

Basic Information for Cat Owners

1. Vaccines - All kittens should start the vaccine series at 6-8 weeks of age. Kittens receive the FVRCP (rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and feline distemper virus) vaccine every 3 weeks until 4 months of age. Adult cats should receive the FVRCP vaccine every year thereafter. Rabies is given at 3 months of age, and lasts for 1 year. After that, each rabies vaccine is good for 3 years. Any additional vaccines that may be needed will be tailored to the individual cat.

2. Feline Leukemia and Immunodeficiency Virus testing - All kittens 2 months and older should be tested for Feline Leukemia Virus. All cats older than 6 months should also be tested for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. Kittens and adult cats may have one or both viruses without showing any symptoms. A leukemia vaccine is available for those at high risk.

3. Spaying or Neutering - Spaying eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer, uterine infections, and significantly reduces the development of mammary tumors later in life. Neutering eliminates the risk of testicular cancer and reduces the incidence of spraying and fighting. The ideal time to spay or neuter is after 4 months of age.

4. Litter box Training - Most kittens will instinctively use the litter box. Place the litter box in a quiet area and scoop it daily. Some cats prefer different types of litter or litter boxes so some experimentation may be required.

5. Nutrition - Most kittens should be fed a premium brand kitten food twice daily up to 12 months of age. Meal feeding is preferred over free-choice, as excessive weight gain and obesity is a common problem in cats.

6. Microchip ID - Having a microchip placed in your kitten is a permanent means of identification and an excellent way to prove ownership.

7. Flea and Tick Control - There are several safe products available for both preventing and treating flea and tick problems in cats. We can help you decide which product would be best for your cat.

8. Intestinal Worms - We recommend all kittens be given a broad spectrum dewormer and then tested to ensure all intestinal parasites have been eliminated.

9. Dental Care - This is the ideal time to get kittens accustomed to having their teeth brushed to help prevent dental disease later in life.

*If you would like more information about a specific topic please feel free to ask us!