**Core vaccinations**

Core vaccinations are considered **vital** **to all pets** based on risk of exposure, severity of disease or transmissibility to humans. There are 2 vaccines that are considered core vaccines: Rabies and Distemper (FVRCP).

**Rabies**: a neurologic virus resulting in the death of its host. This vaccine is required by state law for all dogs and cats due to human health risk whether they are indoor or outdoor.

**Distemper (FVRCP)**: a combination vaccine containing protection against the following viruses: Rhinotracheitis (herpes virus, respiratory disease), Calicivirus (upper respiratory virus causing lifelong sneezing, runny eyes, and runny nose), and Panleukopenia (causing death in young kittens and severe diarrhea in older cats). These are highly contagious amongst cats, especially in catteries or shelters. Unlike the dog distemper, there is no distemper component, it is just a colloquialism from the puppy vaccination.

**Non-core Vaccines or Lifestyle Vaccinations**

Non-core vaccinations are optional yet recommeded vaccines that should be used when a dog’s particular lifestyle puts them a great risk of exposure. There is currently 1 vaccine: feline leukemia.

**Feline Leukemia (FeLV):** an incurable viral infection that causes destruction of the immune system over time resulting in opportunistic infections. This can be transmitted to other cats through oronasal secretions or bite wounds. An infected mother can pass this virus to her kittens in utero or through her milk. Any cat that goes outside for any period of time should be vaccinated for FeLV.