



Off the Rocks Animal Rescue
Dawn Balcazar, Director

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offtherocksrescue@gmail.com

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

OFF THE ROCKS RESCUE CAT ADOPTION INFORMATION SHEET

All Off the Rocks cats are:

FIV/FelV tested and negative for both
Up to date on vaccinations and spay/neuter
Dewormed and in most cases fecal tested and negative
Examined by a veterinarian at least once (and often 3 times or more)
Microchipped: we pre-register the microchip to you upon adoption
Given flea treatments and are flea combed/checked by our veterinarian

We follow the guidelines set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources on the transport and shelter treatment/care of cats.

Please feel free to ask us any questions that you may have about any of the above.

Kitten Vaccinations and Spay/Neuter:

When you get kittens from us, they are up to date on their vaccines, but depending on their age, they could need more booster vaccines. We administer FVRCP and Rabies vaccines based on shelter guidelines, and by 4 months old our kitties should have received all kitten booster shots. We don't often administer non-core vaccinations (see below) but we occasionally get cats that have already received those vaccines.

With all vaccines, listen to the advice of your veterinarian but this is what is generally done:

**Kitten Core Vaccinations: There are two core kitten vaccinations: FVRCP and Rabies
FVRCP is usually given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks; Rabies between 12-16 weeks.
Spay/Neuter: 5-6 months old**

**Remember to bring in a fecal sample at 12 and 16 weeks or sooner if there is persistent diarrhea.
Continue with yearly well cat visits and bring a fecal at that time.**

Core Vaccinations

All kittens should receive a vaccination that protects against feline viral rhinotracheitis (FVR), feline calicivirus (C), and feline panleukopenia (P). Protection against all three of these viruses is generally provided in the combination vaccine called FVRCP. These three viruses are ubiquitous in nature and frequently found in the general cat population. Feline Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus are two of the most common viral causes of feline upper respiratory infections and Panleuk, also known as "Cat distemper", can cause severe diarrhea and death in kittens.



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The vaccination schedule for FVRCP can begin as early as 6 weeks of age. In the shelter setting, kittens are vaccinated once every three to four weeks until they reach 16 weeks of age or older. However, to avoid over-vaccination, **most veterinarians will recommend starting the vaccine at 8 weeks of age, followed by boosters at 12 weeks and 16 weeks old.**

Rabies is the other core kitten vaccination. Rabies is a fatal disease that can affect not only cats but also many other animals, including humans. **Your kitten can receive a rabies vaccination as early as 12 weeks of age, but this depends on state laws and the veterinarian.**

Non-Core Kitten Vaccinations

Non-core kitten vaccinations include feline leukemia (FeLV or FeL), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), feline infectious peritonitis (FIP), Chlamydomphila felis, and feline Giardia vaccines.

The FeLV vaccine is recommended by some veterinarians for all kittens, while others recommend the vaccine only for those kittens at risk of disease. The decision should be based on your pet's lifestyle and a discussion with your vet. Feline leukemia is a viral disease that can be transferred to kittens from their mother or through close contact with other infected cats. Kittens should be tested for FeLV prior to vaccination. Vaccination can begin at 8 to 12 weeks of age and requires a booster vaccine repeated three to four weeks later.

FIV vaccination is reserved for cats at high risk for disease. FIV is a viral disease that is most often spread from cat to cat via bite wounds. Vaccination for FIV produces a positive FIV test, which is indistinguishable from infection. Cats being vaccinated should receive a FIV test prior to vaccination. The vaccine is not 100 percent effective. Vaccination can begin at 8 weeks of age and should be boosted at two- to three-week intervals for a total of three initial vaccines.

The Chlamydomphila felis vaccine is only used in multi-cat environments where the infection is known to exist. Chlamydomphila felis causes conjunctivitis and respiratory problems in infected cats. The vaccine can be administered at 9 weeks of age or older, when needed, and should be boosted three to four weeks later.

The FIP and Giardia vaccines are generally not recommended because of questionable efficacy and safety concerns. These vaccines are still being tested and are not widely used in the veterinary community.

When to Spay or Neuter Your Cat

Shelters have a mission to never have a cat that will reproduce. Accordingly, OTR makes every effort to fix every cat before their adoption. The majority of our kittens come to us from the Virgin Islands already fixed. In the rare circumstance that a cat we adopt out is unfixed, we will make a plan to arrange and pay for a timely spay/neuter of your cat.

There is debate among veterinarians about the ideal time to spay/neuter a cat. The majority of veterinarians aim for the 5-6 month range, which is before the onset of puberty yet the cat is developed



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enough so that the chance of problems under anesthesia are reduced. The majority of shelters will spay/neuter a kitten who is at a minimum of 8 weeks old and 2 pounds.