

Last Chance Humane Feline Policy

Spayed/Neutered : Your cat has already been spayed or neutered. Our companion animals currently face an overpopulation crisis. Each year, millions of healthy cats and dogs are euthanized because the shelters have no room and there are no homes for them. Therefore, every animal that is adopted out of our programs cannot further add to this sad and frustrating situation. Your contract will state if the animal was spayed/neutered prior to our receiving the cat or it will list the date our vet performed the operation.

Spay/neuter not only helps keep the shelters from euthanizing even more animals, but has physical benefits as well. Females have a lower risk of ovarian, uterine and breast cancers and she will never develop pyometria, an infection of the uterus, which occurs often in older unspayed females. Males are less likely to develop prostate, perianal, and testicular tumors and cancers.

The behavior benefits are much more obvious. Females will not bleed from going into heat or “cry” for a mate. Males will be less aggressive, less likely to spray urine and get into fights with other cats over a mate. Many express concern that spaying and neutering makes a pet fat. Actually, overeating and lack of exercise are the only things that can make a pet fat

Rabies Vaccine: All cats 13 weeks of age and older receive a rabies vaccine. You should receive a rabies tag as well as a certificate of vaccination. Please keep this certificate for your records. The next rabies vaccination is due in 1 year. This is a mandatory vaccination.

De-wormed: We use a broad spectrum wormer (Strongid). Since this is a broad spectrum wormer it may not kill all worms your cat may have. This is one reason why the follow up vet visit is so important to your pet’s health.

Feline Leukemia: All cats test negative for Feline Leukemia at the time of their vet work. They do NOT receive the feline leukemia vaccination. FLV is a serious disease that eventually leads to multi-organ failure, but many indoor only cats do not have a very high risk. Please consult your veterinarian for this series of vaccinations.

Feline AIDS: All cats test negative for FIV at the time of their vet work. FIV is similar to FLV but there is no vaccine. The primary mode of transmission is bite wounds. The infected cat can seem normal for many years but the immune system is eventually compromised and the cat will often die from a secondary infection.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP): They do NOT receive the FIP vaccination. The test for FIP is not very accurate yet so we do not test for this disease. Both FIP and FLV vaccines are not considered essential. This is a decision for the guardians and the vet to make after considering the pet’s lifestyle and knowing the pros and cons.

Flea Control: All cats are administered Frontline Top Spot™. When you apply FRONTLINE® to your pet, the active ingredient Fipronil is stored in the natural oils of his/her skin and coat. This provides your pet with protection against fleas and ticks for a month. Please do not use flea collars or over the counter flea shampoo on your cat, this can cause much irritation and in extreme cases death with certain brands. Especially do not use over the counter products formulated for dogs! Talk to your vet about the best choice for you and your pet in flea and tick control. For more information about Frontline® please visit <http://www.frontline.com/>

Feline Distemper: FVRCP: Feline **V**iral **R**hinotracheitis (FVR), **C**alicivirus (FCV), **P**anleukopenia (FVP). FVR and FCV are viral diseases of the eyes, nose and throat. FVP is a viral disease of the blood and intestines (feline distemper or infectious enteritis). The next booster is due in 1 year.

CVR Intranasal Vaccine: This vaccine protects against Calicivirus and Viral Rhinotracheitis. This vaccine begins working in 24-48 hours, as compared with weeks in the FVRCP vaccine. The FVRCP is also a series of shots the cat needs to receive in order to be fully effective. Because of the close quarters in the shelters, this vaccine is often used to help prevent the most common causes of **Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URI"s)**, which are not prevented as quickly by the FVRCP vaccination.

EARS: The kitty's ears have been treated with a one-time ear mite treatment, they should not have any live ear mites although they may need to be cleaned again. The best way to do this is to put a few drops of mineral oil in their ear and massage it for a few minutes. Do this every day or so for a week or so and the dirt and dead ear mites will work their way from the ear canal.

Why should my cat still see a vet after all this vet work has been done?

First, it helps you establish a relationship with a vet. This is a wonderful forum for all your questions about your pet's needs. A vet is trained to help you keep your new pet healthy and happy.

Second, not all possible vet work has been given to your pet. The essential vaccinations have been given, but the ones that are non-essential have not. This gives you more control over your cat's future health. Please talk to your vet about the risks involved with the FLV and FIP vaccinations before deciding if they are right for your cat. The broad spectrum wormer may not have removed ALL parasites from your cat. The vet will determine if any are present, identify which one(s) and prescribe a more targeted drug. The Frontline flea control lasts optimally for one month. You may obtain more by visiting your vet. Even if you do not wish to continue on prescribed flea control, talk to your vet about what is safe for your cat. Not all over the counter flea products are safe!