

CHANGES TO GCCF VACCINE RULE 5/3 - GUIDANCE NOTES FOR OWNERS

Kittens must have received two doses of vaccine against Feline Calicivirus (FCV), Feline Herpes Virus (FHV) and Feline Panleukopenia * (FPV). (*Previously termed Feline Infectious Enteritis), 3-4 weeks apart at approximately 9 and 12 weeks. The first dose should not be given at less than 8 weeks. Sometimes circumstances eg illness, result in kittens being vaccinated later and this is perfectly acceptable provided the interval between doses does not exceed 6 weeks.

If the interval between doses exceeded 6 weeks the vaccination is invalid for show purposes as the period elapsed is too long for the 2nd dose to be fully effective.

In these circumstances either:

- i. If the elapsed interval from the second dose is less than 6 weeks when the error is corrected a single third dose of vaccine is sufficient to confer full immunity.
- ii. If the elapsed interval from the second dose is more than 6 weeks the kitten course of 2 doses of vaccine, 3-4 weeks apart must be repeated.

The cat must have received a third vaccination, often termed 'first booster' one year after the second vaccination was given. To comply with GCCF rules this must be administered no more than 15 months after the second vaccination. If this period is exceeded ie the third vaccination is more than 3 months overdue a 2 dose course must be repeated.

NB If a young queen is mated resulting in her third vaccination (1st booster) being due in pregnancy or lactation it is highly recommended that consideration is given to administering it early ie at least 2 weeks before mating. This is good practice as it will help to ensure that the kittens receive adequate maternally derived antibodies in the colostrum. Failure to do this may result in her vaccination certificate being invalid for show purposes as the queen should not receive a vaccine during pregnancy and lactation.

In all cases the cat's last booster vaccine must have been given less than 12 months and 7 days preceding the show.

For older cats who have received the full primary course of 3 doses of vaccine at 9 and 12 weeks and 15 months and at least one subsequent booster the intervening vaccination history is not considered relevant and vets are instructed to only check the current entry, which must have been administered in the 12 months and 7 days preceding the show.