



Feline Forum

Courtesy of:

Summer Survival Checklist

As a cat owner you should be aware of how to protect your cat from the potential hazards that exist during the summer months. Following is a brief checklist to ensure your cat's health and safety during the summer months.

- ⊗ Provide plenty of fresh water.
- ⊗ Do not confine your cat in a car while shopping.
- ⊗ Protect your cat from exposure to garden pesticides, weed killers, fertilizers and rodenticides.
- ⊗ Be sure your window fans have protective shields to prevent a cat's paw or tail from getting caught in the fan blades.
- ⊗ Control fleas, ticks, mites and other external parasites.
- ⊗ Be sure your cat is current on all vaccinations.
- ⊗ Immediately treat insect bites and stings.
- ⊗ Protect your cat from running away, escape and road fatalities.

Vaccine-Associated Tumors

There has been a reported increase in soft-tissue tumors developing at vaccination sites. Though uncommon, studies indicate that post-vaccination tumors are principally related to feline leukemia and rabies vaccines. No brand of vaccine seems to have a higher or lower risk of tumor development. The cause of the tumors is not yet known.

Veterinary scientists are actively researching post-vaccination tumors, but until the issue is resolved—as with all aspects of your cat's care—discuss your cat's vaccination program with your veterinarian.



Is Your Cat Sick?

Many early signs of cat illness go unnoticed because of the stoic nature of cats. If your cat shows one of the following symptoms you should schedule an appointment with your veterinarian. By seeking early treatment, you can extend the life of your favorite companion.

1. Lethargic behavior
2. Vomiting
3. Increase or decrease in food consumption
4. Unexplained weight loss
5. Difficulty urinating
6. Changes in grooming behavior
7. Bad breath

The information for *Feline Forum* has been prepared by the Cornell Feline Health Center, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY.

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