



Kitten and Cat Care Sheet

Exams & Vaccinations:

- **4weeks:** deworm with pyrantel pamoate (PyPa). Can start to wean at 4 wks- completely wean by 6 wks
- **6 weeks:** Exam; FeLV test; FVRCP (1st of three); Fecal exam; deworm (PyPa)
- **10weeks:** Exam; FeLV (1st of two); FVRCP (2nd) ; deworm (PyPa); Start Monthly Heartworm Prevention
- **14 weeks:** Exam; FeLV (2nd); FVRCP (3rd); Rabies; deworm (PyPa)
- **Yearly:** = 12 months after initial rabies and then every 12 months. Exam; Fecal exam; deworm; Rabies booster then booster every 3 years; FVRCP; FeLV

Spay (removal of the uterus and both ovaries) : 5-6 months of age to prevent both unwanted pregnancy and uterine infection (pyometra) which is life threatening.

Neuter (removal of both testicles): 5-6 months of age to prevent urine marking and unwanted mating. Neutering an outdoor 'tom' will decrease the cat's desire to roam off in search of a mate.

Deworming: Kitten schedule as above. Adult cats every 6 months especially cats with access to the outdoors. Pyrantel pamoate plus Praziquantel if tapeworms are present. Yearly fecal exams are recommended

Flea & Tick Control: Monthly/Continual. Fipronal based product (Frontline) is recommended for tick control for cats that are in danger of exposure. There are several topical products for fleas & some are combined with ear mite control. Fleas carry one type of tapeworm egg (rodents carry another) and a blood borne parasite *Haemobart/Mycoplasm spp* which can lead to clinical disease of anemia (low blood count) that is usually treatable. Ticks can carry the blood borne parasite *Cytauxzoon felis* also known as 'bobcat fever' that is usually fatal .

Weight Control: Exercise, Exercise, Exercise! Provide toys to chase ex. a dryer sheet on the end of a shoe string is quite delightful if it is moving! Lite diets are available. Adult Cats only need to eat once daily. It's OK to vary the diet (unless your cat is on a medical diet) but limit treats.

Dental cleanings: Most pet cats need dental scaling and polishing after 3 years of age & then annually. Dental chew treats, enzymatic toothpaste & special diets are available and can decrease the frequency of professional cleanings.

Heartworm prevention : Recommended monthly. Heartworm infection occurs in approximately 60 % of exposed cats. Several topical products are available that also serve as flea control.

Declawing: As early as 12 weeks if vaccine schedule is followed. Recommend front paws only. Also can be done at the time of spay or neuter but recovery is easier if the cat weighs 6lbs or less. Ask Dr. Cash & staff for alternatives to declawing.

Litter Box Rule: To prevent eliminations outside of the box follow these simple recommendations: for 100% indoor cats provide 1 litter box per cat plus one extra, example 3 indoor cats would have 4 boxes; use the largest low sided plastic box possible; avoid covered or 'moving' boxes; scoop once to twice daily; use mild soapy cleaner as needed.