

Bengal Health Info to Share with your Vet

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Every breed has breed-specific medical quirks. The ones listed here are some of those unique to the Bengal breed. Please share this information with your veterinarian.

Vaccinations:

When possible, used killed (best) or modified live (next best) vaccines, not live vaccines. Bengals seem to have a slightly higher propensity than other breeds for becoming ill from live vaccines.

Surgery:

1. Bengals appear to have an elevated potential for an adverse reaction to the use of ketamine. There appears to be a somewhat higher than normal incidence of bengals dying, or going blind due to high blood pressure, because of ketamine.
2. Bengals appear to have a higher than normal incidence of "bolting" awake out of anesthesia, particularly if only an inhalant has been used. They can injure themselves when they "bolt" awake, especially after having undergone serious surgery.

Other Health Issues:

1. Bengals seem somewhat more prone than other breeds to develop patellar luxation.
2. It is **not** true that bengals are immune to feline leukemia (FeLV). The bengal's wild ancestor, the Asian Leopard Cat, is immune to FeLV. However, there have been documented cases of bengals with FeLV.
3. Bengals seem to have a slightly higher risk of a bad reaction or side-effects to Revolution. For flea (etc.) control, Advantage may be safer.
4. Many Bengals produce an unusual amount of ear wax. A periodic washing of the ear with a vet-approved otic cleanser may be in order. Also, the amount of ear wax may cause an initial appearance of an ear mite infestation if only a non-microscopic examination of the ear is made.