



## KITTEN VISIT #1

Congratulations on obtaining your new kitten! To get you and your pet started out on the right foot, we have prepared this information packet to help make raising a happy and healthy kitten much easier.

### VACCINATIONS

Inoculation against the most common and serious kitten diseases is the framework of kitten health.

**FVRCP** - Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia: Highly contagious viral diseases that are very common in nature that causes vomiting, diarrhea, upper respiratory infections, convulsions, and often death. Causes cold-like symptoms in kittens, 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: For *outdoor cats* or *those exposed to strays*. This is a devastating disease “complex” in cats. “Complex” means that the virus can cause a large variety of symptoms and illnesses because it causes immune system deficiency.

These initial kitten vaccines (FVRCP and FeLV) contain *TEMPORARY* protection and are given at 6-9 weeks of age. Booster vaccines are necessary at 10-12 weeks of age. A third and final FVRCP is given at 16 weeks of age.

**FIV 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.

### 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.

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## **INTESTINAL PARASITES**

Intestinal parasites, found in most kittens, can easily be detected with an examination of feces called a fecal test. Only one fecal test is necessary in a multi-feline household. A small sample of the feces is mixed with a special solution, and then a drop of the mixtures is examined under a microscope to detect the parasite eggs present in the sample. Most kittens that have intestinal worms DON'T have visible worms in their feces.

After the type of intestinal parasite is identified, a specific medication is prescribed to kill that parasite.

## **DENTAL CARE**

Begin now by gently playing with your pet's lips and mouth. Cats by nature dislike having their mouth touched, but by gently rubbing and manipulating their mouth now, your pet will be more submissive to you and will allow dental care when needed.

## **KITTEN DEVELOPMENT**

*Nutrition:* The type of food you give your kitten is one of the key ingredients to keeping your kitten happy and healthy. A high quality easily digestible diet is best. We recommend PURINA PROPLAN and PURINA brand products as examples of excellent premium foods widely available. We suggest feeding mostly *dry food*. Some canned or pouched food can be given as a treat. By leaving out a bowl of dry food next to a bowl of fresh water, most kittens will self-feed very well.

*Litter Box:* When first getting your kitten, place the box in a convenient place for you, but where the kitten can easily find it (avoid placing it by the furnace, hot water heater, or other areas where sudden loud noises might occur). Use unscented, scoopable litter. Place the kitten in the box after eating or playing. Scoop out or clean the litter box DAILY to encourage clean habits.

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

*Nail Care:* You can routinely trim your kitten's toenails to minimize damage caused by claws, but be careful not to nip the "quick". If considering declawing, it's best done when the kitten is young (at the time your pet is spayed or neutered). We use a *Laser* to declaw as it is a safe and relatively pain/blood free procedure to permanently remove the toenails from either the front feet, or both front and back feet.

## **NEXT VISIT – ONE MONTH**

The next check-up for your pet will be due in 3-4 weeks, and will include booster vaccines and a fecal test. It is very important to follow the correct series of vaccine visits to completely protect your pet from these diseases, as well as getting the Doctor's advice on continued kitten care.

## **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.