



## FELINE (Adult) INFORMATION SHEET

Welcome to Woodland Veterinary Clinic, Ltd. We have prepared this information sheet to help you provide the best care for your cat. As in human medicine, the prevention of major diseases is very important to maintaining your cat's health. These are the protocols we use, though we customize treatment plans for each individual cat.

### ANNUAL HEALTH EXAM

We believe this is the most important aspect of health care for our patients. For each year that passes, cats age 4-5 year. The physical exam the Doctor provides is important because so much can change in just one year.

### VACCINATIONS

Inoculation against the most common cat diseases is important for maintaining feline health.

**FVRCP** - Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia, & Pneumonitis: Highly contagious viral disease very common in nature that causes vomiting, diarrhea, upper respiratory infections, convulsions, and often death. Causes cold-like symptoms, including runny eyes, sneezing, and sometimes sores in the mouth. Cats and dogs *cannot* give each other distemper; feline and canine distemper are different diseases.

**FeLV** - Feline Leukemia Virus & **FIV** – Feline Immunodeficiency Virus **TESTING**: Feline Leukemia/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus: Every new cat in a family should have this simple blood test to detect whether these viruses are present. Both viruses can be contracted from their mother or another infected cat and can cause *immunodeficiency* (the immune system's ability to fight infection diseases is compromised). Symptoms can take years to occur, but knowing whether a cat harbors these viruses **NOW** is critical to their future health and the health of any other cats in the household.

A simple blood test determines whether exposure to these viruses has occurred. We **STRONGLY** recommend **ALL** cats have this test performed as soon as possible after acquiring the cat, or ideally, prior to bringing it home. Further testing would be dependent on future contact with strays or other cats with unknown FeLV or FIV status.

A vaccine is available to protect against FeLV, and we strongly suggest it for kittens and adult cats that are allowed to roam outdoors and may get into contact with other cats. No FIV vaccine exists.

**RABIES** - This vaccine is required by law. Rabies is transmitted by bites of infected animals, the most common being skunks, bats, foxes, and raccoons. Rabies is transmissible to humans from infected animals. The initial Rabies vaccine is good for 1 year, and boosters are good for 3 years.

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## **FLEAS & TICKS**

Fleas and ticks are major problems for pets in our area. To kill fleas and ticks in cats over 8 weeks, we recommend Frontline Gold which we consider the best flea and tick topical preventative. We recommend this product be used monthly.

## **HEARTWORMS**

Though usually considered a dog disease, heartworms can infest cats. We don't see heartworm disease in cats as often as we do in dogs, but preventative is available on our Online Store if you choose to protect them.

## **INTESTINAL PARASITES**

Intestinal parasites are a very common problem in cats. Parasites will *seldom* be seen in your pet's stool, the only way to detect them is with a microscopic fecal test. Only one fecal test is necessary in a multi-feline household. If parasites are detected, you will be provided treatment and we will need a subsequent fecal test in two weeks. At each annual visit a fecal test will be performed to keep intestinal parasites under control.

## **DENTAL CARE**

Care of your cat's teeth is a major factor in the length and quality of life for your cat. We cannot overemphasize the importance of maintaining your cat's dental hygiene. Daily brushing with pet specific toothpaste is really the best way to keep your cat's mouth healthy. Badly tartared and infected teeth not only cause horrible breath, but allow bacteria into the bloodstream that can cause many problems with major organs and the heart. Routine use of dental treats, such as CET Feline Chews or other dental products from our Online Store, and tooth brushing drastically reduces these issues. We will advise you if a Professional Dental Cleaning is necessary.

## **FELINE DEVELOPMENT**

*Nutrition:* Nutrition and weight control is a major factor in longevity and quality of life for your cat. A high quality, easily digestible diet fed in reasonable quantity to prevent obesity is best. PURINA ONE and IAMS are excellent diets as are many others.

*Litter Box:* Maintaining clean litter habits is critical to the enjoyment of your cat. Use unscented scoopable litter. Scoop out or clean the litter box DAILY to encourage clean habits. If there are multiple felines in the house, you should have multiple litter boxes.

*Coat Care:* Routine brushing will keep your cat's coat in nice condition, and minimize shedding and hairballs.

## **EMERGENCY CARE**

Please contact the *PAW Health Network Animal Emergency Center* in Mosinee at 715-693-6934. The Emergency Center's standards of care most closely mirror Woodland Veterinary Clinic, Ltd. They are open from 6pm – 8am, Monday – Thursday; and 5pm Friday – 8am Monday; as well as holidays. From Wisconsin Rapids, it should take about 45 minutes to get there.