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Vaccines Protect Your Cat Against These Preventable Diseases

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Rabies- A fatal viral infection that affects the nervous system. Symptoms include staggering, blindness, behavior changes, salivation, and seizures. Because this disease is contagious to humans, vaccination of all cats is required by law in Georgia.

Panleukopenia- A viral disease that affects the intestines and bone marrow, and is often fatal, especially in kittens. Symptoms include lethargy, fever, eye discharge, and diarrhea. This disease is contagious to other cats but not to humans. Vaccination is recommended for all cats.

Upper respiratory viruses- Several different viruses (including herpes and calicivirus) that primarily cause sneezing, eye discharge, and corneal damage. While usually not fatal, these viruses can be recurrent and can cause permanent eye damage. They are very contagious to other cats but not to humans. Vaccination is recommended for all cats.

Feline Leukemia- A very common viral infection that is often fatal. Symptoms vary and include fever, lethargy, weight loss, and anemia. This is the most common fatal infectious disease of cats that can be prevented by vaccination. Although contagious to other cats, it is not contagious to humans. Vaccination is recommended for all cats who come in contact with other cats, especially those who go outside.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis- A poorly understood fatal viral infection. Symptoms vary and include fever, lethargy, swelling of the abdomen, and weight loss. It is very difficult to diagnose and is not treatable. Although contagious to other cats, it is not contagious to humans. Vaccination is recommended for cats who are exposed to other cats with FIP.