

# KITTEN CARE GUIDE



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[westernvet.com](http://westernvet.com)

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*Congratulations on your new kitten!*

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*We wish you the best with your new kitten. We hope to be able to answer any questions you have as you start this new venture with a new family member.*

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# Care to Share

## Client Referral Program



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*Give a friend a new experience.  
Refer them to Western Veterinary Clinic.*

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Write your name on the back of our business card.  
Give it to a friend or family member.

Your friend gets a 10% discount on their first visit.  
You receive a \$10 coupon at Western Veterinary Clinic  
for each client that you refer to us.

May be applied towards any service except grooming.  
No cash value or refund and non-transferable.

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/westernvet](http://www.facebook.com/westernvet)

## Pet Health Club: The Kitten Club

They keep us laughing with their cute antics, are faithful companions on the couch, and love to play games with us. The Kitten Club at Western Veterinary Clinic provides your furry friends with the excellent quality care they deserve at a discount price for the first year of life. We realize that you want to provide the best care possible for a new member of your family, and we would like to make that easier.

### Unlimited Exams<sup>1</sup> and Yearly Vaccines

The *Pet Health Club* includes unlimited exams - so if your kitten needs to be examined by the doctor, call to schedule an appointment, and we will waive the exam fee! We will explain the recommended vaccines along with their timing for your kitten. All necessary vaccines are included in the Kitten Club for your kitten's first year of life.

### Spay or Neuter

A professional laser spay or neuter will be scheduled when your kitten is ready. Included with this procedure are IV catheter and fluid therapy, pre-anesthetic blood panel, complete blood count, vital surgical monitoring, and medication to keep your pet comfortable after surgery. Blood testing at this time gives a baseline for your pet and is vital to a safe surgery.

### Front Declaw (add-on)

If you would like your kitten's front paws declawed at the time of a spay or neuter, we can provide this procedure at additional cost. We include post-op antibiotics and medication to keep your kitten comfortable after surgery.

### Services Included in the Kitten Club

- Spay or Neuter
  - + with option of front declaw
  - Pre-Anesthetic Blood Panel
  - Complete Blood Count
  - Electrolyte Panel
- Pain Medication after Surgery
- Unlimited Exams
- All Vaccines needed for the First Year

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<sup>1</sup> Unlimited exams do not include an urgent care or emergency fee.

- 3 Fecal Exams to check for Intestinal Parasites
- 3 Dewormings to remove Intestinal Parasites
- FeLV, FIV, & Heartworm Test
- Fluoride Treatment (at the time of spay/neuter)
- Biomedical waste disposal

**Additional Benefits:**

- Vitamins
- Equalizer Pet Deodorizer
- Oral Hygiene kit
- A Kitty Toy
- AVID Microchip
- 1 Month of Heartworm Preventative



As your cat gets older we offer **Silver**, **Gold**, or **Platinum** clubs designed specifically to meet adult pet needs. These clubs include doctor examinations, vaccinations, heartworm checks, blood screens, urinalysis, and several other valuable services depending on which plan suits your family best.

**Unlimited Exams and Yearly Vaccines**

Just like the Kitten Club, adult cats also get unlimited exams as long as they are enrolled in the Pet Health Club<sup>SM</sup>. We will go over with you which vaccines are recommend and how frequently your pet needs them. All recommended vaccines are included with any of the plans.

### Laboratory Testing

The blood profile, complete blood count, urinalysis, and fecal exams are laboratory tests that give the doctor a look at what is going on inside your pet's body.

### Professional Dental Cleaning

We do a complete 12 step professional dental cleaning in the Gold and Platinum Plan. If additional dental work, medication, or X-rays are needed, our doctors will discuss and provide you with a treatment plan.

### Direct Payment Program - Pay Monthly

We want to make it easy for all of our clients (and their pets) to experience the many membership benefits of the Pet Health Club<sup>SM</sup> at Western Veterinary Clinic. Your monthly payment will be directly taken out of your checking/savings account or credit card on the 20th of each month. There is an enrollment fee for all pets who join our clubs.

To learn more about visit [westernvet.com](http://westernvet.com).

## Health & Wellness

### Diet

Diet is important in the growing months of a cat's life, and there are two important criteria that should be met in selecting food for your kitten. We recommend a name brand food made by a national cat food company (not a generic brand), and a form of food made specifically for kittens; for example **Hills, Iams, Royal Canin, or Purina**. This should be fed until your kitten is about 12 months of age.

