

LOOKING AFTER YOUR NEW KITTEN



Getting a new kitten is an exciting time but there are some important issues to think about to ensure your kitten is kept happy and healthy.

WORMING

Kittens should be wormed from 2 weeks of age, then at 5 and 8 weeks, and every 2-4 weeks until 6 months of age. From 6 months onwards they should be wormed every 3 months. It is important to know the weight of the kitten to give a correct dose. We can weigh the kitten for you and give you the correct dose if needed.

EAR MITES

Many kittens have ear mites. The ears will be full of a brown waxy material and are very itchy. They can be treated either with a topical application of 'Stronghold' or some medicated ear drops. Please bring the kitten to see us if you are concerned about any ear mites.

VACCINATIONS

A vaccination course against cat flu and enteritis should be started once the cat is 9 weeks of age. A second injection is given 3-4 weeks later and a final one at 16 weeks. The kitten can be allowed to go outside 1 week after the final dose has been given. Rabies vaccines can be started from 12 weeks of age and are especially important if you are going to be transporting the cat abroad. All vaccines need an annual booster injection. You will get a certificate showing the dates of vaccination after this has been done.

FEEDING

Kittens should be fed a good quality kitten food such as Royal Canin or Eukanuba. There are feeding guides on the packets which should be followed taking into account their age and weight. There is no need to feed milk to a kitten – fresh clean water is fine and should always be available. Water fountains are excellent for encouraging cats to drink well as they like to drink free flowing water. In our hot climate it is extra important that cats drink plenty, especially if they are on a dry diet.

TOYS

There is a huge variety of toys available for cats to chase, chew or play with. Cats love anything with 'catnip' in! It is important that a cat has a lot of stimulation especially if it is kept indoors. Spending time playing with your cat will strengthen the bond you have with it and can be very rewarding. Cats also like places to hide and things to climb up high on. You can obtain platforms and climbing frames of different designs and sizes which many cats will love to play on.

NEUTERING

We recommend that all cats are neutered. This can be done from 4 months of age. For both males and females this will require a general anaesthetic and surgery. They will be in the clinic just for the day. Female cats need to be kept indoors for 10 days post surgery and will have dissolvable sutures on their bellies. Male cats do not have any sutures and may go outdoors the day after surgery.

MICROCHIPPING

Microchipping is the best way to identify the cat as your own, and gives us a quick and easy way to contact you if the cat has been found eg after an accident. It is also a mandatory requirement for taking pets out of the country. Please remember to update the microchip company if you move house or change your phone number. The easiest way to give a microchip is when the cat is in for neutering, but if this is not possible we can give the microchip at any time.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to ask!

Call the GVC at 02 556 2024