

## Vaccinating your kitten

There are a number of highly infectious diseases which can affect your kitten. It is important to prevent your kitten from becoming ill from infection. Vaccination stimulates the body's own defence system to create protective antibodies in the blood. This protection is called immunity. By vaccinating kittens at a young age, we can provide them with the immunity they need to fight infections. This requires two injections and timing will depend on the age of your kitten.

### Diseases your cat may be vaccinated against:

#### **Feline Leukaemia virus (FeLV)**

It is a life-threatening disease affecting the immune system and often causing tumours. This virus is spread between cats by close contact such as fighting, sharing food or water bowls or grooming.

#### **Chlamydia**

Signs include severe conjunctivitis, mild nasal discharge and or fever. This disease is spread by close contact between cats.

#### **Feline viral Respiratory disease (Cat Flu)**

Cat Flu is a major clinical problem and is caused by a herpes virus, it is easily transmitted from other infected cats and contaminated environments, such as food bowls etc. Signs of cat flu often include naso-ocular discharge, depression, mouth ulcers and anorexia.

#### **Feline Panleucopenia**

This disease can affect cats of all ages and is spread by direct faecal-oral contact and also indirectly following contamination of the environment or objects by an infected animal. Symptoms include diarrhoea and vomiting and the disease is often fatal. Kittens that are infected as they are developing in the uterus often appear normal at birth but as they get older may show signs of uncoordinated movement and frequent muscle tremors. It is caused by a parvovirus, which can affect the production of white blood cells.

#### **Rabies**

Ireland and the UK are rabies free but if you are taking your cat abroad it is a requirement by law to vaccinate for Rabies. Rabies is a zoonotic disease (it may be passed from animals to humans).

Contact Glenina Vet Clinic today on 091-752014