

Congratulations on Your New Kitten!

We at Tern Veterinary Group are delighted to meet your new kitten! We have put together this little pack of handy tips to help your newest member of the family settle in.



Consultation times

9:00 am to 10:00 am

2:10 pm to 3:10 pm

4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Saturdays

9:00 am - 10:00 am Market Drayton Branch

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Newport Branch



Checklist

So you have got a new kitten! Here is a quick check list to make sure you are all set for your new family member. Have you asked your vet about all these things?

Kitten pack	
Vaccinations	
Worming	
Flea treatment	
Microchip	
Insurance	
Tern Vets Pet Care plan	
Book in for neutering	

Vaccinations

Why do I need to get my cat vaccinated?

Many of the infectious diseases we vaccinate against used to kill thousands of pets every year. As long as your kitten's mother was immune, your kitten was protected against disease for the first few weeks of their lives by immunity passed in the mother's first milk. However, this immunity fades quickly, leaving your kitten susceptible.



What diseases does it protect against?

- **Feline Herpes virus**

Once infected with herpes virus a cat will be infected for life and will get recurrent respiratory tract infections and eye problems. They will also spread it to other cats.

- **Feline Calicivirus**

This virus also causes respiratory tract infections and oral ulceration.

- **Feline panleukopenia**

This is a severe disease causing a very nasty gut infection which is often fatal. It is highly infectious.

- **Feline leukaemia virus (FeLV)**

This virus kills the cat's immune system and can lead to nasty infections, anaemia and cancer. This is spread in saliva so can be spread by grooming, sharing food and water bowls, and by fighting. It can also be spread during mating and can be spread to the kittens by the placenta. Young cats are especially vulnerable to becoming infected.

When do I get my kitten vaccinated?

Your kitten will receive a primary vaccination course which consists of 2 injections. The first one is when they are 9 weeks old, the second one is 3 weeks later when they are 12 weeks old.

Worming

Why do I need to worm my kitten?

Heavy worm burdens can lead to a poorly kitten and cause weight loss, vomiting and diarrhoea, and failure to thrive.

Roundworms are very common in kittens as they are either born with these worms or they pick them up from their mother's milk so it is very important to worm regularly when they are young. Roundworm eggs are also passed in faeces and they can remain in the environment for months to years! These eggs are very small and can only be seen under the microscope so it is impossible to tell if your kitten is affected just by looking.



Kittens that go outside are also at risk of **tapeworms**. These are transmitted to cats by fleas that they swallow when they groom themselves and also by hunting small rodents. Tapeworm segments can sometimes be seen around their bottom and look like grains of rice.

Will my family catch worms from my kitten?

Worm eggs can be transferred from your kittens coat onto an owners hand, which, if swallowed may develop into larvae and cause disease so ensure everyone washes their hands after playing with your kitten and before eating. Also ensure all litter trays are cleaned immediately and wash your hands after.



When do I worm my kitten?

Your kitten must be wormed every 2 weeks until 12 weeks old. When they reach 12 weeks they must then be wormed every 4 weeks until they are 6 months old. They can then be wormed once every 3 months.

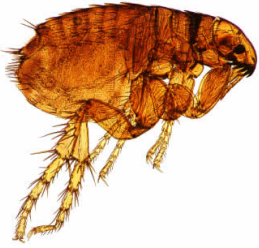
What do I use?

We recommend using an effective wormer such as drontal, milbemax, panacur, or profender for protection against roundworm and tapeworm. Wormers are also available in pet shops and supermarkets but many of these, however, are ineffective.

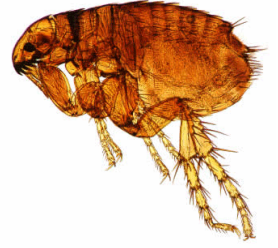
Record of worming

Use this table to record when you worm your kitten.

Date	Age	Weight	Wormer used	Next wormer due



Fleas



Fleas are very common and all cats will become exposed to fleas during their lifetime. It does not mean you have a dirty house!

How do I tell if my cat has fleas?

An itchy cat may be the only sign as adult fleas may be ingested when they groom themselves. You may however see flea dirt on your cats coat, which looks like little black or dark red dots.

Many cats will live with a minor infestation of fleas but it is still important to treat for fleas because they can cause intense itchiness, flea allergy dermatitis, anaemia in kittens, and can transmit tapeworms.



