

Core vaccine

F3

- Initially 2 vaccinations 4 weeks apart,
then annual booster

Optional vaccines

- Cats must be tested first
- FIV

3 vaccines 2-4 weeks apart,
then annual booster

- FeLV

2 vaccines 4 weeks apart,
then annual booster

*Please note– 2023-24 has seen significant
supply disruptions to optional vaccine
availability*



Consultations are by appointment.
Book an appointment via phone,
email or our website!

MAIN HOSPITAL

Orange Veterinary Hospital

57 Molong Rd,
ORANGE, NSW 2800
PH: 02 63618388

EMAIL: orangevet@orangevet.com.au
WEB: www.orangevet.com.au
OR find us on Facebook!

BRANCH CLINIC

Molong Veterinary Clinic

89 Bank St,
MOLONG, NSW 2866

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY—FRIDAY
8.30AM—5.30PM

SATURDAY:
8.30AM—12.00PM

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS SERVICE

Email: orangevet@orangevet.com.au

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Cat vaccinations



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Why vaccinate your cat?

Vaccinating your cat strengthens its immunity against disease. At each vaccination, your cat will receive a general health check up, and you will be given the opportunity to ask questions. Vaccinating reduces the frequency and severity of disease when it occurs in a population of cats.

Vaccination protocols at Orange Veterinary Hospital

Vaccination protocols will vary between practices based on the brands they use, their location, their research, and their experience. At Orange Veterinary Hospital we considered the World Small Animal Veterinary Association and the Australian Veterinary Association's recommendations to create our protocol.

Kittens can start their vaccination course **starting at 8 weeks of age**. A cat of any age that has not been vaccinated previously will need the kitten regime to get set up initially. Following are the protocols for the first year a vaccine is given:

- ◆ The F3 vaccine needs to be given twice 4 weeks apart.
- ◆ The FIV vaccine needs to be given three times 2-4 weeks apart.
- ◆ The FeLV vaccine needs to be given twice 4 weeks apart, but can't be started until the kitten is 10 weeks old.

Multiple vaccines can be given at the same visit. After the first year all vaccines need to be given annually.

The F3 is the core vaccine that should be given to all cats. The FIV and FeLV vaccines are optional. The FIV vaccine is recommended for any cat that spends time outside and is at risk of fighting with other cats, or if there is another infected cat in the household. The FeLV vaccine is recommended for breeding cats, or if there is another infected cat in the household. Considering the WSAVA vaccine guidelines, we use triennial vaccinations where appropriate to do so.

What diseases does each vaccine protect against?

F3 vaccine

Feline Herpesvirus (feline viral rhinotracheitis)

This is a common viral infection that is highly contagious between cats. The disease presents with swollen weepy eyes, sneezing, nasal discharge, and sometimes lethargy, fever, or inappetence. This syndrome is known as cat flu. The virus can hide in the cat's nervous system and, like human cold sores, comes out again when the cat is stressed— recurrence occurs in about 50% of cases. We can provide supportive treatment to help cats recover from an episode of cat flu. Anti-virals are available but they are expensive and not convincingly effective hence they are rarely used.

Feline Calicivirus

This is a common viral infection that is highly contagious between cats. The disease is caused by the Calicivirus – it presents with mouth ulcers and the same cat flu symptoms as above. Rarely cats may present with sudden onset arthritis, fever and reluctance to walk. Recurrence is rare. We can provide supportive treatment to help cats recover from an episode of cat flu, but on occasion this illness can be fatal. Anti-virals are available but they are expensive and not convincingly effective hence they are rarely used.

Feline Panleukopenia (feline parvovirus)

This is now an uncommon highly contagious viral disease. The disease is caused by the feline parvovirus. It can cause abortion in pregnant cats or fatal vomiting and diarrhoea in cats. Kittens infected while in the uterus will show neurological signs and may have heart disease. Supportive care can be attempted but the prognosis is guarded even with treatment.

The F3 vaccine strengthens a cat's immunity against all of the above diseases. Vaccinating helps to reduce the chance of cats getting cat flu, and if they do contract it the symptoms will be less severe and the disease won't last as long.

FIV vaccine

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

FIV is a viral infection that causes chronic immune suppression. FIV is NOT contagious to people. FIV is spread in saliva, blood, milk, and semen. Cats that fight are at higher risk of contracting the disease through bite wounds. When cats first contract the FIV virus they may have a fever and be lethargic, or they may not show any signs at all. The virus stays in their body, it lowers their immune system making them more prone to infections. Often people are not aware that their cat has FIV at this stage. Cats can live in this phase for several years. Eventually cats may transition into the terminal FIV phase where the immune system is not working allowing other diseases to proliferate— signs of being unwell relate to these diseases. Cats can die during this phase.

The FIV virus has several subtypes. The vaccine available covers against the 3 most common subtypes in Australia— it is not known if these are the 3 most common types in Orange or how much cross protection the vaccine provides against the other sub-types. The FIV infection rate in Australia ranges from 10-30% of any population of cats. We don't know the exact proportion in the Orange cat population— however there are a significant number of domestic cats infected and many more feral cats affected both in town and out of town. More people are considering vaccinating as even some protection is better than none. Before we vaccinate a cat we recommend to do a test to check that your cat is not currently infected with FIV. We can discuss appropriate lifestyle modifications if your cat tests positive.

FeLV vaccine

Feline Leukemia Virus

FeLV is a viral infection causing immune suppression, cancer and blood disorders. This disease is uncommon in Orange hence we only recommend it for breeding facilities and houses that have a FeLV infected cat.