

We would like to congratulate you on your new KITTEN! The following is information that will help you give your kitten a long and healthy life.

Nutrition:

- When choosing a kitten food it is important to feed an AAFCO labeled food. In order to be approved it must have gone through AAFCO feeding trials – most major brands have done this: Eukanuba, Science Diet, Iams, and Purina. You can find the AAFCO label on the back of the food near the ingredients.
- Feed a quality kitten food. – Kitten diets are specially formulated to provide all the nutrients that a kitten needs for good growth. Our processed milk is not appropriate for kittens- it can cause loose bowels.
- Dental care issues and diets that can help- don't feed canned food, feed dry solid foods that are abrasive while your kitten chews. Some dry foods even have teeth cleaners in their adult formula (Eukanuba, Iams, and Science Diet). Cats enjoy Feline Greenies, which help with dental health.

Vaccinations:

- Before beginning vaccinations it is recommended that a Feline Leukemia test be given. Feline Leukemia is a very contagious disease that leads to chronic illness. It is important to know that your kitten is healthy.
- A series of vaccinations will be necessary in order to fully protect your little one from deadly viruses. The ideal situation is to start the series at 9 weeks old. These vaccinations must be 3-4 weeks apart in order to be effective.

Internal Parasites:

- Unfortunately, worms are so common that most kittens are born with them. Problems that intestinal and blood parasites can cause include: anemia, weight loss and can even lead to death.
- How they are contracted:
 - Heartworms: mosquitoes
 - Roundworms: through nursing or eating rodents
 - Hookworms: through the uterus, nursing or through the skin
 - Tapeworms: through ingestion of fleas or from rodents
- Another very important reason we need to keep our kittens worm-free is that some of the internal parasites are zoonotic; which means humans can catch them!
- There are some great medications that are available to de-worm your kitten. Some are topical so you don't have to get your kitten to eat a pill.

External Parasites:

- Fleas are annoying little guys that cause our furry friends to itch terribly. But, that's not all, they also are the cause of several poor health conditions such as skin infections, tapeworms, anemia, and hair loss.
- Products available include Frontline, Advantage, Revolution and Program (which lasts for 6 months).

Litterbox training is important because it...

- Allows your kitten to be tidy. Most cats take to it easily.
Make sure to regularly clean it. Cats are naturally neat and may look for another place if the litter is not fairly clean.

Not planning to breed your little one...

- Here are a few good reasons to spay or neuter your kitten:
 - Spaying before the first heat cycle avoids attracting howling suitors. Once a cat goes into heat she will continue to ovulate until she gets pregnant. After delivering kittens she is ready to get pregnant very quickly!
 - Neutering your kitten decreases the likelihood of aggression, spraying, and wandering off.
- Schedule an appointment today – we recommend doing this during your last vaccination examination.