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## *An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure*

We at Aloha Animal Hospital are dedicated to helping you keep your pet healthy. Vaccinations are an essential factor in preventing and controlling diseases in our pets. Our hospital believes that a knowledgeable owner is the best defense your pet has against foreseen health risks. To aid you in providing the best care for your pet we have included the following information to help you understand which vaccinations are important, and the types of diseases they prevent.

Aloha Animal Hospital's vaccination schedule is designed to provide each individual pet with the maximum amount of protection against the common diseases listed below. The vaccinations for these diseases are very effective in preventing illness. However, some animals are unable to maintain adequate immunity, so boosters are needed at regular intervals.

Newborn kittens may receive temporary protection through the mother's milk against a number of diseases depending on whether the mother was vaccinated prior to pregnancy. However, this maternal protection usually lasts only for a short while. We recommend that the pediatric visits begin at 6 to 8 weeks of age and be repeated every month for a total of 3 visits. Upon completion of the pediatric visits, your pet should visit the veterinarian every 6 months. This program is a significant first step in caring for a healthy, happy pet for years to come!

### ❖ **FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calici Virus, Panleukopenia)**

**Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR) and Calici Virus (CV)** – viral infections of the upper respiratory system with cold-like symptoms. It is highly contagious and a very serious disease. Signs include fever, sneezing, coughing, and ocular and nasal discharge. Death may occur in kittens and immune compromised adults.

**Panleukopenia** – a viral disease also known as Feline Distemper. This virus is transmitted through contact with infected cats or their secretions. Panleukopenia is devastating to cats and especially lethal to young kittens which can fall into a coma and die even before the owner realizes the pet is sick.

- ❖ **Pneumonitis** – an organism between a virus and bacteria called Chlamydia. Pneumonitis is an upper respiratory disease of cats similar to the FVR and CV infections. It is spread among cats through coughing or sneezing causing eye infections and ocular and nasal discharge.
- ❖ **Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)** – a viral infection inhibiting the immune system resulting in various types of cancer and other chronic and debilitating diseases. It is highly contagious and is transmitted by other cats through saliva, urine, and other body fluids.
- ❖ **Feline Aids (FIV)** – an immunosuppressive virus in cats. While it is not infectious to other species it is highly infectious among the cat population. Bite wounds obtained during fights are the main mode of transmission although an infected mother can pass FIV to her offspring. Signs include fever, anemia, and diarrhea.
- ❖ **Feline Infections Peritonitis (FIP)** – a viral infection that attacks the immune system. The virus may be passed in saliva, urine, and feces of infected cats, causing abnormalities in the central nervous system.
- ❖ **Intestinal Parasites** – we recommend having your cat's feces microscopically examined at least twice each year. The most common internal parasite we test for are coccidia, roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and tapeworms. Detection of worm eggs microscopically, with the exception of tape worms, allows us to treat your pet against internal parasites that are potentially hazardous to your pet and to your family. Owners can detect tapeworms by visually inspecting their cat's feces. They resemble flat white rice grains or cucumber seeds. Worm infestations can lead to diarrhea, weight loss, and weakness, and in some cases anemia and death.
- ❖ **Heartworms** – live in the heart and large blood vessels of a cat. A cat becomes infected with heartworm larvae through bites of infected mosquitoes. It is uncommon for a cat to have more than 2-3 adult heartworms; however it may still cause serious disease in cats. Some cats may appear normal and never show signs while other cats will vomit and show respiratory signs (coughing and difficulty breathing).