

**Three Feline Diseases That Can No Longer Be Ignored**

**Feline Leukemia Virus:** The Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is the leading viral killer of cats. It is estimated that fewer than 20% of infected cats will survive more than 3 years after being infected. Anemia (a deficiency of oxygen-carrying blood cells), cancer, and secondary infections resulting from immune deficiency caused by FeLV are the most common consequences of infection. Indoor/Outdoor cats, cats residing in multiple cat households, and cats that frequent screened in lanais should be tested, and if results are negative, they should be vaccinated for FeLV. Initially a series of 2 vaccines will need to be given 2 weeks apart, followed by an annual booster.

I accept \_\_\_\_\_

I decline \_\_\_\_\_

**Feline Bordetella:** *Bordetella Bronchiseptica* is a bacterium that can cause disease of the respiratory tract in cats. Cats with Bordetellosis may cough, have a runny nose or runny eyes, sneeze, occasionally a fever, and decreased appetite. The signs of disease are very similar to those caused by feline herpesvirus and feline calicivirus. Cats are believed to become infected by breathing the bacteria into their noses. Cats residing in or entering rescue shelters, multiple-cat households, and boarding facilities have the highest risk of exposure. Vaccination is recommended biannually if they are in group situations or intended to board. The infection is highly contagious to other cats and can persist for weeks.

I accept \_\_\_\_\_

I decline \_\_\_\_\_

**Feline Heartworm Disease:** Heartworms are transmitted by female mosquito bites. Dogs are the most commonly infected mammals. Mosquitoes feed on infected dogs then transmit heartworm disease to cats and occasionally people. Common symptoms may include sporadic vomiting, which may or may not be related to eating and coughing which may be intermittent or occur in severe sudden attacks. Cats may have severe acute disease with respiratory collapse and sudden death. Outdoor cats are most at risk, but interesting enough a new study of feline heartworm disease in Texas and South Carolina showed that 36% of infected cats were kept totally indoors. Since it takes so few of the heartworm parasites to cause disease in cats, even the occasional mosquito finding its way into the home can carry more than enough heartworm larvae to be fatal. Luckily, cats can now be put on once a month preventative medications. We recommend that your cat be put on a once a month preventative, such as Advantage Multi, or Feline Heartgard.

I accept \_\_\_\_\_

I decline \_\_\_\_\_

Client's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_