensive treatment.

**Canine Cough** causes a severe persistent cough. Is highly infectious and vaccination is a requirement for boarding kennels. Vaccinated dogs can sometimes be infected, however their symptoms may be less severe and they will recover more quickly.



Fur Life Vet provides health and wellbeing information for you to help care for your pets throughout their lives.



[furlifevet.com.au](http://furlifevet.com.au)



# Vaccinations

Keeping your pet healthy starts with vaccination



# Vaccinating Puppies

Puppies gain some protection from their mother's milk (as long as the mother has immunity) but this protection gradually declines around 6-8 weeks of age and we need to commence a vaccination program.

- > **1st Vaccination: 6-8 weeks**
- > **2nd Vaccination: 10+ weeks**

If a puppy commences the program after 10 weeks of age only one vaccination is required. This is NOT a reason to delay vaccination until then as the puppy will be unprotected between 6-10 weeks

# Vaccinating Adult dogs

Require their 1st booster vaccination 12 months following their puppy course, which is usually around 15 months of age

- > **Triannual C3 Vaccinations – C3 vaccination lasts for 3 years in adult dog**
- > **Annual Canine Cough Vaccination – needs to be given annually**

These vaccination schedules can be used as a guide however it is important to talk to your Vet about the best vaccination program for your dog or cat.



# Cats and kittens



It is recommended that all cats are vaccinated with an F3 vaccine to prevent against Feline enteritis and the causative agents of Feline Flu. For all cats that go outside we also recommend vaccinating against Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).

**Feline Enteritis** is a viral disease that causes severe, often fatal haemorrhagic gastroenteritis. The widespread use of vaccinations has seen this disease reduce in incidence

**Cat Flu** is a very common upper respiratory disease that is caused by multiple viruses and secondary bacterial infection is common. Cats suffer from mucky discharge from the eyes and nose, with sneezing and coughing as well as ulcers in the mouth and eyes. Cats can be severely debilitated with cat flu and are unable to eat or drink, this can be more severe in kittens. Affected cats can be treated supportively but may become chronic carriers of cat flu and have ongoing problems.

**Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV/feline AIDS)** is now widely prevalent in outdoor cats and is preventable by annual vaccination. It is spread via the saliva and usually by fighting between cats. There is no cure for the disease which is carried by the cat for life and results in chronic infections, immunodeficiency and often tumours. It can lead to severe debilitating illness as it develops into clinical Feline Aids. Once a cat is positive for FIV they cannot be vaccinated.

# Vaccinating Kittens

## F3 Vaccination

1st Vaccination: 6-8 weeks.

2nd Vaccination: Minimum 12 weeks (or 4 weeks after 1st).

## FIV Vaccination

1st Vaccination: 6-8 weeks

2nd Vaccination: 12 weeks

3rd Vaccination: 14-16 weeks

# Vaccinating Cats – 6 months of age

## F3 Vaccination

2 vaccinations 4 weeks apart.

## FIV Vaccination

Will need a blood test to make sure the cat is negative for FIV, then 3 vaccinations given at 2-4 week intervals.

## Annual Vaccination:

Both F4 and FIV vaccinations require annual boosters.

Talk to your Vet about the best vaccination program for your dog or cat and ensure your friend is protected for life.

