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Your New Kitten



Your new puppy will bring both you and us much joy! Proper nutrition and health care from its early years on will add much to the length and quality of his/her life.

Vaccinations:

6 weeks of age: FVRCP*, de-worming with Drontal or Profender, Feline Leukemia/feline AIDS test

9 weeks of age: FVRCP, de-worming with Drontal or Profender, FeLV** #1, FIV*** #1

12 weeks of age: FVRCP, FeLV #2, intestinal parasite exam, FIV #2

16 weeks of age: Vaccine #1, intestinal parasite exam, FIV #2

20 weeks of age: Vaccine #2, FIV #2

Once this vaccine series is completed, your kitten is protected from the main viral infection for 1 year.

* *FVRCP: Feline Viral Rihnotreachitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukepenia (also known as Distemper)*

** *FeLV: Feline Leukemia Vaccine*

*** *FIV: Feline Immunodeficiency Virus*

De-worming

Fecal samples should be examined for evidence of intestinal parasites every 6 months after the initial de-worming series. Cats and kittens that go outside should be de-wormed every 3-4 months.

Diet

Diet is an essential part of your kitten's health care. Science diet continues to be the leader in this field. In general, your kitten should have special kitten formula for the first year according to the recommendations of the pet food manufacturer you choose. Once your kitten is a year old, a diet with fiber included (such as Science Diet light) will help intestinal health and weight control. Cats are especially vulnerable to urinary disease (bladder stones/crystals.) Feeding a high quality food like science diet greatly reduces the risk of this dangerous disease.

Supplements

Supplements such as glucosamine/chondroitins (nupro for cats) are good ways to encourage joint health. Omega 3 fatty acids (Optima 365) are good for the skin and coat. Omega 3 fatty acids are also natural cortisones so they will help cats that are prone to allergies.

Neutering

Spaying or castrating of your kitten should be done between 4 to 6 months of age. These procedures help prevent many unwanted behaviors and diseases such as marking, pregnancy, roaming, mammary cancer, prostate disease, rabies, and much more. Please feel free to ask about our prices for these procedures. Spaying and neutering can be done as “same day surgery.” If you prefer not to leave your pet overnight, just mention it to the receptionist when you schedule your appointment.

Flea Control

Controlling fleas on your cat also helps prevent tapeworms and ear mites and a blood parasite called hemobartonella. We recommend a monthly topical flea product (Revolution is our favorite) for controlling fleas. These products are safe and effective for your cat. They should be applied to the skin on the back of the head once a month starting in March and continuing through December. It is NOT recommended or necessary to use other flea products along with Advantage or Frontline (Revolution).

If you have questions regarding these products versus the products that you can get in the grocery store (such as Hartz), please ask us. In addition to fleas, Revolution also prevents heartworms, ear mites, fleas, roundworms, and hookworms.

Dental Care

Like people, cats develop tartar and gum disease. Since it can be very difficult to brush a cat's teeth, it is imperative that you get your cat's teeth and gums checked on a yearly basis. There are cat foods such as Hills Prescription T/D that are specifically formulated to help reduce the buildup of tartar. When your cat develops tartar or inflamed gums, then it is time to get his/her teeth cleaned. Poor dental health can lead to anorexia, and infection in the gums can spread to the heart valves, liver, kidneys, and lungs. Dental cleanings can be done as a “same day procedure.”

Microchip

Since cats frequently lose collars and other forms of identification, microchips are a good way to identify your cat. The microchip is about the size of a piece of rice and is injected under the skin between the shoulder blades. Proof of ownership of a cat can be hard to prove unless you have photo documentation. If a question should arise, your cat could be scanned and the chip number would prove ownership.

Insurance

While the previously mentioned tips can help your cat live a healthy, happy life, there may be times when unexpected accidents or illnesses happen to your pet. Insurance for your cat provides a wonderful safety net to help with intensive and extended care. There are many options for insurance providers. A few of our favorites include ASPCA and PetPlan, but there are many good companies out there. We have brochures for several of these companies available. Please ask the receptionist for more information.

Care Credit is an extended payment plan option, **not** an insurance provider. We have more information on this option as well.