

Animal Medical & Surgical Center

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New Kitten Recommendations

We would like to welcome you and your new kitten to our veterinary practice and pass along some advice that will make your kittens arrival in your home a happy experience for the entire family.

SOCIALIZATION: Normally, a new kitten receives much attention from all members of the family. This attention helps it socialize during the period of transition from the mother and littermates to the new home and family. During this time it is important to avoid frightening situations and punishment of any source. If young children are handling the kitten they should be made aware that the kitten is fragile and can be frightened or hurt. We recommend supervision of children and your kitten so that neither will be injured.

VACCINATIONS: Vaccinations are an essential part of keeping your kitten healthy and can be lifesaving. We advise a series of vaccinations that will increase your kitten's immunity and provide protection against common and very serious diseases. As adults, we recommend the Rabies and FVRCP vaccines be given to all cats every 3 years and the Feline Leukemia vaccine be given annually to outdoor cats. Rabies vaccines are required by law in Cherokee County.

Kitten Health and Vaccination Schedule

6-9 weeks	Health examination, FVRCP #1 (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calici Virus, Distemper Virus), Intestinal parasite examination (stool)- deworming, Feline Leukemia blood test
9-12 weeks	Health examination, FVRCP #2, Feline Leukemia Vaccine #1, Intestinal parasite exam, deworming if necessary
12-16 weeks	FVRCP # 3, Rabies, Feline Leukemia Vaccine #2
6 months	Spaying or Neutering, Intestinal Parasite exam, deworming if necessary
One year after last set	FVRCP, Rabies, Feline Leukemia vaccine boosters if an outdoor cat, Intestinal parasite exam, deworming if necessary

INTESTINAL PARASITES: 98 to 100% of all kittens are born with intestinal parasites. Kittens are normally dewormed twice between the ages of 6-12 weeks. Thereafter, the stool is checked regularly for re-infection. It is important to know that intestinal parasites can be detrimental to your kitten and contagious to your family with serious consequences. Roundworms are of particular concern for your family, especially children. After cats reach adulthood the CDC recommends testing for intestinal parasites every 6 months.

HEARTWORMS: The incidence of heartworm disease in cats is on the rise. Unlike dogs, there is no treatment available for cats once the disease is contracted. We recommend monthly heartworm prevention be given all year long.

DIET: Feeding your new kitten a balanced diet is very important. Kittens need kitten food until the age of one year. By the time most kittens are weaned from the mother a quality, name brand dry food will meet all nutritional requirements. Milk and table scraps are not necessary and not recommended. Fresh water and dry food should be made available at all times.

LITTERBOX TRAINING: A clean, fresh litter box should be provided for your kitten. Once a kitten has used the litterbox most have no problem developing good housetraining habits.

SPAYING OR NEUTERING: At approximately 6 months of age your kitten should be spayed (female) or neutered (male). In addition to preventing unwanted pregnancies, it will also eliminate undesirable behaviors and health risks. Your pet will be more content and possibly live longer.

FLEA CONTROL: Recent advances in technology have made flea control products available that are much safer and more effective than in the past. The “old days” of using flea collars, flea sprays and flea dips are considered out-dated. We recommend Revolution for flea control in all cats. Why not use a product that takes care of fleas and prevents heartworms too!

We hope this information is helpful to you and we invite you to call if any additional information is desired. Our staff is always available to answer questions about your pet’s health and well-being. We have educational pamphlets on topics for further reading. We look forward to helping you enjoy the happiness a new, healthy pet can give.

Please call 770-479-0111 with any questions.