Fleas are now an all year round problem as deep carpets and centrally heated houses provide a good environment for flea development. Once a flea infection becomes established, it can be very difficult to get rid of, so we advise regular routine treatment.

What flea product do I use?

There are a lot of flea preparations available but a lot are ineffective! We recommend monthly effipro, activyl, and advocate spot ons.

NEVER USE A DOG FLEA 'SPOT ON' ON A CAT. THIS CAN BE FATAL!

Neutering

We advise this is done between **4 and 6 months old** if you do not intend to breed from your cat.

Female cats (queens)

The benefits of spaying a cat is the prevention of unwanted kittens, prevention of coming into season and associated behaviours, prevention of a serious disease called pyometra (infection of the womb) and cancer of the reproductive tract.

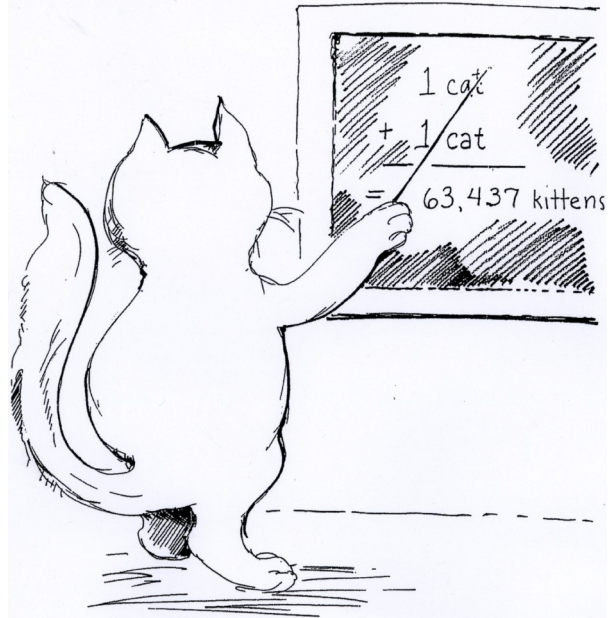
This only costs **£48.00** incl VAT!

Male cats (toms)

Castrating tom cats reduces roaming and territorial behaviour, and antisocial behaviour such as urine spraying. It also reduces their tendency to fight and so reduces the spread of infectious disease such as feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and feline leukaemia virus (FeLV). This only costs **£36.00** incl VAT!

Neutering is a routine and relatively inexpensive surgical procedure. Your cat will be admitted for the operation in the morning and will be ready to go home in the afternoon. Pain relief and antibiotics are given whilst they are at the practice.

Neutering has no negative developmental or behavioural effects on your pets character, and there are no negative emotional or physical effects from not having been allowed to mate or give



Call the practice to book your cat in to be neutered on 01630 652935.

Microchipping

This can be done at any age. It involves injecting a tiny microchip under your cats skin between the shoulder blades. Each microchip has a unique number which is stored on a database so if your cat is found somewhere you can quickly be contacted and reunited. We get a lot of stray cats brought in to us that we have to rehome because we are unable to find out who their owners are. Microchips only cost £10 at Tern Veterinary Group!



Insurance

Unfortunately, things happen in life when we least expect them, and illnesses or injuries in our pets are no exception. Insuring your cat takes the financial side of the worry away –meaning we can all focus on getting your cat back to good health. As well as considering accidental injuries, don't forget that ongoing illnesses may require a lifetime of treatment that may add up to several thousand pounds!

Petplan[®]

We recommend insurance. As at reception about **FOUR WEEKS FREE** cover for new pets. Fill out a form and be covered from today!

Learn to speak cat!

Cats are often misunderstood –they are not like dogs! Use these handy hints to help understand what your kitten is telling you!

Tail, Ears, and Body posture

Your kitten's tail and ears will tell you a lot about how she/he is feeling...



An arched back, fluffy tail, and walking sideways is

how your cat will try make himself look bigger to frighten off a potential opponent. Sometimes cats will take the opposite approach and curl up to try and look as small as possible hoping they can't be seen!

Vocal calls

'Miaow' -Your cat is wanting attention. This can convey a range of emotions from friendliness to fear to complaint to anger.

'Chirrup' and 'Trill' - This is a friendly greeting from your cat!

'Purr' - This is a sound of content! They also purr when they are stressed to calm themselves down.

