

Kitten Healthcare



Having a new ball of feline fluff and curiosity really is entertaining in any household. Watching what they get up to as a young kitten is better than any soap opera! Just be sure not to forget the healthcare issues involved.

This Kitten Healthcare advice sheet describes the various things to help you in providing healthcare for your kitten, such as vaccination, treatment for fleas, parasites and worming, microchipping, neutering and nutrition.

Vaccination

Your kitten will usually require two vaccinations, two weeks apart, from nine weeks old. Young kittens are very susceptible to a bad bout of cat flu or infectious enteritis, both of which can be fatal at a young age. Unfortunately the smaller the kitten is, the harder it gets hit when it comes to infectious diseases. So, it is important to get vaccinations started as soon as possible. Remember your kitten is not fully immunised until two weeks after the last vaccination as their immune system needs this time to respond.

Fleas and parasites

In all small animals and young pets external parasites, especially fleas and ticks, can cause problems because they suck blood and can transmit infection. Anaemia can result from a large infestation which is not a happy situation for a young pet.

Please ask us for help in choosing the correct treatment and prevention of external parasites for your young kitten.

Most treatments will need to be repeated once monthly as a spot-on treatment on the back of the neck.

Worming

Worms are a common occurrence in kittens and are now thought to also possibly be a human health risk as dog worms are. Worms can be passed from mother

to kitten through suckling at a very young age and can do a lot of damage to the kitten's development and growth.

We advise to worm your kitten once every 2 weeks until 3 months of age, once monthly until 6 months and every 3 months thereafter.

Microchipping

Proper identification is the best way to ensure your pet is returned to you if they get too adventurous. Collars with name tags, although advisable, can be lost or removed and makes it essential to have a way of permanently identifying your much loved kitty!

Microchipping means that a rice grained sized silicon chip is implanted under the skin between the pet's shoulder blades. This scans like a bar code and relates to the details of the owner when the number is initially registered at the time of implantation. The chip remains there for life and cannot be lost.

Neutering

One of the things a cat is more than good at is reproducing. They manage to do this at a much younger age than you would imagine. So we recommend neutering (male) or spaying (female) your kitten at 5½-6 months of age.

More information on neutering can be found in the Adult Cat fact sheet.

Nutrition

Kittens are often weaned from 3 weeks onwards and have no problem crunching on dry food by 5-6 weeks of age. A specially formulated kitten diet is best for their correct development and growth. Kittens will often learn to graze feed if their dish is left down with food available all the time and tend to deal better with regular small amounts rather than set meals a day. Recommended diet brands are Hills and Royal Canin kitten foods. Try to get your kitten into the habit of dry food at an early age to help maintain dental health in future. Dry food is also easier on the pocket in the long run as it is more concentrated.

For further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact us.

Barna, Co. Galway

PHONE - 091 867008

FAX - 091 592085

EMAIL - info@barnavetclinic.ie

WEB - barnavetclinic.ie

Leanne Evertsen
MVB MRCVS

opening hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
8.30am–6.00pm

Tuesday & Thursday
8.30am–7.00pm

Saturday
10.00am–12.00 noon

clinic hours

Monday–Friday
9.00–11.00am

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
3.00–6.00pm

Tuesday & Thursday
4.00–7.00pm

Saturday
10.00am–12.00 noon

Consultation by appointment only