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## **Preventative Health Program for Your New Kitten**

Congratulations on the new addition to your family. We hope these notes will answer most of the questions you may have about the care of your new kitten.

### ***Vaccinations***

The following program is recommended to give your cat the best possible protection against the common infectious diseases cat flu (feline rhinotracheitis and calicivirus), feline enteritis/panleukopaemia virus (also known as feline parvo), feline chlamydia and feline infectious leukaemia. If you would like more information on these diseases, please feel free to ask the staff for a pamphlet. A series of vaccinations is required as some antibodies from the mother cat may be in the kitten's blood stream when born and may interfere with the vaccines effectiveness in some young kittens.

Young cats require 3 vaccinations; 6-8 weeks: F3 (cat flu and enteritis)  
12 weeks: F5  
16 weeks: F5

Thereafter annual F5 boosters (at least 2 weeks before going into a cattery)

Your kitten should be quarantined (that is, no contact with unvaccinated cats) until 10 days after the 16 week vaccination. Feline AIDS is another life-threatening infection which your kitten can also be vaccinated against.

### ***Intestinal worms***

The intestinal worms of cats are roundworm, hookworm and tapeworm. These worms can cause diarrhoea, vomiting, poor condition and ill-thrift in cats. It is also important to keep your pet and your home worm free as these worms can cause disease in humans, particularly children (ask the vet for more details). Drontal™ all wormer tablets or Profender™ topspot applications will treat your kitten for all these worms.

To control all intestinal worms:

- A) Ensure you use Drontal
- every 2 weeks between the ages of 2-12 weeks
  - every month between the ages of 3- 6 months of age
  - every 3 months from 6 months of age
- B) Decrease the chances of re-infection by cleaning litter trays regularly to stop kittens eating faeces (may be inadvertent through grooming).

### ***Flea control***

There are many different products available but the important thing to remember is to use safe, effective, residual products that will take care of the environmental flea problem **as well as** that on your cat.

Your options are;

- Frontline Plus™ – kills adult fleas on the cat and the juvenile fleas in the environment (topspot), also helps prevent ticks
- Advantage™ – kills adult fleas on the cat and the juvenile fleas in the environment (topspot)
- Revolution™ – kills adult fleas, environmental fleas, gut worms and prevents Heartworm (topspot)

### ***Heartworm***

Cats contract Heartworm the same way dogs do - from infective mosquitoes. All cats should be on Heartworm prevention as, once the cat has contracted Heartworm, early diagnosis and treatment is difficult. Prevention should begin within one month of possible mosquito exposure, which for most kittens means before they are 3 months old. The best method of Heartworm prevention in cats is the monthly topspot; Revolution™.

### ***Diet and Dental care***

Your young cat has special nutritional requirements to support healthy growth and reduce the risk of serious health problems later in life. We recommend Hill's Science Diet Kitten as being the best, and most economical, diets for your kitten. A raw chicken wing at least once a week is ideal for keeping your cat's teeth clean. Some cats will not eat bones and for these cats you should try CET chews or regular brushing. Some cats will require periodic teeth scales under a general anaesthetic despite your best efforts to keep their teeth clean.

### ***Desexing***

We recommend desexing your cat at around 6 months of age. This corresponds to the average onset of puberty for both male and female cats. Delaying desexing will result in unwanted litters (which could potentially add to the stray and feral cat problem) and leads to a higher risk of mammary tumours and uterine infections in female cats. Non-desexed male cats spray urine to mark their territory, wander and get into cat fights.

### ***Ticks***

Frontline Spray™ applied to the entire coat every 3 weeks is the best prevention currently available for ticks in cats. This, however, should always be used in conjunction with effective daily checking of the entire skin surface.

### ***Chemicals and Drugs (general)***

Cats are very susceptible to chemicals. This is a combination of their small size and also their inability to detoxify some chemicals humans and dogs cope with easily. For that reason you should never put any chemical on or in your cat unless it says "this is safe for cats" or the vets tell you it is safe for cats.

### ***Council requirements***

Ipswich City Council does now require cats to be registered. Compulsory microchipping for all new kittens has not yet become a reality but the Ipswich City Council may adopt similar laws in the future.

***We strongly recommend the use of microchipping as being the most reliable method of identifying your cat if it strays from home.***

***"Caring for the pets of Ipswich since 1967"***

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