



## BEFORE YOUR KITTEN ARRIVES:

### It's important to think about what sort of cat you'd like to have:

- Pedigree cats should be bought from a registered breeder where you can see the kitten with his/her mother. Find out about the characteristics and traits of the breed.
- Perhaps you could give a loving home to a rescue cat or kitten? Local centres such as Cats Protection would be very happy to discuss options with you.

Cats can live for over 20 years - please do make sure you can commit to the costs of feeding, bedding, toys and general veterinary costs for the duration. Insurance will help if they fall ill or suffer an accident.

Check whether the kitten has had any vaccinations, been wormed or treated for fleas. Ideally bring a few days' supply of his / her current food home so that you can gradually move to a new diet.

### When your kitten comes home:

He / she may be a little overwhelmed, but if you are at all worried, just call us. We can give your kitten a free check-up, and give you reassurance and advice.

**Our First Steps kitten package** covers everything you'll need to start your kitten off on a healthy, happy life: vaccination course, flea and worming treatment, microchip, cat toy, cat food and a check up at 6 months.

**Vaccination:** Vaccinations against Cat Flu (herpes and calicivirus) and Feline Enteritis are recommended for all cats. Outdoor cats should also be vaccinated against feline leukaemia virus (FeLV). Vaccinations are given at 8 and 12 weeks of age. Thereafter, an annual booster injection maintains immunity.



**Microchip:** A permanent identification for your cat, so that you can be reunited if they are ever lost.

**Worming:** Kittens should be wormed with their vaccinations at 8 and 12 weeks, monthly until 6 months old and then every month - 3 months depending on your cat's lifestyle - please ask for advice.

**Flea treatment:** Fleas can cause severe anaemia in kittens and skin disease in adults, as well as spreading tapeworm. Cats should be treated monthly for fleas for life.

**Diet:** It is important to feed a diet that is designed for the specific needs of kittens, to ensure that the right nutrients are present for growth and development.

**Neutering:** This is usually carried out from 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> months old for both males (castration) and females (spaying).

**Insurance:** Insuring your cat brings peace of mind that he / she will always receive the best possible care without you having to worry about the cost. The best policies offer 'lifetime cover', but there are many policies available giving different levels of cover. At Ark House we promote Vetsure insurance.

Please ask at reception for details.

**Pet Health Club:** the smart way to keep your pet and your purse healthy. You can budget monthly for your pet's healthcare and save on your vet bills, along with free annual vaccinations and all flea and worming treatments included.

Please speak to any member of the Ark House team for more information on any aspect of your cat's care.  
Call **01525 373329** to make an appointment or register online at [arkhousevets.co.uk](http://arkhousevets.co.uk)

*We look forward to seeing you!*

