

KITTEN INFORMATION LEAFLET

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your new arrival to the practice. The following leaflet is designed to give you access to information that will help keep your new kitten fit and healthy!

Vaccinations

Initially your kitten will need a course of two vaccinations, one and then another 3 weeks later depending on the vaccine. The diseases that cats are vaccinated against most commonly are cat flu and enteritis, although in recent years a vaccine against Feline Leukaemia Virus has been developed and is recommended to ensure protection against these diseases. Once the initial vaccine course is complete, your kitten will need a yearly booster injection. We will aim to send you a reminder for the month that the Booster is due so that your kitten can have a full check over and their vaccination to ensure continued cover and protection against disease.

Worming

It is important for your kitten to be regularly wormed to ensure that they remain parasite free and healthy. It is recommended that your kitten is wormed every two weeks until he/she is 12 weeks of age, then every month until he/she is 6 months of age. From that age, they should be wormed every 3 months unless directed otherwise by your veterinary surgeon.

As there is a large range of worming products available, your veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse will advise you on the most suitable for your kitten.

Flea treatments

Your kitten can be treated for fleas from 2 days of age with a suitable recommended product.

There are many products available (in spray, spot on or injectable varieties) and as they all differ please ask your veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse which product would suit the needs of both you and your kitten.

Identichips/Microchips

Micro-chipping your kitten ensures that he/she will always be identifiable if he/she ever goes missing. It is a small chip (about the same size as a grain of rice) that is placed under the skin into the 'scruff' at the back of the neck, by means of a needle slightly larger than a vaccination needle with which the chip is injected under the skin. Each chip has its own unique number that is then registered onto a database along with all of the relevant information about your kitten, its breed, colour, sex etc as well as any contact details that you wish to register.

All Veterinary surgeries and Rescue Organisations have hand held scanners that enable them to locate the chip and its unique number and then trace ownership details from the database to reunite lost pet and owner.

Kittens can be micro-chipped at their second vaccination, but in the majority of cases we recommend leaving this until the kitten is neutered when it can be done whilst under anaesthetic.

Feeding

There are many makes and brands of kitten food available on the market today. As cats are all different, what suits one will not suit another and so careful thought needs to be put into what to feed them.

The most convenient way of ensuring that your kitten gets all of the nutrients that he/she requires to grow is to feed a dried 'Complete diet' so that you can be sure that they are receiving all of the vital ingredients needed for them to develop correctly. There are other wet food diets available for cats in ready made pouches/sachets/or frozen meat varieties.

How and what to feed your cat will depend on what suits you both. Please feel free to discuss any nutritional concerns with your Veterinary Surgeon or Veterinary nurse.

Neutering

This is general term used for both males and females.

In cats, the usual age for neutering is between 5-6 months.

Males can become sexually mature at around 5 months, and females have been known to come into season (and therefore possibly become pregnant) at around 4-5 months.

Neutering both male and female cats is recommended and any questions regarding the procedure can be answered by both your Veterinary Surgeon or Veterinary nurse.

Socialization

Socialization is where a young kitten forms relationships with other cats, and also learns to interact with humans and other species (for example dogs). This stage of their life is where they will learn the skills that will determine how they cope within a pet home.

It is very important that your kitten meets and is handled safely and gently by a variety of people, including children (taking care not to overwhelm them). This provides them with a wide range of positive experiences so that they can learn that they are not threatening and can be really nice to be around.

Consideration also needs to be given to socialization around other things that your kitten might need to encounter during its lifetime; for example: car journeys, groomers (especially if your kitten is a long haired breed), vets, and even household sounds such as the kettle boiling, the washing machine, the vacuum cleaner and even the television. If positive experiences happen around these situations then only nice things will be associated with them.

Food, attention and play are often things that your kitten will enjoy and can be used to establish pleasant associations with all things that you wish to socialize your kitten with.

Pet Insurance

There are many Pet Insurance policies available, offering a range of cover to pet owners. Insurance is worth considering even though your kitten might, and hopefully will be, fit and healthy for a long time, the cover will give you peace of mind in the event that something unexpected was to appear. There is a lot to consider when thinking about taking out insurance cover for your kitten, here are a few things to help you in your search for the best policy for you:

1. Does the policy cover your pet for life? Or, does the policy stop when they reach a certain age?
2. Does your policy cover you for an illness for life? Or, are you only able to claim for a condition for a year, and then after that it is excluded from the policy (This is not so bad if your kitten accidentally gets a fractured leg, but not so good if they get a heart condition or diabetes that will require lifelong medication).
3. Does your policy have an excess? Is it a yearly payment per condition or do they take a percentage each time you make a claim?
4. Does your policy cover you for all medical treatment, or are there exceptions which they do not cover such as dental care?

At the surgery we have a variety of leaflets advertising different Insurance policies so that you are able to choose the most suitable for you and your kitten. Unfortunately, we cannot recommend specific policies, however we can supply you with the details of insurance brokers who may be able to help you in finding a policy that meets your needs.



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