

OAK FOREST Veterinary Hospital

Pet Talk

Winter 2020/2021

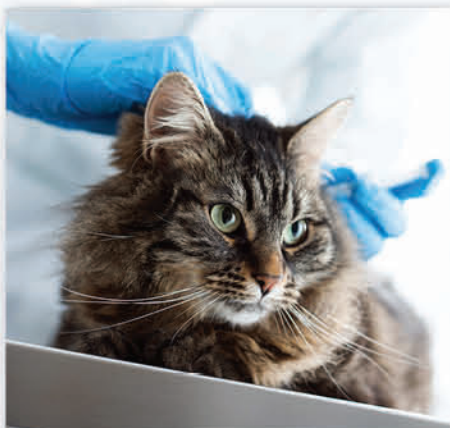


Protecting Your Cat

What is the FVRCP Vaccine?

The name may be a mouthful but the FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia) vaccine is one of the core vaccines your kitty needs, whether they are an indoor or outdoor cat. This vaccine is a combination that provides immunity against three highly contagious diseases: rhinotracheitis (feline herpes virus), calicivirus, and panleukopenia (feline distemper virus).

FVR - Feline viral rhinotracheitis is an upper respiratory infection caused by a herpes virus. Symptoms include lethargy, sneezing and conjunctivitis. Corneal ulcers and pneumonia can occur in severe cases.



C – Feline calicivirus (FCV) is also an upper respiratory infection. It frequently causes ulcers in the mouth, especially on the tongue. Cats may also develop temporary lameness.

P – Feline panleukopenia (FPV) is caused by the feline parvovirus. It affects the bone marrow, creating a low white blood cell count and making cats vulnerable to severe infections. It also attacks the intestinal tract, causing severe diarrhea. This condition is difficult to treat and can be fatal.

In fact, there are no specific cures for any of these viruses; we can only treat the symptoms. Fortunately, the FVRCP vaccine is highly successful in preventing these diseases. Kittens will receive the vaccine at six weeks and then every four weeks until they reach 16 weeks old. Adult cats receive boosters throughout their lives. If you are unsure whether your cat is current on vaccines, please give us a call!

Cat Chat

7 Fascinating Feline Facts

While there are hundreds of fascinating facts about cats we could share, we thought you might enjoy these lesser-known tidbits:

- 🐾 In ancient Egypt, cats were revered to the point that people who harmed them faced stiff legal penalties, even the death penalty. Ancient Egyptians shaved off their eyebrows in mourning when their cats died.
- 🐾 The oldest known pet cat was found in a 9,500-year-old grave in Cyprus.
- 🐾 Cats spend roughly two-thirds of their lives sleeping—around 13 to 16 hours per day.
- 🐾 Cats walk differently than dogs and other four-legged animals. They walk with both right feet, followed by both left feet, moving half of their body forward. The only other animals that walk with this gait are camels and giraffes.
- 🐾 The oldest recorded life of a cat was 38 years and 3 days. Crème Puff was born in 1967 and died in 2005 in Austin, Texas.
- 🐾 Your cat has 244 bones in its body, while a human only has 206 bones.
- 🐾 Cats don't like their food too hot or too cold. They prefer room temperature like their prey would be in the wild.



Goose Honks

Keeping Our Pets' People Safe

Wow, wow, wowza! It's been a while since I last honked! Dr. Green is the newest associate veterinarian at my mom's (Dr. Moore) hospital and is doing great! Although, my mom said things are a lot different there now. She said there's this thing called a "pandemic" going on and humans are walking around with muzzles on their faces – not so funny now, hah!

Her hospital is also doing this thing called "curbside," which she explained to me as technicians going to cars to bring pets in for their exams. How luxurious for the owners! The hospital is still doing curbside service to ensure that the staff and clients remain safe and healthy during this time. I was there the other day and saw a lot of worried parents because they couldn't be with their pets but boy, oh boy! I wish I was receiving snuggles and treats like the patients were getting while in the hospital!

If I can honk about one thing, it would be that even though the exam times are a little longer and people are more hesitant to let their pets go inside without them, they sure are being loved by Oak Forest friends!



