

Kitten Healthcare

The first few months of your kitten's life are very important for both them and you, their owner. It is an ideal time to make sure you will have a happy, healthy cat that settles in well into your family and home for a long time to come.

We discuss general recommendations here; specific recommendations for your kitten will be noted on the report card overleaf with your vet.

Settling into your home

Your kitten may miss their mum and littermates for the first few days. We recommend a gentle introduction to your home showing your kitten the litter tray, food and water bowls (these should all be placed in different areas). Ensure young children don't become over excited or treat the kitten like a toy. It is a good idea to have some toys and a scratching post for your kitten (to avoid them scratching the furniture!).

All doors, windows and cat flaps should be shut and the kitten should not be allowed outside for at least 2-3 weeks.

Carefully introduce your kitten to other family pets by putting them in a cage first that allows the other pets to see and smell the kitten but not touch it. Later on the kitten should have a safe place to escape if other pets become aggressive or overly playful.

Nutrition

Good quality food is important for all kittens. Excellent nutrition lays the building blocks of good health for later life. Kitten diets are specially formulated to contain the correct nutrients in the right balance to promote growth.

There are lots of different brands and types of food available. We recommend feeding a kitten food from a reputable manufacturer. Your kitten should become accustomed to eating both dry nuts and wet food.

Worming advice

Most kittens are born with worms that they get from their mother before being born and from their mother's milk. We advise regular worming every 2 weeks until the age of 3 months and then every month until 6 months old. Kittens over 6 months old

and adults should be wormed at least every 3 months.

You should clean out your kitten's litter tray every day. Roundworms pose a risk to humans, especially pregnant women. Regular worming and regular hand-washing are the best ways to reduce this risk.

Flea & tick treatments

Controlling fleas, ear mites and other ectoparasites (parasites that live on the skin) is important from a young age. Please ask which treatment is best for your kitten as not all treatments are safe to use in small kittens. Beware NEVER to use a flea treatment for dogs on your cat as they can cause fatal poisoning.

Vaccination

We recommend a course of 2 vaccinations, given 3 weeks apart, starting from 9 weeks of age. These vaccines protect your kitten from common diseases such as cat flu. We also recommend vaccination against feline leukemia (FeLV) which is a fatal disease. Remember that your kitten is not fully protected until 2 weeks after his or her last vaccination. Please see the enclosed vaccination information leaflet for more details.

Bringing your cat to the vets

Please get your kitten accustomed to going into a cat carrier. Invest in a good quality cat carrier that is reliable and can be properly secured. Cats tend to dislike travelling by car and can become agitated and escape when away from home if not suitably contained.

Microchipping

Cats are not routinely microchipped and there is no national microchipping scheme for cats. You may still choose to microchip your cat. They can be registered on an online database and some owners use microchip-operated cat flaps.

Neutering

Neutering of both male and female cats is recommended and is usually done from 5 months of age (females can be fertile as early as 6 months old!). For more information on neutering please read the Spay Aware Q&A sheet enclosed, or just ask us!

Opening Hours:

Phone: **(0504) 51165**

Email: **borrisvets@hotmail.com**

Find us on Facebook

9:00 – 6:00 Monday – Friday

9:00 – 1:00 Saturdays

Consultations by appointment

Niamh O'Toole MVB

Kathleen Walsh MVB

Conor Morkan MVB