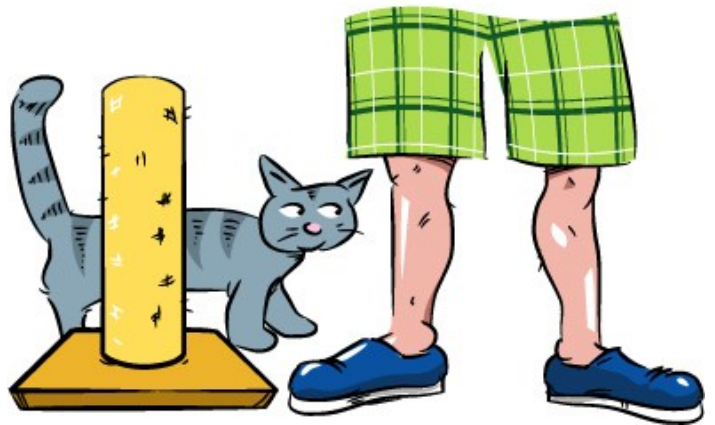
'Chatter' -Your cat is excited or frustrated. This is often whilst they are watching birds through the window.

'Grrrr' and 'Hiss' -Your cat is feeling irritated, upset, and defensive.

'Yowl' -Your cat is scared, angry, or painful.

Rubbing and Scratching

Your cats body is designed to read, send, and leave scent signals. Your cat will rub on door frames, chair legs, your legs which leaves a scent signal and also acknowledges your status as owner and confirms a social bond. Your cat will also scratch which helps to keep her claws sharp, leaves visual signs of marking territory, and leaves scent signals from glands in the paws. A scratching a post may help to save your furniture... and your legs!



Kneading

This is a sign of affection and tells you your cat is feeling safe and contented. Don't push your cat off if his/her claws are too sharp as this will be confusing to them. Put a thick blanket on your lap and book a nurse appointment with us for a nail clip!

Eye contact

Cats do not like to be stared at! They can find this intimidating . Because they don't like long stares they often break it up with a slow blink –this shows true contentment! Give them a slow blink back! Narrow pupils are another sign of contentment and dilated pupils mean your cat is in high arousal.

Did you know.....?

Lillies, human painkillers, onions, household cleaners, insecticides, dog flea products, slug bait, decorating materials, and anti-freeze are toxic to cats and are often fatal!



Cats are not vegetarians! They must be fed cat food as this contains taurine. If cats do not get taurine they will go blind.

A female cat can have 3 to 7 kittens every 4 months (and can be fathered by different tom cats!) -this means in just 5 years, one female cat can have 20,000 descendants. This is why its so important to get your cat neutered!

Male cats are prone to getting cystitis. To help prevent this make sure your cat is not overweight, is not stressed, always has a clean litter tray, and has access to plenty of water.

White cats are prone to sunburn.

Cats are lactose intolerant so don't give them cows milk.

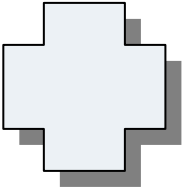
Urine spraying is a normal part of cat behaviour. They may spray if they are ill, highly aroused, stressed or threatened. Never punish your cat for spraying, it will only make your cat more anxious. They can be stressed by changes in the household e.g. new



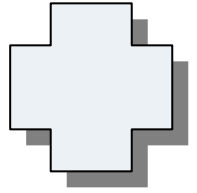
baby, new pet, building work, or by other cats in the surrounding neighbourhood. A plug in called Feliway is a synthetic version of your cats facial pheromones which will make your cat feel more relaxed. These are available at reception.

Market Drayton Main Surgery, Stafford Street, TF9 1HX. Tel 01630 652 935

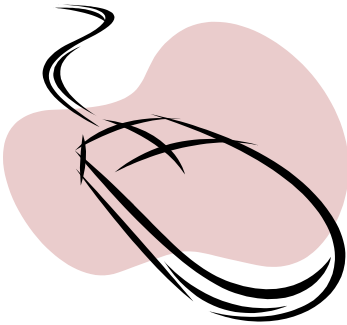
Newport Branch, Audley Avenue Industrial Estate, TF10 7BX. Tel 01952 820 222



In case of an emergency please call 01630 652 935



Your call will be forwarded to one of our own small animal vets, so rest assured there will always be a familiar face to advise and help when you need it –24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.



Why not check our website out for more information about us:

www.ternvets.co.uk

Or “like” us on Facebook to find our latest news, help reunite lost pets with their owners, and follow interesting pet stories! We would love you to post pictures of your

cat!



www.facebook.com/ternvets

For more information about cats visit www.fabcats.org



In case of emergency out of hours call 01630 652 935