

Caring For Your Kitten

1. Feeding:



From weaning age we recommend feeding a complete and balanced good quality kitten food until your kitten is at least six months of age. After this your cat can move onto an adult food to continue their optimum development. We recommend the Royal Canin Vetcare range which is available from the veterinary practice and we will be happy to advise you on a suitable diet for your cat throughout their life. The food is specifically designed to provide the correct levels of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals for a growing kitten. The diets are fully balanced but always ensure there is a constant supply of drinking water available.

2. Vaccination:



This consists of a course of two vaccinations- one which is given at 9 weeks of age and the second which is given at 12 weeks. These protect against Feline Influenza, Feline Infectious Enteritis and Feline Leukaemia. To maintain your cat's immunity against these diseases (which in some cases can be fatal) a yearly booster is required. We will send you a reminder when it is due but please make sure you keep their vaccination certificate in a safe place and make a note on the calendar when it is due!

3. Worming:



This is necessary for all cats throughout their life not just when they are kittens. They should be wormed with a veterinary supplied broad spectrum multiwormer. Often supermarket and pet-shop wormers will only treat one or two types of worms so will not always be effective. Your kitten should be wormed every 2 weeks until they are 12 weeks and then once every 3 months thereafter. There are now spot on treatments available for easy administration as well as tablets. To help you remember we will send you a reminder when the next dose is due!

4. Flea Control:



We advise regular treatment for fleas all year round to prevent infestations. This is easily achieved by using a spot on treatment available from the veterinary practice. These are applied to the back of your kitten's neck and provide at least one month's protection. Please feel free to ask for advice on the products which best suit your kitten's situation.

5. Microchipping:



This is an extremely important way of identifying your kitten should they ever go missing. It is a permanent form of identification, which is especially important if your cat does not wear a collar or ID tag. A small chip (about the size of a grain of rice) is inserted in the excess skin of your kitten's neck. This chip contains a unique number which is read by using a scanner. This number is registered along with your contact details with the national Petlog database. It is important to inform the database if your details change. All stray animals are scanned and on reading the chip, the database would be contacted and you would be reunited with your cat as quickly as possible. Without this permanent method of identification your cat may not be traced back to you and may even be re-homed.

6. Neutering:



Our policy is to neuter both male and female cats from 4-6 months of age before they become sexually mature. This significantly reduces the number of unwanted litters and helps to eliminate medical and behavioural problems associated with entire male and female cats. Once your cat has been neutered you may need to slightly reduce the amount of food they require as it is quite common for neutered cats to gain a little weight due to the reduction in hormones. There is a diet lower in calories available for neutered cats at the veterinary practice and we will be happy to advise you.

7. Dental Care:



We clean our teeth several times a day and have regular check ups with a dentist. Imagine what our mouths would be like if we didn't- Cats are no exception! It is important to develop a dental care regime for your kitten at an early age, which you can continue throughout their life. The gold standard of dental care is to brush your kitten's teeth once a day (usually at bedtime) with a special cat toothbrush and toothpaste. Human formulas are not suitable as they are not designed to be swallowed. Cat toothpastes are available in a range of flavours and your cat will probably regard it as a treat! These kits and other dental products, including dental biscuits are available from the veterinary practice. We will be happy to advise you on the most suitable products for your kitten.

8. Insurance:



Pet insurance is an essential requirement to help cover the cost of unexpected veterinary fees. Accidents can happen especially with inquisitive kittens! These can be expensive but being insured means you can have peace of mind. There are a variety of policies available to suit you and your budget and it is always important to read the small print! We recommend our Vetsure policy which provides lifetime cover for any illness which may occur during your cat's life. Please ask for more information or see our website for more details.

9. House Training:



Most kittens will now have a good basic understanding of appropriate toileting behaviour. Their litter tray should be placed in a quiet corner of a room. A covered litter tray may be preferable to your kitten if they are shy and may be more inclined to use a private area. It is normal for your kitten to have accidents but it is important to remember not to tell them off. A variety of litter and litter trays are available. If you are concerned please feel free to ask for advice.

10. Grooming:



Handling your kitten regularly will improve their confidence and your relationship with your kitten. This allows you to look in their ears, check their teeth, open their mouth and examine their paws with ease which will become very important later on in life if medication is required for any problems. Grooming your kitten regularly (on a daily basis if long haired) will prevent their coat becoming matted and allow you to check for any problems.

