



Kitten information pack

Diet

Kittens need to be fed a complete diet in order to keep them fit and healthy throughout their growth. You can feed your kitten a wet (meat) or dry diet, or a combination of both. This comes down to personal preference, but we recommend a good quality dry diet.

As the kitten starts to get older, it can be a good idea to leave dry food down for them to 'graze' throughout the day. This usually works better once the kitten is a little older as they tend to over-eat if this is allowed when they are very young.

You will notice your cat drinks more water when on a dry diet, this is completely normal and expected. Wet food can then be given in addition, usually a small amount works well as a treat and routine once or twice a day depending on what suits your lifestyle.

Health check

It is important to ensure your kitten has had a health check once they join your family, again at 6 months, and at least once annually throughout life.

Vaccinations are recommended and can be given from 9 weeks old, with the second one being given at 12 weeks old, this is when your kitten loses protection from their mother. Vaccinations are given to protect them from feline flu / enteritis and leukaemia.

Routine flea and wormers are advised to also keep them protected. Monthly until they are 6 months for wormer then every 3-6 months. Flea treatment is recommended monthly.

We can help to administer this if preferred once it has been dispensed by your Vet. It is advisable to purchase prescription medication to ensure they are adequately and safely covered.



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Neutering

Neutering is called spaying in females and is the removal of the ovaries and uterus. In males it is called castration, and is the removal of the testicles.

We would recommend neutering from 16wks old, and ideally before your cat ventures outside and into mischief. Even if they are going to be an indoor cat, neutering is still the sensible choice for many health reasons such as :

- Prevention of disease, especially pyometra (uterus infection) and several types of cancer in both sexes
- Prevention of pregnancy in females
- Prevention of unwanted sexual or roaming behaviours in males
- Generally making them happier pets with less behavioural problems

There is a lot to be considered when breeding from an animal and it is not to be taken lightly. It can be very costly and stressful if all doesn't quite go to plan.

Feel free to contact us for any advice on neutering.

Microchipping

Whilst not required by law in cats, we would strongly recommend microchipping for all cats. It is proof of ownership and the safest way to ensure you can be re-united with your pet if they do go missing. We still recommend microchipping for cats who live indoors just in case they manage to escape.

Microchipping can be done in a vet or nurse consultation, although they often will do it under GA at the same time as neutering. We can also microchip in the comfort of your home. It is a simple procedure, implanting a chip the size of a grain of rice under the skin between the shoulder blades. We can also register the microchip for you and organise all of the legalities.

Poisoning -

Cats can often eat things that they shouldn't, and what is poisonous is not always obvious, and may not show problems straight away.

Some common toxins in cats include:

- Paracetamol, even in very small quantities
- Permethrin, found in many dog 'spot on' flea treatments
- Lilies; the pollen, flowers and leaves
- Chocolate (all kinds)
- Onions
- Wild mushrooms
- Xylitol - an artificial sweetener found in many products (e.g. chewing gum) but also things like peanut butter
- Ibuprofen, naproxen and other human pain killers
- Rat poison
- Slug pellets
- Benzalkonium chloride (found in many household cleaners)

Please note this is not an exhaustive list

If you are concerned your cat may have consumed something poisonous then please contact your vets as a matter of urgency.

You can also contact the Animal Poison Line on 01202 509000 for advice if you are uncertain (there is a charge for this service).

You can try and wash off any substances that are on the coat to prevent further ingestion, but you should still contact the vet and **ensure that you take any packaging of the substance with you so they can quickly identify what has been ingested.**



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Insurance

We would highly recommend you look into an insurance policy for your kitten, so that any treatment decisions can be made based on what is best for them, rather than worrying about the cost of treatments. There are many insurance companies to choose from, you just need to decide on the right policy for you and your pet. MyVetNurse can help you with this decision as we have undertaken specific insurance training, although we cannot provide insurance ourselves.

We can discuss any of this information in more detail via a telephone consultation, home visit or our messaging service. Feel free to get in touch.