

Vaccination Conversations on CommuniVET™

2020 AAHA/AAFP Feline Vaccination Guidelines

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June 22, 2022

Audience poll

How familiar are you with the new 2020 AAHA/AAFP Feline Vaccination Guidelines ?

- A) Not at all familiar
- B) Somewhat familiar
- C) Familiar
- D) Very familiar



In today's webcast

- FeLV vaccines in kittens
- FeLV infection: High risk vs low risk in adult cats
- Update on Feline Injection Site Sarcomas



Audience poll

For which category of kittens do you routinely recommend FeLV vaccination?

- A) All kittens
- B) Indoor kittens in multi-cat households
- C) Outdoor kittens
- D) B and C
- E) I don't routinely recommend FeLV vaccination for kittens

FeLV vaccination



Why is it considered core in cats under 1 year of age?

- Age-related susceptibility: Once the maternal antibodies have waned, kittens become more susceptible to infection
- “Compared with adult cats, kittens are much more susceptible to progressive infection, FeLV-associated disease, and death if exposed to FeLV”
- Younger cats may also behave more unpredictably, infectious diseases may be more prevalent, and their lifestyle can go through many changes in the first year
- Vaccination of mature cats is considered less critical than in kittens.

Audience poll

Now that we have reviewed the information in the guidelines, how likely are you to vaccinate all kittens < 1 year of age moving forward?

- A) Very likely
- B) Likely
- C) Unlikely
- D) Not at all

Adult cats: High risk vs low risk for FeLV infection

- When implementing vaccine protocols, veterinarians need to consider the cat's life stage, lifestyle, health status, environment, infectious disease exposure and susceptibility
- Risk/benefit assessment for each patient



Audience question

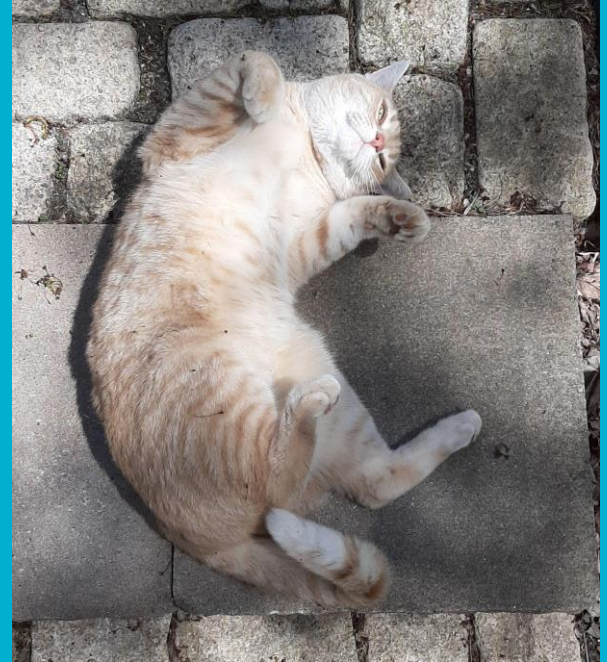
What factors do you think might make a cat high risk for FeLV?

You can type your answer in the chat box.

Adult cats: High risk vs low risk for FeLV infection

High risk for contracting FeLV:

- Unsupervised outdoor access
- Higher chances of exposure (contact with stray cats and cats with unknown FeLV status)
- Higher population density (multi-cat households, higher stress and immunosuppression, introduction of new cats)



Adult cats: High risk vs low risk for FeLV infection

Low risk for contracting FeLV:

- No outdoor access
- Cat living alone
- No stray cats in environment

*Indoor only cats may still have exposure through other cats in the household that go outdoors, introduction of new cats and during veterinary visits. They may even be more susceptible due to lack of natural exposure, immunosuppression or stress if in multi-cat households



Audience poll

How many cases of Feline Injection Site Sarcoma have you seen in the past 5 years ?

- A) None
- B) 1-5
- C) 6-10
- D) 11-20
- E) More than 20

Feline Injection Site Sarcomas – update

“The Task Force believes that there is currently insufficient research to justify recommending a single vaccine type.”

- Multiple factors at play

- Can try to decrease injections as much as possible*

- 3-2-1 rule : Incisional biopsy is warranted if remains for 3 months after vaccination, is larger than 2 cm in diameter or is increasing in size 1 month post vaccination.

- A fine needle aspirate is not sufficient for diagnosis and excisional biopsies rarely meet appropriate margins

*Reference: 2013 AAFP Feline Vaccination Advisory Panel Report

Audience poll

Where do you generally vaccinate your feline patients?

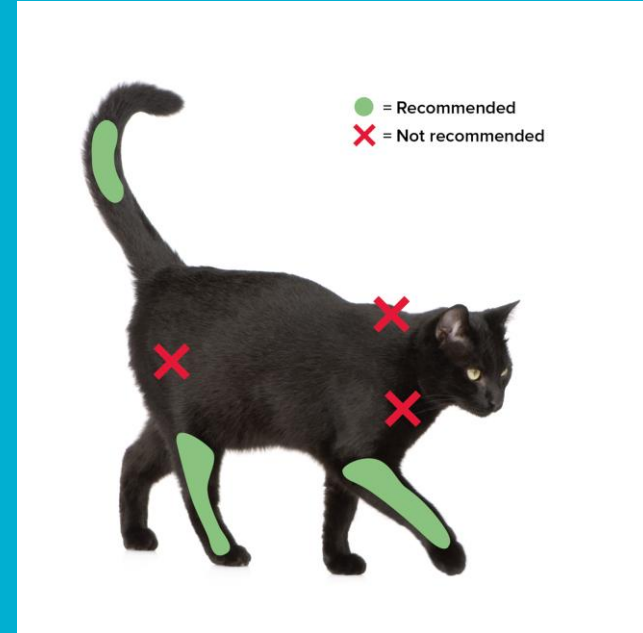
- A) Interscapular region
- B) Upper limbs
- C) Lower limbs
- D) Tail

Feline Injection Site Sarcomas – update

“Since injection site sarcomas are a risk, the Task Force recommends vaccination in the lower distal limbs to facilitate clean margins if surgical amputation is required”

2013 report recommended specific vaccine antigens to be administered at specific anatomical locations, which has helped identification of which antigen was used if a sarcoma develops.

The 2020 guidelines support these recommendations but also recognizes that veterinarians may need to use medically appropriate discretion with location of vaccine administration.



In conclusion

- FeLV vaccination is considered core in kittens, due to their increased susceptibility to infection
- Each cat needs an individualized vaccination protocol based on its lifestyle, environment, and level of risk, particularly for FeLV vaccination
- For Feline Injection Site Sarcomas, the Task force finds there is insufficient research to recommend a single vaccine type, and recommend vaccinating on the limbs as distally as possible.

