

What to expect during your kitten's first year...

We recommend a full physical examination within the first few days of adopting your new kitten to check for any health problems that could be present, such as heart murmurs, umbilical hernias, external parasites such as mites and fleas, and ear mites/infections.

Vaccinations given prior to 7 to 8 weeks of age are temporary and may need to be boosted at 8 weeks.

8 weeks: Complete physical examination and recommended fecal analysis. We will discuss nutrition, litter training, the benefits of health insurance, and outline your pet's recommended vaccination schedule. It is recommended that a fecal sample be checked at this visit and appropriate deworming medications dispensed. Today's vaccinations will help protect your kitten from Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (also known as Feline Herpes), Feline Calicivirus and Feline panleukopenia (FVRCP).

12 weeks: Complete physical examination. This is a good time to address questions or concerns that may have come up over the past month, such as flea control and behavior concerns. Your kitten will receive his second FVRCP vaccination at this visit. The first Feline Leukemia Virus vaccination will be administered if he/she will be going outdoors at all or at high risk of contracting the virus.

16 weeks: Complete physical exam. If your kitten was diagnosed with internal parasites previously it is a good idea to have another fecal sample checked at this time to be sure the medications were effective. Dental care is very important in cats and tooth brushing is more easily accepted by pets if started at a young age. We will address your questions and concerns regarding spaying/neutering, declawing and permanent pet identification (microchipping). Your kitten will receive his final FVRCP vaccination and Rabies vaccine at this visit. If Feline Leukemia vaccination was given last month then it will be boosted today.

6 months: Spay/ neuter, +/- declaw, +/- permanent pet identification (microchipping).

Annually: Annual examinations are important to ensure your cat stays healthy. Tooth decay, urinary problems, parasite infestations and underlying systemic diseases are difficult for owners to notice at home but are usually found on a thorough physical exam by your veterinarian. When caught early many of these problems can be treated and prevented. Vaccinations are administered as needed for each cat. Ongoing preventative health care including dentistry, nutrition and flea control will be discussed, as well as any questions or concerns you have.

Every spring: Flea control and prevention.

This is only a general guide . A personalized program will be established for your kitten based on his/her age at the first visit. The vaccinations that we administer are for the viruses for which we feel protection is important based upon geographical prevalence and recommendations from the Ontario Veterinary College.