



# THE BARRACKS VET SURGERY MOSMAN

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## WHY VACCINATE CATS?

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### When do we need to vaccinate?

Kittens need 3 vaccinations at approximately 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age. Thereafter we recommend an F3 vaccination annually, as other vaccinations may not always be effective.

### Do we need to keep our kitten away from other cats until 16 weeks old?

It is imperative that kittens receive exposure to a variety of noises, machinery, car trips, people, animals and various experiences before 16 weeks old. Otherwise they may develop urinary, behavioural or anxiety issues later on. Try to introduce your cat to these stimuli in a gradual way, with a safe haven like a box to retreat to. As a precaution keep them away from sick cats, dirty litter trays and crowded catteries if possible. Make sure the kittens do not get fleas.

### What does vaccination protect against?

There are seven diseases covered in Australian vaccinations, some of which are fatal.

1. FHV - Feline herpes virus 1 (causes cat flu) formerly known as feline rhinotracheitis
2. FCV - Feline calici virus (which also causes cat flu)
3. FPV - Feline panleucopaenia virus (also known as feline enteritis, feline distemper, and feline parvoviral enteritis)
4. FeLV - Feline leukaemia virus
5. FIP - Feline infectious peritonitis
6. FIV - Feline immunodeficiency virus, which causes Feline AIDS
7. Chlamidia (a bacterial disease) also known as feline pneumonitis or chlamidiosis

### What are the vaccines called?

F3 vaccine =	Feline herpes virus 1, Feline calici virus and Feline panleucopaenia virus Not all strains of cat flu are covered, but this is the vaccine recommended by the major Vet Councils.
F4 vaccine =	Chlamidia
FeLV vaccine =	Feline leukaemia virus (side effects common)
MLV intranasal vaccine =	Feline infectious peritonitis (low efficacy)
FIV vaccine =	Feline immunodeficiency virus (not always effective)

### Are there any side effects?

Usually there are no side effects to the F3. Occasionally a cat may feel lethargic or develop a localised reaction to the injection site. This is not serious, but let us know so that we can be sure to dispense appropriate medications to relieve irritation at the next vaccination.