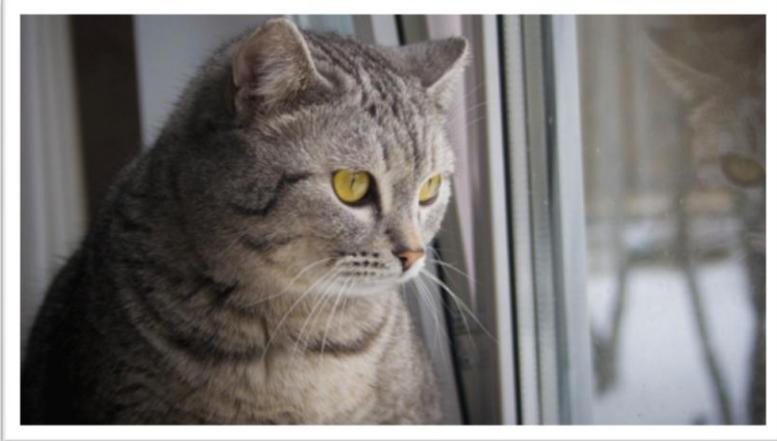


## The Protective Indoor Cat Bubble

By Dr. Jonathan Uyede

***“My indoor cat doesn’t need their shots, they’re indoors!”*** As veterinarians we hear this phrase



all too often and we can certainly understand why. Indoor cats are less susceptible to transmittable diseases like feline leukemia but federal regulations require that ALL domestic animals be vaccinated for rabies. Although the risk is low, there are several reports of indoor cats acquiring rabies from catching a bat living in the owner’s home. Traumatic accidents such as cat fights and

car accidents are removed from the equation living indoors but indoor cats are just as susceptible to other diseases like kidney failure and cancer.

The good news is that your cat will have a complete examination at the same time as getting its vaccines, thus taking care of every aspect of your cat’s health and longevity.

Working as an emergency veterinarian, I saw a lot of cats that had either not seen their veterinarian since their kitten vaccines or had never been to a vet at all. To put it bluntly, a lot of these cats were a mess! A large number of them had diseases that could have easily been treated with medication or prevented altogether. Often times we had to play “catch up” costing the owners more money in the long run. Cats are genetically programmed to hide pain so it wasn’t surprising that owners didn’t even realize something was amiss.

Along with the vaccines, the appointment will include a physical examination – the most important part of any appointment. A thorough nose to tail exam is performed and very subtle clues can be early indicators to internal disease. A treatment as simple as a diet change can add years onto your cat’s life.

**When was the last time your cat had its vaccines and a thorough physical examination? Do it for them!**