Mom said her hospital should return to normal and allow clients back into the building toward the beginning of 2021 ... paws crossed!

Gotta run! Mom says I need to wash my paws again! Goose, out.

Goose

Pet Years vs. People Years

How Dogs and Cats Age

Comparing your dog's or cat's age to human age can give you a reference point for understanding behavior and health issues throughout their lives, especially since they are susceptible to many of the same age-related illnesses we are. These include osteoarthritis, periodontal disease, diabetes and even dementia.

Scientists are using new formulas based on breed and other factors to look at the canine aging process. The relationship between human and dog years changes over time, and different breeds age at different rates as well. In general, the larger the breed, the faster they age and the shorter the lifespan.

Puppies age much faster than human infants, and then the process slows. At 8 weeks, a puppy has developed to approximately the same age as a 9-month-old human. They reach the equivalent of age 30 at around 3 ½ years, and the equivalent of age 40 at around age 5. Dogs are considered seniors by age 8.

The average dog lives approximately 12 years, while the average housecat lives to age 15. Cats have roughly the same lifespan as a small breed dog although they age differently. The first two years of a cat's life equal the first 25 years of human life. After this, each additional year adds around four human years. Hence, a 6-year-old cat would be somewhere around 41, and they become seniors at age 11.

The great news is that our four-legged friends are living longer, healthier lives due to advances in veterinary medicine, better nutrition, and better care at home. Responsible care from humans can make a big difference. For example, the average lifespan for an indoor cat is 15 years compared with only 3 to 5 years for an outdoor cat. Spayed or neutered pets live longer, and regular exercise can add years to dogs' lives. We're committed to helping pets live the best life possible at every age!



Call us at (713) 682-6351 today to make an appointment!

Santa's Naughty List

Holiday Hazards for Pets

To make the holidays fun for everyone, keep in mind that the food, decorations and activities of the season can pose a risk to dogs and cats. Keep your pet's wellbeing in mind and avoid a holiday disaster by keeping them away from these items on our naughty list for pets:

- Christmas trees should be anchored to prevent falling on top of a pet.
- Candles, fireplaces or any open flame pose a serious risk of burns.
- Turkey and other meat bones can splinter in the esophagus or cause choking.
- Alcoholic beverages are toxic to pets. Be sure guests keep them out of reach.
- Batteries and wires, if chewed on, can cause burns to the esophagus or electric shock.
- Fat or skin from turkey and other fatty foods can cause acute pancreatitis, a potentially fatal condition.
- Sweets such as chocolate and candy sweetened with xylitol are toxic to pets, as are grapes and raisins.
- Decorations such as ornaments, bows, garlands and tinsel can cause choking and intestinal obstruction or damage.
- Poinsettia, mistletoe and holly are all plants that are toxic to pets. Consider faux plants or keep them far out of reach.

Remember that increased noise and activity as well as unfamiliar visitors can be stressful for your pet. It's important to provide a place of sanctuary in your home where they can get away. Keep their routine as normal as possible including feeding times, exercise and play. Be sure guests keep medications secure and don't allow visitors to feed them foods they aren't used to.

If you suspect poisoning or injury, don't hesitate to call us or take them to the nearest emergency clinic after hours.



*Happy Holidays to you
and your furry family members!*



When you're here, you're family.

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<https://OakForestVet.com>

Senior Wellness Savings
\$20 Savings
for Canine and Feline
Senior Wellness Profile - includes bloodwork, urinalysis and thyroid check
Not valid with any other offer.
Expires 2/28/2021.

Microchip Savings
\$10 Savings
on Microchipping (includes registration in the national database)
Increase the likelihood that your pet will be returned to you!
Not valid with any other offer.
Expires 2/28/2021.

Drop-off Savings
Save 5%
on morning drop-offs for "routine" veterinary services.
Expires 2/28/2021.

Refer a Friend
Refer a new client and you will save \$10 on your next doctor's visit.
Be sure to mention the refer-a-friend savings when you make your appointment.
Expires 2/28/2021.

Call (713) 682-6351
today to make an appointment!



When you're here, you're family.