

# YOUR Kitten

**Here are some simple guidelines to assist you to enjoy and appreciate your new kitten.**



## Feeding

Kittens are normally weaned and on solid food by 6 weeks of age. Feeding specially formulated kitten food (dry or cans/sachets) is recommended. They are fully balanced to meet all a growing kittens nutritional requirements. You do not need to add any extra calcium to these foods.

Dry food can be moistened for younger kittens by soaking it in warm water.

From 6-8 weeks feed your kitten 4 times daily, 8-12 weeks 3 times daily, then twice daily after that. Always provide fresh water. *Note:* Water should not be next to food as cats don't like to eat and drink in the same spot. Try to avoid feeding milk as it may cause diarrhoea in some kittens.

## Toilet Training

Most kittens will naturally use a litter tray by 4-6 weeks of age. Make sure the litter tray provided is easily accessible and in a quiet area but not placed too close to where your kitten sleeps, eats or drinks.

Placing your kitten near to or in the litter tray after eating or waking from sleep will help if toilet training seems a bit slow.

As your kitten starts to play outside, the litter tray can also be placed outside to further encourage appropriate toileting.

## Worming

Kittens are infected with worms from their mother early in life, which left untreated can cause poor condition and gut problems.

Starting at 4 weeks old, they need to be wormed with an all wormer every 2 weeks, up until 12 weeks of age. Then monthly treatment from 12 weeks up until 6 months of age.

From 6 months, continue to worm your cat every 3 months with a broad-spectrum wormer effective against tape and round worms.

## Fleas

Flea Control is not just a summer problem. Fleas can cause anaemia in kittens and skin disease in cats.

For cats over 9 weeks we recommend Bravecto Plus as the best way to treat fleas, ticks, roundworms and lungworms. It is a liquid that is applied to the skin on the back of the neck and lasts for 3 months. For kittens under 9 weeks we recommend Revolution, a monthly treatment. Tapeworms will need to be treated with a single tablet effective against tapeworms twice a year.

## Desexing

Female kittens should be spayed at 4-6 months of age. Left any longer, pregnancy is almost a certainty. Males too, can be neutered at this age. Neutered males are far less likely to wander, which means less fighting and less chance of catching and spreading disease around the neighbourhood.

We strongly recommend the de-sexing of all cats that are not intended for breeding. Contrary to popular belief, a female cat does not benefit at all from having a litter of kittens.

## Vaccination

Kittens need vaccination to help protect them against both cat flu and enteritis. The primary vaccination course is made up of 3 injections; the first at 8-9 weeks of age, with the second or "booster" at 12 weeks and then a third booster at 16 weeks. It takes 2 weeks after the final injection for the vaccination to be fully effective.

A fourth booster is given at 6 months and then every 1 - 3 years (*depending on your cat's lifestyle factors*) after that to ensure continued protection. However, an annual health check is recommended and essential if the cat will be going into a boarding cattery.

At each vaccination visit your kitten will receive a thorough physical examination to ensure that he or she is healthy. You will also receive advice on how best to care for your new pet and it is a great chance to ask the vet any questions you may have.

## Pet Insurance

The pet equivalent of our health insurance plans are well worth considering. There are a number of different schemes and our customer services team will be able to give you brochures of what policies are available.

## Travelling to the Vet/Cattery

Getting your cat used to the carrier can make trips in the car a lot less stressful for you and the cat. Choosing a carrier with a removable lid makes it easier to get the cat in and out of the carrier. Acclimatising the cat to the carrier by having it available as a sleeping place in the home means they are used to going in and out of it. Having a piece of clothing with familiar smells on it inside the carrier can also make them feel more comfortable, as can the use of feliway pheromone spray which is sprayed on the inside walls of the carrier 15 minutes before the cat goes in.

When traveling ensure the carrier is secured in the car so it doesn't move if you have to suddenly stop and lot of cats prefer the carrier to be covered up. Remember to also bring some spare bedding in case the cat soils the cage on the trip.

When you return home, remember that your cat will smell a bit different from normal to the other cats in the household so reintroduce slowly with supervision.

## Microchipping

Something else worth thinking about. A small 'chip' is injected under your pet's skin to give permanent identification. The chip is detected and read by a scanner. Each animal has its own identification number that is stored on a readily accessible database. Talk to our customer service team about this.

### Any Questions?

Please feel free to ask our staff any questions you may have.

