

# client education materials

## Your clinic has made the important decision to switch to Continuum® Feline HCP.

To support you in educating clients about 3-year vaccination protocols with Continuum Feline HCP, Intervet has provided this client-friendly handout.

The handout has been designed to help explain to cat owners why your clinic has made this important change and to reinforce that 3-year vaccination protocols in no way change the need for regularly scheduled visits. The back of the handout also provides easy-to-understand information about rhinotracheitis caused by herpesvirus-1, calicivirus infection, and panleukopenia.

To use the handout, simply tear off a single sheet and hand it to all cat owners who visit your clinic. You may wish to do so when these clients first arrive at the clinic so they can review the handout before meeting with the veterinarian.

We trust that you will find this to be a useful tool in keeping your clients informed about this newest standard of care for your clinic.



To request additional handouts, please contact your local distributor representative.

# Important notice

about **your cat's vaccinations.**

## what's the **big news?**

Your cat is vaccinated on a regular basis against rhinotracheitis caused by herpesvirus-1, calicivirus, and panleukopenia. Our clinic has decided to switch to a product called Continuum® Feline HCP that is effective against these core diseases for 3 years at a time.

## why the **change?**

In recent years, there has been growing concern about appropriate vaccination of pets. The American Association of Feline Practitioners and other major veterinary groups have recommended vaccinating every 3 years for rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia. Continuum Feline HCP has been approved by the US government to last for 3 years against these diseases. And receiving one vaccine for these diseases every 3 years can mean greater safety and comfort for your cat.

## what do I **need to do?**

Not a thing. Although your cat will now receive this vaccination every 3 years, there may be other vaccines that are needed annually. And keep in mind that vaccines are only one part of your cat's care. Plus, because cats age so much faster than humans, they go through a lot more than 1 year of living in just 1 year. It is important that you continue with regularly scheduled visits so that we can provide the ongoing care necessary to keep your cat healthy and happy.



# What you should know about rhinotracheitis, calicivirus infection, and panleukopenia.

Rhinotracheitis, calicivirus infection, and panleukopenia are common diseases in cats. Although they are usually found in kittens and young cats, all unvaccinated cats are at risk of getting the diseases. This is why it's important to make sure your cat is protected against them through proper vaccination.

## Rhinotracheitis

Rhinotracheitis is caused by herpesvirus-1 and is a respiratory disease. ("Rhinotracheitis" means inflammation of the nose and windpipe, or trachea.) It causes sneezing and discharge from the cat's eyes and nose as well as conjunctivitis (inflammation of the membrane lining the eyelid). It also affects the reproductive tract and can cause problems during pregnancy. The disease is usually spread through direct contact with the eyes or nose of an infected cat or through contaminated objects.

## Calicivirus Infection

Feline calicivirus causes another common respiratory disease. It can cause upper respiratory symptoms, like sneezing and discharge from the eyes and nose, as well as pneumonia, sores in the mouth, and occasionally arthritis. Calicivirus is spread through direct contact with an infected cat's saliva, eye and nose discharges, and feces. However, because it is resistant to many disinfectants and can survive outside a cat's body for several days, it can also be spread through contact with objects that an infected cat has sneezed on or touched.

## Panleukopenia

Panleukopenia (sometimes called feline distemper) is a highly contagious, severe infection that causes gastrointestinal, immune system, and nervous system disease. It is caused by a virus (feline parvovirus) that is very similar to the virus that causes parvovirus in dogs. Common symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, low white blood cell count ("panleukopenia" means a decrease in the number of white blood cells), and seizures. The disease can survive in the environment for years and is usually fatal in unvaccinated kittens, but unvaccinated cats of any age may contract the disease.

Be sure to contact your veterinarian immediately if your cat is showing signs of any of these diseases. If you have any questions, please contact your veterinarian or any of our clinic staff.

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