



# Hamilton Vet Kitten Care

## Hamilton Veterinary Clinic

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## *CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW KITTEN!!!*

A little kitten is a wonderful addition to the family, but there's a lot to remember to provide the best of care for your new family member. We hope that this information sheet helps, and remember we are always here to help if you have any questions.

### INTESTINAL WORMING

Cats can be infected with roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and tapeworm; humans can also be infected with some of these so it's important that both your family and your kitten have a strict worming schedule.

We recommend the following worming schedule for your kitten:

- \*Worm every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age (start at 2 weeks old) then,
- \*Worm monthly until 6 months old with an all wormer then,
- \*Worm every 3 months for life with an all wormer.

Please ask us about the worming products available.

### FLEAS

Large flea burdens can cause serious problems to your kitten such as fatal anemia (blood loss) so it is very important to treat your kitten against them.

There are a number of products available such as frontline spray, Frontline top-spot, Revolution, Advocate, Advantage and many more so to find out which product best suits you please ask us we are only too happy to help.

It is very important to remember that 90% of fleas live in the environment so it is essential to treat the environment and any other pets in the household to effectively control their population.

### TICKS

Ticks are a serious problem especially in this area, therefore it is important to protect your kitten against these deadly parasites.

Frontline spray applied every 2-3weeks or frontline top-spot applied every 2weeks can be used to help protect your kitten. However none of these products are 100% effective so regular tick searches should be performed to help minimise the risk of tick paralysis.

Symptoms of tick paralysis include: Wobbliness starting in back legs, breathing difficulties, change in 'voice', loss of appetite, vomiting and general distress. If any of the symptoms are present seek veterinary assistance immediately.

## VACCINATION

Vaccinations can provide protection against a number of serious diseases such as feline pan leukopenia virus, Feline herpes virus, Feline Calicivirus (F3) and Feline immunodeficiency virus. (FIV)

Your kitten is not fully protected until 1 week after the final vaccination. It is very important that they be kept inside and limit contact with other cats during this stage.

Kitten vaccination should be give at:

|            |   |              |   |              |
|------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| *6-8 weeks | & | *12-14 weeks | & | *16-18 weeks |
|------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|

- Feline Panleukopenis Virus

This virus is very contagious and can be fatal. It causes vomiting and diarrhoea, depression, loss of appetite, and intense abdominal pain. It can also cause birth defects and abortion, and can be transmitted from mother to foetus during pregnancy.

Cats that recover continue to carry and spread the virus.

- Feline Calicivirus

Also known as "Cat 'Flu" this virus is highly contagious. Causes sneezing, coughing, discharge from the eyes and nose, decreased appetite, and ulcers about the mouth and tongue. It is spread by contact with oral or nasal secretions. Cats that recover continue to carry and spread the virus.

- Feline Herpes Virus

This virus causes upper respiratory tract disease (Rhinitis), it can also cause dry eye, chronic conjunctivitis and abortions. It is spread through nasal and oral secretions.

- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

This Virus causes increased susceptibility to other diseases, much like human AIDS. *This disease is NOT transmissible to humans.*

Cats of any age can be affected. The virus is transmitted through blood and saliva, and is more prevalent in un-desexed male cats as they are more likely to become involved in fight therefore spreading the virus.

Cats over 6 months of age require a blood test, to rule out existing FIV infection, before commencing a vaccination schedule.

## FEEDING

It is very important to feed your kitten a healthy balanced diet that is especially made for growth. Kittens shouldn't be fed adult diets as they contain different nutrients and energy levels to what a kitten requires.

There are plenty of commercial diets available we recommend Hills science diet kitten growth

Kittens should be fed 3 meals daily until 6 months of age when meals should be reduced to 2 per day.

Many kittens are lactose intolerant so they should not be fed dairy products. Kitten milk (which is lactose free) is available from pet stores and supermarkets. Raw chicken necks should be offered at 8 weeks old to help with teething and will help keep the teeth clean.

## TOILET TRAINING

Kittens instinctively scratch the ground to attempt to "dig" a hole to go to the toilet in so that they can bury their waste.

1. When training your kitten always have fresh litter placed away from their eating area.
2. After your kitten has had a meal place them in their tray and move its paw in a digging motion.
3. If you catch your kitten scratching the ground or in the act place it in its litter tray to finish off.

## DESEXING

Un-desexed cats are more likely to wander and become injured during cat fights or by cars. Entire males are also likely to "spray" or mark their territory, and female cats are very likely to fall pregnant, and de sexing can also reduce the risk of mammary cancer later in life.

- ❖ De sexing is routinely performed on kittens from 6 months of age.

### MICROCHIPPING

Micro chipping is compulsory for all kittens, it could reunite you with your kitten if it becomes lost. They also need to be registered with the council, if you need any more information just ask us.

### TOYS

Kittens love to play so it is a great idea to provide them with plenty of toys, bells, scratching posts and strings they'll just love you for it.

### INSIDE Vs. OUTSIDE

Cats can be inside pets, but if they are outside cats it is best to bring them in at night to prevent cat fights or being hit by cars.

Cats are also natural predators and will hunt no matter what so it is best to place a bell on your cats collar to help prevent your cat from killing wildlife.



## KITTEN CHECK LIST

- ✓ *Intestinal wormed - 2 wks, 4wks, 6 wks, 8wks, 10wks, 12wks, 16wks, 20wks, 24wks then every 3 months.*
- ✓ *Vaccinated 6-8wks, 12-14wks, 16-18wks.*
- ✓ *De sexing to be done at 6 months of age*
- ✓ *Microchipped and council registered*
- ✓ *Diet- Kitten growth food plus raw chicken necks for teeth.*
- ✓ *Fleas&Ticks- Treat environment as well as kitten.*
- ✓ *Toys!*

*Written by Jatde Grace 2009*