



**Congratulations** on your new kitten. This is the beginning of a long and happy relationship. As a responsible pet owner, it is important to be aware of the following health and wellbeing issues:

- **Vaccination:** it is important to protect your kitten against the three most common diseases- *Herpesvirus* (an upper respiratory disease), *Calicivirus* (also an upper respiratory disease) and *Feline enteritis/parvovirus*. Full protection requires an initial vaccination at **6-8 weeks of age**, followed by a booster injection 4 weeks later (at **10-12 weeks of age**). A 3rd booster injection is recommended 4 weeks later (at **14-16 weeks of age**) to provide full protection against disease. If you are planning to board your animal, an additional vaccine is available for *Chlamydia* (a respiratory virus). This vaccine can be combined with the F3 vaccination at 6, 10 and 14 weeks of age. After the primary kitten vaccinations, an **annual booster** and health check is required for on-going protection.
- **Heartworm:** Unlike dogs, heartworm is very uncommon in cats so regular prevention is not routinely required.
- **Intestinal Worms:** Treatment for intestinal worms is very important, particularly in kittens. Infestation can lead to poor growth, diarrhoea, and/or "scooting". Kittens should be wormed **every 2 weeks until they are 3 months of age**. From **3 months to 6 months of age**, worming should be carried out **monthly**. **After 6 months of age**, your kitten should be wormed **every 3 months** for the rest of its life. This is an important public health issue as intestinal worms can be spread from cats to humans (especially children).
- **Fleas:** Because cats are the natural host, many cats that are not receiving flea treatment will have fleas. Even one fleabite can cause a great deal of irritation and itching. **Monthly flea control** is recommended, especially in the **spring/summer months** when the fleas are most active. Several different formulations are available at the clinic, and it is best to discuss your situation with the vet to decide which product is best for you and your pet. It is important that **all animals in the household are treated** on a regular basis.
- **Desexing:** If you are not intending to breed, it is critical that your kitten be de-sexed at a young age. The recommended age is **5½-6 months**. Once kittens reach this age, they are better able to cope with a general anaesthetic and surgical procedure; However, with females it is important that the operation be carried out **before your kitten has its first heat** (usually as early as 6-7 months of age) to reduce the risk of certain conditions (such as mammary tumours) developing later in life. It also means that your cat is less likely to "roam" in search of a mate or urine spray at home, which is particularly important with males.
- **Microchipping:** **By law all kittens must be microchipped.** The procedure involves a vet inserting a microchip under the skin in between the shoulder blades, and can be performed at the time of vaccination or desexing. Our staff will help you fill out the necessary forms and give you instructions regarding registration. If your cat was ever lost, microchip implantation allows for immediate identification by any vet or pound. You will then be contacted immediately, so it is important that **your contact details always remain up-to-date.**



If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the clinic.  
Our friendly staff are here to help.