



## Preventative Health Care Recommendations for Cats and Kittens

Wellness Exam/Visit	Feline Leukemia (FeLV) Vaccine and Testing	PRC Vaccine (aka "distemper")	Rabies vaccine	Fecal Parasite Testing, Deworming, Preventatives	Other Lab Tests/Diagnostics	
<b>Kitten Visit One:</b> 7-9 weeks old	Feline Leukemia / FIV Test, FeLV Vaccine at 8 weeks or older	PRC Vaccine 1st	Too young for vaccine	Fecal parasite test, 1 <sup>st</sup> deworming	Pre-anesthetic blood work is done prior to spay/neuter and other anesthetic procedures. (Tests should be done within 3 months of the procedure.)	
<b>Kitten Visit Two:</b> 11-12 weeks old	FeLV Vaccine booster	PRC Vaccine 2 <sup>nd</sup> (first booster)	Too young for vaccine	Fecal parasite test, 2 <sup>nd</sup> deworming		
<b>Kitten Visit Three:</b> 14-16 weeks old	FeLV / FIV test (2 <sup>nd</sup> test is performed 8 weeks after last possible exposure)	PRC Vaccine 3 <sup>rd</sup> (second booster)	Vaccinate for Rabies at 12+ weeks of age	Fecal parasite test, 3 <sup>rd</sup> deworming, then monthly dewormer and flea/tick and heartworm preventative for kittens who go outside. Cats who hunt should also receive a dewormer that covers tapeworm at least every 3 months.		
<b>Kitten Visit Four:</b> 16-18 weeks old		PRC Vaccine final booster. The final kitten PRC vaccine needs to be given at 16+ weeks of age.				
<b>Adult (1-6 years):</b> Annual Exam	Vaccinate at one year of age, then annually based upon risk	Vaccinate at one year of age, then every 3 years	Vaccinate annually for Rabies	Fecal parasite test annually.	Blood tests prior to any anesthetic procedure; also every 6 months for cats on chronic medications or more often with some chronic diseases.	
<b>Mature Adult/Senior (7-10 years):</b> Annual Exam		Vaccinate every 3 years		Monthly dewormer and flea/tick and heartworm preventative for cats who go outside.	Cats who hunt should also receive a dewormer that covers tapeworm at least every 3 months.	Complete blood cell count, chemistry values, urine analysis +/- thyroid testing yearly. Lab tests prior to anesthesia; every 6 months for cats on chronic medications or more often with some chronic diseases. Annual blood pressure evaluation starting at 10 years of age.
<b>Senior/Geriatric (10+ years):</b> Exam every 6 months						
<b>Why is it important?</b>  Regular examinations are a way for veterinarians to detect disease early and are important more frequently as a kitten is growing or a cat is aging. They are also needed for a valid doctor-patient relationship in order to give medical advice and prescribe medications.	More cats die from feline leukemia than any other viral disease. It causes suppression of the immune system and can lead to anemia, cancer and increased susceptibility to infections. It is spread between cats through body fluids. The FeLV vaccination is recommended for adult cats who go outside and could contact other cats, as well as all kittens since they are highly susceptible to infection.	PRC (panleukopenia, rhinotracheitis, calicivirus) is a group of highly contagious and potentially fatal bacterial and viral diseases. Panleukopenia affects the gastro-intestinal tract and causes severe diarrhea and vomiting. Rhinotracheitis and calicivirus are upper respiratory diseases that cause fever, sneezing, oral lesions and nasal / ocular discharge.	Rabies is a fatal viral disease that causes neurologic signs and death. Bats are the most common carrier of rabies in Minnesota. Even indoor cats can be exposed to bats. Rabies can also be transmitted to people.	The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommend deworming on a regular basis. Cats can get intestinal parasites when they are nursing or from contaminated soil (including houseplant soil or soil carried inside by insects) and hunting. Heartworm disease affects the heart and lungs and is spread by mosquitoes. Fleas and ticks can be present year-round, even in Minnesota.	Complete blood cell count, chemistry values for internal organ screening, urine analysis, and thyroid testing allow for detection of disease before a cat becomes symptomatic or undergoes anesthesia. These tests can also provide a baseline for interpreting results at future visits. Lab tests may be needed more often to monitor chronic medications and some chronic diseases.  Hypertension is common in older cats and early detection and treatment can help prevent organ damage and/or blindness.	