

Appendix 2—Model consent forms

The consent form should be entitled “Consent to Vaccinate” or something similar to clearly express the purpose of the document. The body of the document should describe the diseases being vaccinated against, an estimate of the odds of the cat contracting the disease (if known), benefits to the cat of vaccination against the disease, the expected adverse effects of vaccination, and odds of the cat developing any particular adverse effect. The document should also include the veterinarian’s name, the clinic’s name and address, the client’s name, and the name of the animal being vaccinated. The document should conclude with a statement of understanding and consent, and areas for the client and veterinarian to sign and date. If necessary, additional educational materials may be provided to clients in advance to assist them in making their decision. Materials provided to clients at the time the informed consent form is signed are not considered part of the information required for providing informed consent.

Two examples of informed consent forms are provided below; they are for educational purposes only, and should not be considered legal advice. Veterinarians should discuss development of an informed consent form with an attorney familiar with local informed consent laws prior to using such forms in their practice.

Example 1—long form

Consent To Vaccination

The goal of animal vaccination is to effectively reduce the extent and severity of infectious diseases in our pets.

In granting this consent to vaccinate I hereby state that:

1. I understand that (*cat’s name*) may be exposed to (*disease*).
2. I understand that (*cat’s name*) has a (*state current best estimate of odds*) chance of contracting (*disease*).
3. I understand that vaccination of (*cat’s name*) with (*name and type of vaccine*) will substantially reduce but may not completely eliminate his/her chances of contracting (*disease*).
4. I understand that (*cat’s name*) may develop (*list adverse effects*) within (*state time frame*) of vaccination. I understand that these adverse effects are usually minor and will usually resolve without the need for additional veterinary care. I understand that should (*cat’s name*) develop any severe or unanticipated reaction to the vaccination, I should contact (*veterinarian’s name and how he or she may be reached*) immediately for instructions.

5. I understand that (*cat’s name*) has a (*current best estimate of odds*) chance of developing a sarcoma (*a type of tumor*) at the vaccination site. I understand that this type of tumor, should it occur, is life-threatening and may require extensive medical or surgical treatment.

6. I understand that Dr. (*veterinarian’s name*) makes no warranty, either express or implied, as to the safety or efficacy of the vaccine being used.

7. I have had an opportunity to ask any questions I have concerning this vaccination. All such questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Date: Owner’s signature:

Date: Witness’ signature:

Example 2—short form

Consent To Vaccination

I hereby consent to have my animal vaccinated for (*disease*). I have read and understood to my satisfaction the materials provided to me by Dr. (*veterinarian’s name*). He/she has answered, to my satisfaction, all of my questions. I am aware of the potential risks and benefits of vaccinating (*cat’s name*) against (*disease*). I understand that Dr. (*veterinarian’s name*) makes no warranty, either express or implied, as to the safety of efficacy of the vaccine being used.

Date: Owner’s signature:

Date: Witness’ signature: