

Kitten Care Plan

(<6months old)

What's involved for you and your kitten:

Appropriate nutrition – we can advise on the right kinds of food for your kitten, they need extra protein, calories and calcium.

Physical examinations – we'll do this bit! But we will help you get to know your pet and what is normal for them.

Preventative Health measures and medications – all sorts of diseases and problems are better avoided than treated.

Socialisation and training – we recommend your kitten meets lots of people.

Regular exercise and attention – a cat needs company, fun and activity.

What we do:

Health Check - Examination of the following body systems to make sure they are developing properly: eyes, ears, teeth, skin, heart and lungs, lymph nodes, kidneys, musculo-skeletal system, testicles in male cats and nails.

Vaccinations - Given regularly to prevent several serious diseases.

Preventative medicine - Protection from internal and external parasites.

Insurance:

We recommend you consider Pet insurance as one way of ensuring the best care for your dog throughout their life.

Timetable:

Health Care Required	6 weeks	8 weeks	10 weeks	12 weeks	16 weeks	5 month	6 month
Vaccination	1+ vaccination – F3 +/- FIV		F3 vaccination +/- FIV & FeLV		Booster		
Heartworm Prevention				✓	✓	✓	✓
Worming and intestinal parasites eg Milbemax	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flea Treatment eg Activyl		Maybe		✓	✓	✓	✓
Desexing						Anytime now!	✓

Heartworm prevention:

Recommended - if your cat spends time outside in the evenings or your home isn't mosquito proofed.

Options - include back-of-the-neck products such as Advocate or Revolution (these have flea prevention and worming effects too).

Risks – heartworm is not common but can cause bronchitis and respiratory problems and sudden death!

Worming:

Recommended – monthly until 6 months old then every 3-4 months. If your cat is a hunter then you can worm them more often whilst cats living 100% indoors can be wormed less often, so just ask us for advice based on your pet's lifestyle!

Options - include Advocate and Revolution, these will do not only many intestinal worms but also fleas and heartworm. These products don't do tapeworm - which cats generally get from eating fleas! So you should still worm your cat every 3 months with a Tape-worming tablet and we recommend using an All-wormer annually, we can do this when you're back for the Annual Health Check and Vaccination.

There is an All-worming product called Profender that you can apply on the back of the neck if your cat is impossible to give tablets to.

Risks – worms can interfere with your cat's ability to absorb food, cause diarrhoea and even severe weakness.

Desexing:

Recommended – any time from 3 months old. Male cats become smelly, fight a lot and roam further than desexed males, increasing their risk of being hit by a car and getting into fights over territory. Free-roaming undesexed male cats live far shorter lives. Female cats can become pregnant from even less than 6 months old and then you have either more stray cats or more kittens who need a home

Risks – any anaesthetic carries a risk but a young, healthy cat is unlikely to have any problems at all.

Exercise and environmental enrichment:

Play with them and encourage them to be active rather than sitting around all day. Cats especially like to play in the evenings. You can actually teach them to walk on a lead but that doesn't usually come naturally!

Food can be hidden or placed in Kongs and Treat Balls to make the cat work for their dinner and have more fun. You can make your own toys too.

If your cat is an indoor cat then a scratching post is a must. Sprinkle with cat-nip to encourage your kitten to investigate it.

Keep your cat in at night.

If they spend the day outside call them in for dinner before it gets dark if possible and then keep them in. Dawn and dusk are when cats hunt and destroy wildlife and when they roam and fight over territory or get run over.

If your cat is an indoor cat provide a litter tray and if there are any "accidents" you may need 2 litter trays. The general rule is one tray per cat and one extra.