Vaccinating your Kitten

Vaccinating your cat is important to protect against diseases that are serious, difficult to treat, and sometimes fatal. Such diseases include feline rhinotracheitis virus, feline calicivirus, feline panleukopenia virus and Feline leukaemia virus (FeLV).

Your kitten can have its first vaccination from 8 - 10 weeks old. This must be followed up with a second vaccination 3 weeks later.

A week after the second vaccination, your kitten can go outside. It is important that your kitten stays in your house and does NOT meet any other cats until the course is complete to assure its safety. Once the course is complete, you will be given a vaccination certificate as proof of your kitten's immunity.

After vaccinations your kitten is protected for a year. it will then require a booster vaccination to ensure continued protection at the same time every year.

Neutering your Kitten

Castrating male cats from no younger than 6 months of age prevents them from developing urinary obstruction in later in life, which can often be a fatal condition. It can help reduce dominant behaviour, such as spraying in the house, fighting with other cats, and wandering too far from home.

Spaying female cats at 6 months old enables them to cope well with the operation and avoids unwanted pregnancy. Female kittens over 6 months old are fertile and very likely to get pregnant if they go outdoors. Ideally kittens need weigh at least 2kg's before we spay or castrate them, but if you need any advice regarding neutering your kitten please do get in touch.

Bringing your Cat to the Vets

By nature, cats are independent, territorial, need to be in control of their surroundings, and sensitive to different smells. To make visits to the vet happy, non-stressful events:

Make sure you use a good cat carrier:
- Never travel with the cat loose in the car – always use a robust carrier.
- Choose carefully – cardboard, for example, is no match for a determined cat!
- The carrier should be easy to clean (preferably plastic or plastic-coated) in case your pet has an accident. Line the carrier with absorbent material.
- The carrier should not be so large that the cat can fall about in it.
- A carrier that opens at the top is much easier to use as the cat can be gently lifted in or out.
- Cover the carrier with a cloth or towel during the journey to keep the cat calm.
- Secure the carrier in the car in a footwell or on a seat (with a seatbelt) so it cannot move.
- Place the carrier on a towel/padding to keep it level in the car and to absorb any 'accidents'.
- Drive carefully and gently to avoid the cat being thrown around.
- Stay calm so the cat doesn't pick up stress from you. Be reassuring and avoid loud noises.
- Carry your cat carrier carefully – avoid swinging the carrier or banging it against objects or your legs.

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT (2ND VACCINATION APPOINTMENT)
Write appointment time and which surgery it is booked in for below.

Please let us know if you are unable to attend the above appointment and we will arrange an alternative day/time.

Caring For Your New Kitten!

Congratulations on getting your new kitten, here are some kitten care tips for you to follow so you can keep your kitten healthy and happy.

Fleas and Worms

Feeding your Kitten

To kill adult fleas, you need to use something effective and long lasting. Flea collars and shampoos are inefficient and only work for a short time.

We recommend using a treatment which kills fleas, ear mites, biting lice and mange when put on your animal's skin. If your cat does not tolerate spot on treatments well, we recommend flea control tablets.

Fleas also survive in the environment, especially in carpets and soft furnishings. Household spray can be used to directly kill these fleas, flea eggs and larvae in the environment, which we would recommend you using if you have found yourself being bitten.

You should regularly worm your cat to protect from worm infestations. We recommend using a worming treatment, alongside flea treatment for effective treatment of all parasites. Kittens will need monthly worming until 6 months old. Worms are not always visible in your cat's faeces, so not seeing worms does not mean your cat doesn't have them. By regularly worming your pet, you also reduce the risk of them passing on worms to other animals.

Common Feline Poisons You Should Be Aware Of!

- 🐾 Grapes, raisins, and sultanas
- 🐾 Chocolate
- 🐾 Ibuprofen
- 🐾 Onions
- 🐾 Garlic
- 🐾 Ethylene Glycol (antifreeze)
- 🐾 Rodenticides
- 🐾 Lilies
- 🐾 Xylitol (artificial sweetener, often found in gum)
- 🐾 Antidepressant medications
- 🐾 Garden Fertilizer/Weed Killer
- 🐾 Permethrins (found in dog flea treatments)

When feeding your kitten, you should:

- 🐾 <u>Change food gradually if you need to do so.</u>
Changing food suddenly can lead to digestive problems such as diarrhoea. If the diet which your kitten ate before coming to you does not suit you, change the food over gradually by swapping out a small amount of the old food for the new one and increasing the amount slowly over several days.

- 🐾 <u>Type of food.</u>
A good quality kitten food should provide all the energy and nutrients your kitten needs. This can be either wet, dry food or a combination of both. It is important that your cat is fed CAT food as apposed to dog, as cat food has a higher protein content which cats need to remain healthy. If you have an adult cat, do not worry. Kittens can eat adult food and still meet all their nutritional requirements.

- 🐾 <u>Feed several meals a day.</u>
Kittens have small stomachs but high energy, so they need feeding little and often. 3-4 meals should be fed daily until about 6 months of age. The volume of food required varies according to the brand, and the size/age/breed of your kitten. Consult the manufacturers guidelines to work out the amount to feed.

Once your kitten has reached maturity you should gradually change to an adult diet, this is normally around 9-12 months of age.

Abbey VETS