

Gatorland Animal Services SOPs

Vaccination of Cats and Kittens

Effective Date: 9/15/2021

Revised:

Responsible Staff:

- Vet techs
- Kennel staff

Purpose: This SOP provides vet techs and kennel staff with a step-by-step procedure for vaccination of cats and kittens starting at intake and during their shelter stay and documenting the vaccinations in each animal's medical record. The vaccination SOP is based on the recommendations for shelter cats in the 2020 AAFP/AAHA Guidelines for Vaccination of Cats.

Definitions

- FVRCP = combination vaccine containing modified-live herpes virus, calicivirus, and panleukopenia
- Rabies vaccine = killed rabies vaccine with a 3-year duration of immunity
- SQ = subcutaneous injection

Supplies Needed

- Disposable exam gloves
- FVRCP vaccine in intake room refrigerator
- Rabies vaccine in treatment room refrigerator
- Sterile 3cc syringes with leur lock
- Sterile 22 gauge and 25 gauge needles
- Sharps box for needle disposal
- Vaccination site chart posted above computer in the intake room

Procedures

1. Wear clean exam gloves.
2. Open the animal's medical record in Chameleon.
3. Ensure that the animal's ID neckband and description match the medical record.
4. Vaccinate all cats at least 1 month old starting at admission.
 - a. This includes stray cats, owner-surrendered cats, pregnant cats, nursing cats, feral cats, and cats with mild illness or injury.
 - b. Do NOT vaccinate kittens and cats with fevers and signs of more severe illness or injury pending evaluation by the veterinarian.
5. Kittens <5 months old (no permanent canine teeth)
 - a. Reconstitute one dose of FVRCP in a 3cc syringe with a 25 gauge needle
 - b. Administer SQ in the right front leg below the elbow at admission
 - c. Dispose of the syringe and needle in the Sharps Box. Do NOT recap the needle.
 - d. Record the vaccine, date, and vaccination site in the medical record
 - e. Repeat FVRCP vaccination every 2 weeks while in the shelter or until 5 months old (erupted permanent canine teeth) and record in the medical record

6. Cats \geq 5 months old (permanent canine teeth)
 - a. Reconstitute one dose of FVRCP in a 3cc syringe with a 25 gauge needle
 - b. Administer SQ in the right front leg below the elbow at admission
 - c. Dispose of the syringe and needle in the Sharps Box. Do NOT recap the needle.
 - d. Record the vaccine, date, and vaccination site in the medical record
 - e. Repeat FVRCP vaccination in 2 weeks and record in the medical record
7. Rabies vaccination
 - a. Must be administered by a veterinarian or a vet tech under direct supervision of the veterinarian
 - b. Cats must be at least 3 months old
 - c. Administer at the time of spay/neuter surgery or before discharge from the shelter
 - d. Administer SQ in the right hindleg below the stifle using a 3cc syringe with 25-gauge needle
 - e. Dispose of the syringe and needle in the Sharps Box. Do NOT recap the needle.
 - f. Record the vaccine, date, and vaccination site in the medical record
 - g. Complete the rabies vaccination certificate