



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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## Purevax RC (*feline viral rhinotracheitis (live attenuated) and feline calicivirosis (inactivated) vaccine*)

An overview of Purevax RC and why it is authorised in the EU

### What is Purevax RC and what is it used for?

Purevax RC is a veterinary vaccine used to protect cats from the age of 8 weeks against feline viral rhinotracheitis (a flu-like illness caused by a herpesvirus) and feline calicivirosis (a flu-like illness with inflammation of the mouth caused by a calicivirus). The vaccine helps to reduce the symptoms of the diseases.

Purevax RC contains attenuated (weakened) feline rhinotracheitis herpesvirus (FHV F2 strain) and inactivated (killed) calicivirosis antigens (FCV 431 and G1 strains) as active substance.

### How is Purevax RC used?

Purevax RC is available as a lyophilisate (freeze-dried pellet) and solvent that are made up into a suspension for injection. The vaccine is given as two doses injected under the skin. The first injection should be given in kittens aged at least eight weeks, with a second injection three to four weeks later. If the kitten has high levels of antibodies received from the mother in the womb and in the milk, the first vaccination should be delayed until 12 weeks of age. The cat should be revaccinated for all components one year after the first vaccination course, then every three years.

For more information about using Purevax RC, see the package leaflet or contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

### How does Purevax RC work?

Purevax RC is a vaccine. Vaccines work by 'teaching' the immune system (the body's natural defences) how to defend itself against a disease. Purevax RC contains small amounts of weakened or killed viruses that cause feline rhinotracheitis and calicivirosis.

When a cat is given the vaccine, the immune system recognises the weakened or killed viruses as 'foreign' and makes antibodies against them. In the future, the immune system will be able to produce antibodies more quickly when it is again exposed to the viruses. The antibodies will help to protect against the diseases caused by these viruses. When exposed to any of these viruses later in life, the cat will either not become infected or have a much less serious infection.

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## **What benefits of Purevax RC have been shown in studies?**

The effectiveness of Purevax RC has been studied in several trials in laboratory conditions where cats were vaccinated and infected with herpesvirus and calicivirus. In the field, the studies of Purevax RC looked at the basic vaccination schedule (2 injections 3–4 weeks apart) and at the booster vaccination. They included young and adult cats of various breeds, but not young kittens. The main measure of effectiveness was the level of antibodies in the blood against the viruses in the vaccine.

In laboratory conditions Purevax RC was demonstrated to provide protection against the diseases listed above. In the field study of basic vaccination there was an increase in antibodies against feline rhinotracheitis herpesvirus and calicivirus infection. In the study looking at booster vaccination, antibody levels against rhinotracheitis herpesvirus and calicivirus infection remained stable at a high level or increased slightly.

## **What are the risks associated with Purevax RC?**

The most common side effects with Purevax RC (which may affect up to 1 in 10 animals) are temporary apathy (loss of interest in surroundings) and anorexia (loss of appetite), as well as hyperthermia (elevated body temperature) lasting for one or two days. There may be a local reaction at the injection site, with slight pain on touching, itching or oedema (swelling), which disappears within one or two weeks.

Purevax RC should not be used in pregnant cats and during lactation.

For the full list of side effects and restrictions of Purevax RC, see the package leaflet.

## **What are the precautions for the person who gives the medicine or comes into contact with the animal?**

In case of accidental self-injection medical advice should be sought immediately and the package leaflet or the label shown to the doctor.

## **Why is Purevax RC authorised in the EU?**

The European Medicines Agency decided that Purevax RC's benefits are greater than its risks and it can be authorised for use in the EU.

## **Other information about Purevax RC**

Purevax RC received a marketing authorisation valid throughout the EU on 23 February 2005.

Further information on Purevax RC can be found on the Agency's website:

[www.ema.europa.eu/medicines/veterinary/EPAR/purevax-rc](http://www.ema.europa.eu/medicines/veterinary/EPAR/purevax-rc)

This overview was last updated in 11-2020.