We recommend feeding a high quality kitten food, which uses beef or chicken as its main ingredients. It is also recommended to be cautious of food that consists of a lot of colorful dyes, as these can be upsetting to your kitten's digestive tract.

Feeding a dry or canned form of cat food is acceptable. Each has advantages and disadvantages. Dry food is definitely the least expensive. It can be left in the cat's bowl at all times. Canned foods are also acceptable. However, these are considerably more expensive than dry food. They often are more appealing to the cat's taste; however, they are not more nutritious. If you feed tasty food,



you are running the risk of creating a cat with a finicky appetite. Our doctors recommend feeding your cat moist food to help with renal health. Most cats need  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 cup of dry food a day.

Table foods are not recommended. Because they are generally very tasty, cats will often begin to hold out for these and not eat their well-balanced cat food. Most cats actually prefer not to change from one food to another unless they are trained to do so by the way you feed them. Do not feel guilty if your cat is happy to just eat one food day after day, week after week.

Commercials for cat food can be misleading. If you watch carefully you will notice that commercials promote cat food on one basis: TASTE. Nutrition is rarely mentioned. Most of the "gourmet" foods are marketed to appeal to owners who want the best for their cats; however, they do not offer the cat any nutritional advantage over a good quality dry food, and they are far more expensive. If your cat eats a gourmet food very long, it will probably not be happy with other foods. If it needs a special diet due to a health problem later in life, it is unlikely to accept it. Therefore, we do not encourage feeding gourmet cat foods.

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*Table foods are highly discouraged.*

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# Vaccines

There are many diseases that are fatal or harmful to cats. Fortunately, we have the ability to prevent many of these by the use of effective vaccines. In order to be effective, these vaccines must be given as a series of injections. **Feel free to ask us any questions you may have on the vaccine schedule or the diseases they protect against.**

A description of the vaccines are described below.

## Vaccination Schedule:

These vaccines are recommended for all cats and kittens.

- **Rabies** – The rabies vaccine is given at 12 to 16 weeks of age. This is required by state law.
- **Feline Distemper** – Feline Rhinotracheitis, Chlamydia, Calici, Panleukopenia. This vaccination is started at 6-8 weeks of age and repeated every 3 weeks for a series of 3 injections. This schedule may vary depending on several factors.
- **Feline Leukemia Virus** can be given at 9 weeks of age and again in 3 weeks.

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*Rabies vaccine is required by state law and must be administered by a licensed veterinarian.*

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## Why does my kitten need more than one vaccination?

When the kitten nurses from its mother, it receives a temporary form of immunity through its mother's milk. This immunity is in the form of proteins called antibodies. For about 24-48 hours after birth, the kitten's intestine allows absorption of these antibodies directly into the blood stream. This immunity is of benefit during the first few weeks of the kitten's life, but at some point, this immunity fails and the kitten must be able to make its own long-lasting immunity. Vaccinations are used for this purpose. Many factors determine when the kitten will be able to respond to vaccines. A single vaccination is not likely to stimulate the long-term immunity, which is vital to protect against the diseases. Rabies vaccine is an exception to this, since one injection given at the proper age and time is enough to produce long-term immunity.

<b>General Veterinary Care for the Kitten's First Year of Life</b>						
<b>Age</b>	<b>8-9 Weeks</b>	<b>11-12 Weeks</b>	<b>14-15 Weeks</b>	<b>5-6 Months</b>	<b>Bi-Annually</b>	<b>Annually</b>
<b>Exam(s) or Procedures</b>	Physical Exam FeLV/FIV Test Fecal Exam	Physical Exam	Physical Exam Fecal Exam	Pre-Surgical bloodwork Spay/Neuter Fecal Exam	Physical Exam Fecal Exam	Heartworm Test Bloodwork
<b>Vaccinations</b>	FRCP	FRCP FeLV	Rabies FRCP FeLV			Vaccines
<b>Parasite Prevention</b>	Deworming Heartworm Flea Prevention	Deworming Heartworm Flea Prevention	Deworming Heartworm Flea Prevention			Deworming Monthly; Heartworm Flea Prevention

# Diseases of the Cat

## Rabies

### **What is Rabies?**

Rabies is a virus disease that can infect all warm-blooded animals, including cats and people, although some species are somewhat naturally resistant to the disease. When signs of rabies occur it is an almost always a fatal disease.

