

Notice to Cat Owners

The Doctors at Woodside Veterinary Clinic have always believed that an informed pet owner is a good pet owner. In that spirit, we would like to share with our cat owning clients some recent concerns about Feline virus vaccines. Recent University and Industry sponsored studies have shown a clear relationship between the use of Feline Leukemia, Rabies and Distemper virus vaccines and the development of cancerous tumors (Fibrosarcoma) at the site where the vaccine was administered. The prevalence of this problem is very low. Nevertheless, we feel it's important for all cat owners to be aware of the slight risk. In light of these findings, we make the following recommendations:

1. We are currently recommending a nasal and ocular distemper vaccine to avoid an injection site sarcoma. Side effects of the vaccine can be sneezing for 3-7 days. Let us know if your pet stops eating.
2. For cats that go outside of the house (full or part time) or cats that are exposed to such cats, we recommend Leukemia and Rabies virus vaccination programs.
3. For "indoor only" cats, we recommend that the owner discuss each individual case with their pet's doctor.
4. When possible, Woodside Veterinary Clinic will administer all Rabies and Leukemia virus vaccinations in the lower hind leg regions, where therapy is much more effective in the unlikely event that a tumor should develop.
5. Cat owners should periodically monitor the sites where the vaccinations are given and notify us of any concerns.
6. Cats that exceed 14 months between Feline Leukemia boosters should be retested and the series of vaccines repeated (per manufacturer).

Name: _____

Date: _____