

Table 3 Core vaccines for shelter-housed cats				
		<20 Weeks of age first dose administered:	>20 Weeks of age first dose administered:	Clinically relevant comments for administration
FPV + FHV-1 + FCV	PARENTERAL	Single dose at intake or where possible at least 1 week before shelter entry; in kittens, the first dose no earlier than 4 weeks, and then q 2 weeks until 16–20 weeks of age	For adults, single dose at intake or where possible at least 1 week before shelter entry Second dose 2 weeks later	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Vaccination of pregnant queens and kittens <4 weeks of age should be avoided because of the theoretical concern for cerebellar hypoplasia^{15,16} ❖ Because of the theoretical risk of clinical signs due to residual virulence of the attenuated virus in an immunocompromised patient, consider avoiding in cats with retrovirus infections^{12,18} ❖ Provides cross-protection to canine parvovirus^{19,20} ❖ Considered by many clinicians to be their first choice for protection against FPV, owing to more rapid protective response than inactivated vaccines^{14,21,22}
	Attenuated live			
	PARENTERAL Inactivated	Not recommended owing to delayed protective response specifically for FPV (see comments in text) ^{5,9–11}		
	INTRANASAL Attenuated live	Not recommended in shelters owing to less-than-optimal protection against panleukopenia ²¹		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do not vaccinate any earlier than 4 weeks of age because of the concern for cerebellar hypoplasia^{15,16} ❖ Shelters should be aware that postvaccinal clinical signs associated with the use of intranasal vaccines could be confused with those caused by natural infections ❖ Provides faster protection, which is especially relevant in high-risk populations and with kittens against respiratory disease²⁴ ❖ Consider vaccination simultaneously with parenteral FPV ❖ Might cause transient clinical signs of respiratory disease
FHV-1 + FCV	INTRANASAL Attenuated live	Single dose at intake or where possible at least 1 week before shelter entry; in kittens, administer no earlier than 4 weeks	Single dose at intake or where possible at least 1 week before shelter entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do not vaccinate any earlier than 4 weeks of age because of the concern for cerebellar hypoplasia^{15,16} ❖ Shelters should be aware that postvaccinal clinical signs associated with the use of intranasal vaccines could be confused with those caused by natural infections ❖ Provides faster protection, which is especially relevant in high-risk populations and with kittens against respiratory disease²⁴ ❖ Might cause transient clinical signs of respiratory disease
FeLV	PARENTERAL Recombinant (live canarypox vector)	Two doses 3–4 weeks apart beginning as early as 8 weeks of age	Two doses 3–4 weeks apart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Optional in individually housed cats but shelters should consider the benefits of vaccinating more cats against FeLV ❖ Strongly recommended in group-housed cats ❖ Recommend testing to establish FeLV antigen status prior to vaccination (see text for comments) ❖ There is conflicting evidence in the literature regarding efficacy and safety when comparing recombinant and inactivated vaccines (see text for comments)^{12–14,28–30}
	PARENTERAL Inactivated	Two doses 3–4 weeks apart beginning as early as 8 weeks of age	Two doses 3–4 weeks apart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Optional in individually housed cats but shelters should consider the benefits of vaccinating more cats against FeLV ❖ Strongly recommended in group-housed cats ❖ Recommend testing to establish FeLV antigen status prior to vaccination (see text for comments) ❖ There is conflicting evidence in the literature regarding efficacy and safety when comparing recombinant and inactivated vaccines (see text for comments)^{12–14,28–30}
Rabies	Administration instructions		Clinically relevant comments for administration	
	PARENTERAL Recombinant (live canarypox vector)	Follow vaccine label instructions and local laws		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Necessary for all cats where legally allowed/mandated or in an endemic region ❖ The authority to administer rabies vaccine to shelter-housed cats is often stipulated by state or local law and may not be at the discretion of shelter personnel ❖ In states/provinces where rabies vaccination may not be mandated, shelters should consider the benefits of vaccinating more cats against rabies ❖ There is conflicting evidence in the literature regarding efficacy and safety when comparing recombinant and inactivated vaccines (see text for comments)^{12,30}
	PARENTERAL Inactivated	Follow vaccine label instructions and local laws		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Necessary for all cats where legally allowed/mandated or in an endemic region ❖ The authority to administer rabies vaccine to shelter-housed cats is often stipulated by state or local law and may not be at the discretion of shelter personnel ❖ In states/provinces where rabies vaccination may not be mandated, shelters should consider the benefits of vaccinating more cats against rabies ❖ There is conflicting evidence in the literature regarding efficacy and safety when comparing recombinant and inactivated vaccines (see text for comments)^{12,30}

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