



For An A+ Kitten

Physical Exam

Ears and Eyes	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal _____
Nose and Throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal _____
Heart and Lungs	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal _____
Abdomen and GI	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal _____
Muscles and Joints	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal _____
Skin and Coat	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal _____
Feline Leukemia Test	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive
FIV Test	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive
Fecal Test	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive _____
Doctor's Notes _____		

Preventive Health Care

Nutrition

- High quality foods, such as Science Diet or Iams, make a difference in the short and long term health of your kitten.
- Vitamins are most important for the kitten growth stage and can be given as a treat.
- Fatty acid supplements can benefit dry, itchy kitten skin.

Intestinal Parasite Control (Worms!)

- A stool sample from your kitten should be checked on the first and third or final kitten visit.
- Several parasites are transmittable to humans, it is critical that your new four-legged family member be tested as early as possible.
- Your kitten should be checked each year at the time of his or her annual exam and vaccination visit.

Critical Health Screening Test for FIV and Feline Leukemia

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a lifelong infection. This virus is transmitted via saliva usually by a bite wound but can also be transferred in the womb. *Feline Leukemia* is a fatal virus transmitted from cat to cat through saliva, urine and feces. Behaviors such as biting, licking, and grooming can infect other cats and infected pregnant cats can pass the virus to their kittens in the womb or through nursing and grooming. A combination test that screens for both of these deadly diseases is recommended during your first kitten visit.

Heartworm Disease – Prevention is the Key!

- Heartworm, a mosquito transmitted disease, is very difficult to diagnose in cats, and it is untreatable and fatal.
- Prevention is the key to this common disease!
- Start your kitten on Revolution, a topical medication, at 6 weeks of age.
- Apply Revolution Monthly. **Keep your kitten/cat on Revolution year round for the life of your cat.**

Flea and Tick Control – BEFORE You Ever Have a Problem

Revolution is the **gold standard** for flea and tick control as well as heartworm prevention, there is no other product like it on the market today. It is a topical product applied **monthly** for safe protection against fleas and ticks.

Family Planning

- Have your kitten surgically spayed or neutered at 5-6 months of age.
- Spaying or neutering at this age has overwhelming medical and behavioral benefits.

Microchip Permanent Identification System

- A numerically encoded chip is injected under your kitten's skin. Best done at time of spay/neuter.
- Most veterinary hospitals and all humane societies and shelters have a way to scan for a chip.
- The chip provides an ID number for the lost pet and a 24 hour "Hot Line" reunites you and your pet quickly.

Dental Care

- Start after your kitten loses its baby teeth at 6 months of age.
- Brush your kitten's teeth one to two times per week using CET toothpaste and finger brushing.
- Have your cat's teeth examined **annually** by your veterinarian to determine when it is time for a dental prophylaxis.
- Professional dental prophylaxis procedures are necessary to prevent loss of teeth, infectious damage to internal organs (kidneys, liver, heart), and general discomfort. The frequency of this procedure is determined by the rate at which bacterial plaque and tarter accumulate on your cat's teeth and the condition of the gums.
- Professionally done, this procedure requires sedation and includes root planing, ultrasonic scaling, and teeth cleaning/polishing.
- Weekly brushing and CET chews may extend the timeframe between prophylaxis procedures.

Vaccines and Their Schedule – All Feline Vaccines are for Fatal or Potentially Fatal Diseases

- **FVRCP** is a combination vaccine that protects against Feline Rhinotracheitis Virus and Calici -Panleukopenia Virus. This combo vaccination is given every 3 weeks until the kitten is 4 months of age then annually thereafter.
- **Rabies** vaccine is given to your kitten at 4 months of age then a booster is given when your cat is over one year of age. The booster protects your cat for three years and need only be administered once every three years.
- **Feline Leukemia** – Protection from this fatal disease is imperative for the outdoor cat and recommended for the indoor cat especially if he/she travels, boards, or has been known to occasionally sneak out. Your kitten will receive an initial vaccine, then a booster 3 weeks later. The vaccine is given once annually thereafter.
- **Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)** is another fatal disease adding a viral twist as it can be carried into the house on shoes, clothes, newspapers, trash cans etc. For this reason, vaccination is recommended even for indoor cats. Once signs of FIP occur, the disease cannot be effectively treated or cured and is almost always fatal. Your kitten will receive an initial vaccine, then a booster 3 weeks later. The vaccine is given once annually thereafter.

Behavioral Management

Scratching Behavior

Kittens and adult cats like to scratch, even if declawed they enjoy the tactile sensation of scratching. Unfortunately, it is difficult to teach your kitten what it can and cannot scratch! There are a few things you can do to lessen the damage to your furniture.

- Provide scratching posts or pads for your kitten to use. Place them in prominent locations and ensure that they are of a destructible nature so the kitten can see his/her markings.
- Trim your kitten's claws starting at an early age... We'll show you how!
- Front or Four Paw Declaw is an option if your cat's scratching behavior is disruptive or destructive to your household.

Play

Kittens need plenty of mental and physical activity to keep them happy and well adjusted. Indoor kittens especially will need to climb, hunt, hide, run/chase, and jump.

- Multiple feeding sites or interactive food toys can help with their exploring instincts.
- Offer your kittens various lightweight toys for play, even mouse or birdlike in size and shape to encourage hunting play.
- Encourage self play with dangling or moving toys and toys they can toss. This helps avoid ankle and hand attacks later.
- Create climbing areas: cat trees, window ledges, or put carpet pieces on shelves. Cats like to get vertical!
- Avoid long strings and ribbons, and toys small enough to swallow.

Litter Box

Bigger is better! Plastic uncovered storage containers make great litter boxes. Specialists recommend 2 boxes for 1 cat (3 for 2 cats, etc), twice a day scooping, and a thorough cleaning every 2-4 weeks depending on the litter type.

Discipline

Cats can be trained and corrected, but differently than a dog. *Remote punishment* works best, an unpleasant consequence not associated with the owner. Avoid physical punishment. A squirt of water from a spray bottle, a loud noise, or throwing something near the kitten (not at him/her) when the kitten is doing the unwanted behavior creates an adverse response to the behavior and not to the owner. Booby traps, double sided tape, and adverse odors help when you are out of the house. Many bad and destructive behaviors can be avoided by creating abundant outlets for your kitten's energy.

Good Luck and Most of All Enjoy Your Kitten!