### **How is rabies transmitted?**

The disease is usually transmitted by the bite of an infected animal. Rabies virus does not survive long outside the body. The infection is transmitted when one infected animal bites another. In North America the skunk, raccoon and bat are the most common transmission routes.

### **What are the clinical signs?**

Following a bite or scratch from a rabid animal, the disease progresses in stages.

1. Marked change in temperament - become agitated, aggressive, nervous or shy.
2. Next excitement predominates and it is at this stage that the cat is most dangerous, both to other animals and to the owner. The cat becomes increasingly nervous, irritable and vicious.
3. Muscle spasms will often prevent swallowing and there is excessive drooling of saliva.
4. The next stage occurs about 7 days later. Ultimately the cat will become comatose and die. A noted feature of the condition in cats is the widely dilated pupil throughout all stages of the disease.

### **Is it possible to survive a bite from a rabid animal?**

Without vaccination and rapid post-exposure treatment, the chances of survival are poor.

### **What is the treatment?**

There is no treatment for rabies. If rabies is suspected, keep the cat isolated and contact someone from the local or state/provincial animal control offices.

### **Can I catch rabies?**

Yes, the disease is zoonotic, meaning that it can be transmitted to humans. It is only transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal. The virus is present in the saliva of the infected animal only for a limited time. If any animal that may be suspicious for rabies bites you, you should

immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and then seek the advice of a doctor without delay. Suspicious animals include stray or feral dogs; or any wild animal, particularly if the animal is showing unusual behavior such as lack of fear of people, salivation, or aggression.

Is it possible to vaccinate my cat?

Yes! Rabies vaccination is required by law in most states. Kittens should be vaccinated between 12 and 16 weeks of age and should receive a booster one year later, and every year after that.

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*Rabies can be transmitted to humans.*

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## Feline Distemper

### **What is canine distemper and how is it spread?**

The feline “distemper” vaccine protects against multiple illnesses and disease, including: Feline Rhinotracheitis, Chlamydia, Calici, and Panleukopenia. This vaccine is usually given in a series of 3 injections while they are kittens and then given annually for optimal protection.

### **Feline Rhinotracheitis and the Calici Virus**

This syndrome is commonly termed an upper respiratory infection (URI). While not usually serious (except in young kittens) it is a very common infection in unvaccinated cats and can cause long-term problems. Vaccination is only moderately effective as solid immunity to these viruses are not long term. Vaccination does significantly reduce the severity and duration of URI. Cats at high risk may require twice yearly vaccination, at least initially, to provide better protection.

### **Panleukopenia**

This is an uncommon disease today because of widespread vaccination, but the risk remains widespread. When disease occurs it is a severe and often fatal gastroenteritis, with profound depression, dehydration and collapse. It is very contagious to other cats. Vaccination provides a high level of long lasting protection.

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*Vaccination provides a high level of long lasting protection.*

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**Chlamydia**

This tends to be a particular problem in areas with multiple cats. Chlamydiosis is a bacterial infection causing a painful inflammation and swelling of the conjunctiva (the membrane around the eye) and has been associated with infertility in queens. Infection in colonies of cats can last for long periods because protection against re-infection (immunity) is relatively short lived. Vaccination can help to prevent infection becoming established in a colony and can be used in conjunction with treatment where infection is already present.

## Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

*Before there was a vaccine to protect against Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) infection in the mid-1980's, the complex of diseases associated with FeLV was the most frequent cause of death in cats.*

### **What is Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)?**

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is one of the most important infectious viruses of cats. It was discovered in cats with a form of leukemia, hence its name. FeLV is the cause of a variety of diseases, not just leukemia. FeLV is specific to members of the cat family and does not pose a risk to other animals or people.

### **How common is FeLV?**

FeLV infection is found worldwide. In general, around 1-2% of the cat population is persistently infected with this virus, and many more are exposed. The proportion of cats infected differs according to the geographical location, environment and the life-style of the cat. Infection is more common in colonies of cats where there is close contact between individuals.

### **What disease does the virus cause?**

FeLV invades and replicates in various cells of the cat's immune system and blood-forming cells, and less commonly in other cells. Common manifestations of the FeLV virus include cancer, life-threatening anemia, abortion, diarrhea, nervous system signs, and eye disease. FeLV is usually fatal. Studies have shown that 80-90% of FeLV-infected cats will die within 3 to 4 years of initial diagnosis.

