

For the Health of Your New Kitten

Physical Exams:

Your kitten will have a physical exam before their vaccinations are administered. Since kittens receive a series of vaccinations, they will have several physical exams during the first few months of their lives. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions about your new pet- we can help with behavioral questions, too. As your kitten grows into an adult, annual wellness exams are important to help us identify age-related diseases early.

Vaccines:

We will work with you to find the best vaccination program for your pet based on their lifestyle, age, medical history, and risk of disease exposure. Please let us know if your kitten will be living with other cats or going outdoors.

Spaying and Neutering:

Your kitten can be spayed or neutered at 6 months of age. Surgery patients need to be current on their annual exam, their vaccinations, and testing for parasites. All pets will also have lab work done prior to anesthesia. Also ask about microchipping your kitten at this time, especially if they will be going outside.

Feeding Recommendations:

It's recommended to meal feed and measure out each meal so you know exactly how much your pet is eating. This will help keep your kitten at an optimum weight while they are growing into adults, and reduce the risk of diabetes.

Dental Care:

Start a home dental program early. Teeth-brushing is an important part of home health care and a very cost-effective way to prevent certain diseases later in your cat's life.

Use toothpaste formulated for pets and a soft-bristled toothbrush or gauze wrapped around your finger, and brush your pet's teeth every day. There are many other products available- such as chews, dental diets, water additive, sealants or rinses- that can be added to your brushing routine to help prevent periodontal disease. Ask one of our staff for information on these products.

Crate Training Kittens:

Keep in mind kittens and cats rarely need to go places, but when they do, placing them in a crate is a foreign and scary thing. It is important to give them good experiences with a travel crate. After bringing your new pet home, open up the carrier, place treats or catnip inside for your pet to discover when exploring. Continue to keep the carrier in an accessible location so the pet can play inside. Occasionally offer a special meal inside the carrier for the pet to continue to experience something good. Randomly, close the door and carry the pet around the house then allow the pet to leave on his or her own time. Try to schedule short car trips with the pet without actually going to the vet. The time invested in a young pet will help for years to come.

First Aid:

Keeping some items on hand for common veterinary problems will be very helpful if the situation arises. Use a simple Tupperware or similar box which contains the following:

- gauze pads and medical tape
- gauze roll or shoelace
- Vaseline
- rectal thermometer
- tweezers
- hydrogen peroxide

Never give your cat medication for pain relief without consulting a veterinarian first. Many human medications are toxic to animals.