

## **Proposal to amend the Felis Britannica Veterinary rules to clarify vaccination requirements.**

Proposal 2- Rewrite article 2.1 Vaccinations

### **2.1 – VACCINATIONS**

All cats exhibited at Felis Britannica must be vaccinated in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and vaccinations must be administered by an authorised veterinary professional. ~~and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.~~ Vaccination must as a minimum provide protection from at least feline panleukopenia, feline calici virus and feline herpes virus. Further vaccinations should be administered at the owners wish.

Homeopathic vaccination/inoculation is not acceptable.

If a vaccination has been given within fifteen days of the show, the affected cat will be refused entry to the Show and to the Show Hall and all fees will be forfeit.

#### **2.1.1 Primary Vaccination Course**

A primary vaccination course consists of 2 vaccinations 3-4 weeks apart plus a third dose given 12 months after the second dose.

A kitten or adult cat who is restarting their primary vaccination course may be exhibited fourteen (14) days after their second dose.

Cats with more than 6 weeks between the first and second dose of their primary must be refused entry to the show and any would require the primary course to be restarted.

Adult cats who have more than a 15 month gap between their second and third dose of their primary must be rejected from the show and would require the primary course to be restarted to be exhibited.

#### **2.1.2 Booster Vaccinations**

Booster vaccinations required should be given according to the manufacturer's recommended intervals. The maximum booster period will default to two years (730 days) immediately prior to the show date.

Once a cat has completed its primary vaccination course, even if a greater than two-year (730 days) time period has elapsed a single booster will restore full immunity.

#### **2.1.3 Vaccination Certificates**

A cat's vaccination certificate must show the registered name of the cat as given on the Show Entry Form and pedigree certificate. Non-pedigree cats must show the same name on the vaccination certificate as on the Show Entry Form. ~~If the cat is microchipped, the~~ The microchip number should be given on the vaccination certificate. If necessary, the microchip number may be used to positively identify a cat.

The vaccination entry must include the brand of vaccination, batch number and be signed and dated by a veterinary professional.

~~Booster vaccinations required should be given according to the manufacturer's recommended intervals. If this has not been indicated on the vaccination certificate by the issuing veterinary surgeon, the maximum booster period will default to two years (730 days) immediately prior to the show date.~~

~~If a booster vaccination has been given within fifteen days of the show, the affected cat will be refused entry to the Show and to the Show Hall and all fees will be forfeit.~~

Scanned copies of the vaccination cards are accepted providing the registered name of the cat is visible on the same page as the record of the vaccination.

If a vaccination certificate is not produced at vetting-in, the affected cat is liable to be refused entry into the show and show hall unless the exhibitor undertakes to provide proof of vaccination, valid for that show, by sending the certificate to the Show Manager within seven days of the show. Failure to do so will lead to disqualification from the show and the cat's name will be placed on the rejection list until proof of vaccination is received by the Clearance Officer.

~~Homeopathic vaccination/inoculation is not acceptable.~~

### **Rationale**

There has been confusion around vaccination requirements for show cats, especially when there has been a lapse of vaccination. This guidance is based on the Guidelines for the Vaccination of Dogs and Cats. Compiled by the Vaccination Guidelines Group (VGG) of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA). These are evidence based guidelines to reduce the use of unnecessary vaccinations particularly when Feline Injection Site Sarcoma (FISS) is a concern for cats whilst still maintain adequate protection for the cat and herd immunity.

Removal of 'If the cat is microchipped' due to the change in the UK law where microchipping of cats is mandatory from 01.06.2024.

The provision for scanned copies of vaccination has been added, which allows exhibitors to submit their vaccination cards ahead of the show if this can be accommodated by the show team.

### **References**

<https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/WSAVA-Vaccination-Guidelines-2015.pdf>