

Kitten Recommendations

Please bring a fecal sample to your kitten's first appointment. Intestinal parasites are very common in young kittens. Roundworms, hookworms, coccidian and giardia can cause gastrointestinal disease, malnutrition and anemia. We will send home a first dose of Revolution Plus that will help prevent external (fleas/tick/ear mites) and internal (intestinal) parasites and heartworm disease. Revolution should be continued monthly. For more information on heartworm disease in cats: <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/heartworms-in-cats>

Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Viruses: These viruses can be passed from the mother to kittens and testing is recommended between 8-12 weeks of age. A repeat test may be recommended if the kitten was in a high exposure situation or if the kitten tests positive.

Vaccinations:

FVRCP – Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FHV-1), Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia. These diseases cause upper respiratory disease in cats and panleukopenia causes immune suppression, fever, anorexia, vomiting and diarrhea and is often fatal.

FELV - Feline Leukemia Virus – Virus attacks the immune system leading to secondary infections that are often fatal. Kittens are considered the most vulnerable to acquiring infection. After the initial kitten series, vaccine recommendation will be based on risk.

Rabies – Texas State Law requires all cat be vaccinated for Rabies by 16 weeks of age.

Diet:

Offer different foods, both canned and dry to expose the kitten to different food textures.

Kitten food until 12 months of age - follow the feeding instructions on bag.

Premium food recommendations: Royal Canin, Hill's science diet, Purina Pro Plan. (Avoid raw diets that can be contaminated with E. Coli, Salmonella or Listeria)

Cats prefer oval shaped, shallow bowls to avoid contact with their whiskers

Cats are grazers and will eat 10-20 time per day.

Cats do not like to eat with other cats. Each cat should have their own food and water station, in a quiet area at least 6 ft. from the litter box.

Water should always be available. A large bowl or fountain is recommended.

Kitten behavior:

Cats need scratching posts. They will sharpen and remove old nails. It is better to be proactive to help prevent inappropriate scratching on inappropriate surfaces. Offer different substrates (cardboard, sisal, fabric). S-shaped cardboard scratcher is most effective.

Environmental enrichment – Cats prefer vertical space over horizontal space.

Pedicures: Cat's nails should be trimmed once a month. Create a pleasant experience with a warm towel, treats, and a calm environment. If the kitten becomes stressed only do a few nails at a time.



Spay (ovariohysterectomy): Recommended before the first heat cycle (5-6 months) to prevent mammary tumors and uterus infections (pyometra).

Neuter: Recommended at 6 months of age to prevent aggression and/or marking behavior.

Labwork is recommended at the time of surgery and then yearly for early detection of disease (anemia, kidney or liver disease).

Cat Carrier Training: www.fearfreehappyhomes.com. Carrier transportation will keep your cat safe in the car and avoid escape.

Litter box training:

One litter box per cat and one extra is recommended. If a single cat household, two boxes are still recommended in different locations.

Cats prefer larger boxes – 1.5 times the size of the cat.

Place the box in a quiet room, away from the door.

The box should be 6 feet away from food and water bowls.

Robot litter box – some cats are afraid of the noise and movement. Try to also have a normal litter box as well.

Health Insurance: We highly recommend purchasing health insurance for your new puppy. Major medical and surgical coverage is reasonable and will reimburse typically 80-90 % of costs. The advances in veterinary care are truly amazing, but repairing a fractured leg or treating pneumonia can be expensive. Health insurance can provide peace of mind for unexpected illness or injury.

Trupanion: www.trupanion.com, Pumpkin: www.pumpkinicare.com

AAHA pet insurance information: www.aaha.org/resources/pet-insurance

Emergency Care:

We hope that you never have a medical emergency with your pet, however if there is an emergency that requires immediate assistance head to your nearest emergency or urgent care veterinary facility for help.

If you have any questions or concerns after hours that are not urgent you may page us by calling our regular office number, 972-690-6900, and leave a message for the doctor on the case. We will be paged and return your call as soon as possible. Messages left after 9pm may not be returned until the following day.

Emergency hospitals:

MedVet Dallas - (972)994-9110
11333 N Central Expy, Dallas, TX 75243

Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG) Allen - (214)764-7702
1975 N. Central Expy, Allen, TX, 75013

See next page for links to additional information



Websites with additional information:

AAHA – American Animal Hospital Association – www.aaha.org/for-pet-parents/resourced-for-your-pet

www.catfriendly.com

www.fearfreehappyhomes.com

www.petsafe.com

www.youtube.com@AAFPCatVets

ASPCA – list of toxic plants – www.aspca.org

Book recommendation – Decoding Your Cat