



Feline Health Guide

Vaccinations

The first time a kitten is vaccinated a course of two injections are given separated by 3-4 weeks. The first vaccination can be given from 9 weeks of age. Full protection from the vaccine is present three weeks after the second dose.

We vaccinate all cats (indoor and outdoor) cats against:

- Feline Panleukopenia Virus
- Feline Herpes Virus
- Feline Calicivirus

Outdoor cats should also be vaccinated against:

- Feline Leukaemia Virus

Yearly vaccinations are required to keep immunity up to date.

If you plan to take your pet abroad they also require a separate vaccination for Rabies.

Microchip

A microchip is the size of a large grain of rice. It has a unique number attached to it, which shows when scanned. This number is then registered to the national microchip database with your contact details so your pet can be reunited with you if they are lost or stolen.

We strongly recommend all cats are microchipped and the government has plans to require microchipping by law of all cats over 5 months of age. We usually do this at the time of neutering in order to reduce stress, however this can be done earlier.



Flea & Worming

We recommend kittens are wormed **every month until they are six months old.**

After this, outdoor cats should be wormed **every three months.** Indoor cats should be wormed at least once a year.

Kittens are **flea treated monthly,** the same as adult outdoor cats.

Fleas are very difficult to get rid of once they are on your pet, as they also live in the environment – so if you see one flea on your cat there will be many more in your house.

Shop brought products are less effective than veterinary prescription products. The main flea treatments we use in cats are Advocate or Bravecto.

Neutering

Male Cats

We recommend castrating male cats from 4 months of age.

Castration helps stop unwanted behaviours like spraying, it stops unwanted kittens and helps prevent your cat from fighting and straying.

Female Cats

Female cats hit puberty at around 4-6 months old. For this reason we recommend spaying female cats at 4-6 months old.

Spaying females stops unwanted kittens, reduces risk of mammary cancer and uterine infections.



If you have a male and female kitten together we would advise to neuter them at four months old to avoid any unwanted pregnancy.

Nutrition Guide for Cats



Kittens

Kittens have very specific nutritional needs to make sure they grow and develop properly.

We recommend **Purina Pro Plan Expert Care Kitten**. This is a balanced, complete food with many scientifically proven key benefits such as healthy bone and muscle growth with added DHA for essential brain and vision development.



Adults and senior cats

After neutering, cats should be changed onto a sterilised adult food such as **Purina Pro Plan Expert Care Sterilised** as they will be more likely to gain weight.

As they grow older their needs will continue to change and feeding a diet appropriate for their age will maximise their health in their later years. **Purina Pro Plan Expert Care Sterilised 7+** is appropriate for cats over 7 years old.

Purina offer a money back guarantee if your pet doesn't like the food.

Please ask us for a **PURINA REWARD CARD** to get a free bag on your 7th purchase. This promotion is ongoing.

25% OFF EACH PURCHASE FOR PAW PRINT CLUB MEMBERS.

Pet Insurance Advice



4 weeks free insurance with Petplan

We can sign you up to 4 weeks free insurance with Petplan if your cat is under 18 months old and not already insured.

One in three pets require unexpected veterinary treatment each year.

With developments in veterinary science vets now have lots of different diagnostic techniques available. However, advanced methods can come at a cost and just diagnosing a condition can quickly run into many hundreds of pounds.

Whether you've just introduced your pet into the family home, or they're a few months into finding their feet, an insurance policy can help cover the cost of veterinary treatment when things go wrong.

THERE ARE SEVERAL TYPES OF INSURANCE POLICIES AVAILABLE

12 MONTH COVER

These policies will only cover a condition for one year, after this time that condition will be **EXCLUDED** and you will be unable to claim for that condition again

COVER PER CONDITION

These policies allow a certain amount of money per condition. Once you have used your 'pot' of money you cannot claim any more for that condition.

LIFETIME COVER

Covers illness and injury **FOR LIFE**
Many conditions go on longer than one year and costs can quickly add up over the life of your pet.

If you make a claim you will pay an excess for the cost of treating each illness or injury with most policies.

Tooth brushing

Brushing your cat's teeth

Tooth brushing is the most effective method of oral health care. Routinely brushing your cat's teeth on a daily basis is the best way to prevent dental problems.

Starting as a kitten is the best way to get your cat used to having their teeth brushed, but a cat of any age can adapt to accept tooth brushing.

The most important thing to remember is to take things **SLOWLY**.

Please watch the video below for directions on how to brush your pet's teeth:

<https://www.myfamilyvets.co.uk/how-to-brush-your-cats-teeth>

Top Tips For Tooth Brushing!

- 1. After each step treat and praise your pet**
- 2. Each step should be repeated for at least a couple of weeks to make sure your pet is happy with what you are doing before you proceed to the next step**
- 3. When you and your pet are comfortable, tooth brushing should be done daily. Establish a routine choosing a convenient time that this can be done.**

There are other products available to help with dental care in addition to tooth brushing.

Plaque Off

A food supplement that contains natural seaweed to reduce plaque and bad breath. Plaque off changes the texture and tenacity of plaque, making it easier to remove. Results are normally seen between 3 - 8 weeks.



Royal Canin Dental diet and Purina Acti-Protect

These diets are specially designed not to crumble immediately when chewed.

The fibres in the diet allow the kibble to maintain contact with the surface of the tooth until reaching the gum line as so it removes plaque through abrasion.

Additional advice



How to get your cat into a carrier:

<https://icatcare.org/advice/taking-your-cat-to-the-vet/>

How to tablet:

<https://icatcare.org/advice/how-to-give-your-cat-a-tablet/>

Cat needs:

<https://icatcare.org/advice/making-your-home-cat-friendly/>

<https://www.myfamilyvets.co.uk/kitten-advice>

<https://www.myfamilyvets.co.uk/cat-behaviour-advice>

<https://www.myfamilyvets.co.uk/pet-advice>

Common cat poisons

-Lilies are extremely toxic to cats

<https://icatcare.org/advice/cats-and-poisons/>

<https://www.myfamilyvets.co.uk/what-is-poisonous-to-cats>

Getting another cat:

<https://icatcare.org/advice/adding-an-additional-cat/>