

Congratulations on your new family member! This leaflet is part of your kitten pack, designed to help your new addition get the best start in life. It contains tips and recommendations on settling them into their new home and caring for them in their first year.

Vaccination

Our kitten vaccines protect against the most serious and common diseases. Many of these diseases used to be common but are now much less so due to large scale vaccination and they offer the best protection.

Kitten vaccines are given at 9 and 12 weeks of age with full protection from a week later. They offer protection against the following diseases:

- Feline Infectious Enteritis (Panleucopenia) is a severe and often fatal gut infection. Unvaccinated cats are at great risk because the virus is widespread in the environment.
- Cat Flu is very common and consists of several viruses and bacteria. Vaccination protects against the most severe forms of cat flu.
- Feline Leukaemia (FeLV) is transmitted in saliva and is a fatal and debilitating disease.
- We include protection against Chlamydia (another component of cat flu), something that many other vaccines don't.

Regular yearly booster vaccination is important to maintain full protection and many Catteries won't offer their facilities unless this is up to date.

If you are considering taking your cat abroad ask us for our leaflet 'Taking Your Pet Abroad' and we can provide advice on Rabies vaccination, Pet Passports and travelling.



Socialisation

Socialisation in kittens from 9 to 20 weeks is just as important as in puppies to ensure they grow into confident cats. You can focus on ensuring your new kitten meets and is gently handled by at least four different people—a mixture of men, women and young children. Care should be taken not to stress the new kitten, they like to be in control of their own movements. Expose them gently to new situations such as travelling in the car and normal household noises. Any introductions to existing household pets should be slow and controlled, ask us for advice if you are having problems.

Don't encourage games that use claws and teeth, they will hurt more as they get older! Be careful not to socialise them with strange dogs or traffic noises - it is good for an adult cat to be wary of these things.

Worming

We recommend worming with an effective prescription strength wormer monthly until 6 months of age. From then on it should be at least every three months. In some situations such as with small children in the house or your cat is a hunter it may be preferable to do more often.



Flea Treatment

Regular flea treatment is important to ensure flea problems don't build up in the household. We recommend flea treating both cats and dogs monthly with a prescription strength flea treatment. We have a variety of products available to suit your pet including combined flea and wormers for cats - we can help you choose the most suitable product for your pet. Our leaflet on flea control and prevention can be helpful if you are having a problem controlling them - or ask to have a chat with one of our knowledgeable team.



Microchipping

A microchip is a device implanted under the skin which carries a unique number like a barcode. When scanned, this number can be used to access a database of the owners records. If your cat goes missing, a microchip can be crucial in reuniting them with you. Remember that keeping your records such as address and telephone number up to date if they change is crucial!

Neutering

Neutering is the word given to the removal of the reproductive organs. It is usually done to prevent accidental breeding and to improve health.

Cats

We recommend neutering cats at 5 to 6 months of age. This prevents female cats from getting pregnant—something they are very good at! Castration in male cats helps reduce fighting (fighting cats can pick up several nasty diseases including leukaemia and FIV), marking territory and makes them more affectionate.

Take Care with Permethrin

Over the counter spot-on products containing Permethrin designed for dogs can be lethal to cats. Always check the label and take extra care to follow instructions precisely. Even contact with a correctly treated dog can cause a severe reaction in cats.

Insurance

Insurance for pets is more and more easily available in a variety of forms and can provide cover types from basic accident only to full lifetime cover. We offer 4 weeks free insurance to puppies and kittens we see - no payment or obligation. The big advantage is that this starts immediately unlike many other policies which have a 14 or 28 day waiting period before problems are covered.

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