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### **How is FeLV transmitted?**

Direct contact between cats is the most frequent method of FeLV infection. However, the virus can also be carried on inanimate objects, such as your shoes and clothing. A cat with FeLV sheds a large quantity of the virus in its saliva as well as in other body secretions and excretions such as urine and feces. Close contact activities include mating, mutual grooming, and sharing of litter trays and food bowls. Cat bites by an infected cat can readily transmit infection. Another potential source of infection is when a pregnant cat infected with FeLV gives birth. In this situation, all the kittens will likely be born with FeLV virus.

**How can FeLV infection be diagnosed?**

Diagnosis of FeLV infection is relatively simple. A rapid blood test can be performed which is able to detect viral proteins of FeLV in the blood of an infected cat. This test is very accurate and reliable; although false results occur on occasion. In some situations it may be necessary to confirm infection through further blood testing at a specialized laboratory where more sophisticated tests are available.

**Is there any treatment for FeLV infection or disease?**

There is currently no specific treatment for FeLV-infected cats (no treatment to eliminate the virus from the body). Most FeLV-infected cats will eventually die of diseases related to their infection or require euthanasia. However, many cats showing FeLV-related disease will improve on symptomatic treatment, at least for a period of time. For example, if FeLV is causing disease in an individual through immunosuppression and the development of secondary infections, these other concurrent diseases may be treatable, leading to improvement of the clinical signs.

**How can infection be prevented?**

Vaccines are now available to protect cats against FeLV infection. We recommend that ALL kittens and cats receive the FeLV vaccine. As with other vaccines, an initial course of two injections is required, and annual boosters are necessary to maintain best immunity. Your veterinarian will discuss the appropriate options for your cat with you. We recommend testing all cats for FeLV prior to vaccination.

Although vaccination is very helpful in preventing infection with FeLV and thus controlling FeLV-related disease, no vaccine is 100% protective. Where possible do not allow your cat, particularly if a kitten, to come into close contact with known FeLV-infected cats or cats without a known history of proper vaccinations.

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*We recommend testing all cats for FeLV prior to vaccination.*

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**Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)****What is Feline Immunodeficiency Virus?**

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a virus specific to the cat family. It was first recognized in the mid 1980's and it has been found in cats worldwide. Although widespread, it is not a common infection in



cats. Only 1–2% of cats show evidence of exposure to the virus. In some cats, exposure to the virus leads to signs and symptoms that result in deficiency in the immune system. There are different strains of FIV and some seem more harmful than others.

### **Is my family at risk?**

*Absolutely Not!* Although HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the cause of AIDS in people) belongs to the same family of viruses, and the effects are similar to the effects of FIV in cats. The viruses are very specific for the species and there is no risk of cross infection between the immunodeficiency viruses of cats and people.

### **How do cats get FIV?**

The virus of FIV is primarily within certain cells inside infected cats. When viruses shed to the outside they are mainly in the saliva. Transmission of infection to another cat requires fairly direct inoculation of the saliva and a bite from an infected, shedding cat is the primary means of transmitting FIV. It is not surprising that cats that are known fighters, particularly those with a history of cat bite abscesses, have a higher risk of being FIV-positive. A mother can also infect her kittens through pregnancy or soon after birth through nursing. Around a quarter to a third of kittens born to an infected queen (mother) are likely to be infected themselves. Normal social interactions, such as grooming, have a low risk of transmitting FIV.

### **How is FIV diagnosed?**

FIV is diagnosed on a special blood test that looks for an immune response (formation of antibodies) to the virus by the cat. If this test is positive it is likely that your cat has been and still is infected by the virus. Kittens under four months of age that test positive should be re-tested when they are six months old, by which time any “maternal” antibodies will have disappeared.

### **What type of disease does FIV cause?**

FIV causes disease because it reduces the ability of the cat's immune system to respond to other infections. Infections that would normally be overcome and cleared become prolonged, chronic or recurrent. This means that many of the clinical signs associated with FIV are due to other non-healing infections. Collectively the signs and symptoms seen as a consequence of FIV is sometimes called “Feline AIDS” or Acquired Immunodeficiency Disease of cats.

### **Common clinical signs of FIV infection include:**

- ✓ Gingivitis/stomatitis (inflammation of the gums / mouth)
- ✓ Weight loss
- ✓ Poor appetite

- ✓ Fever
- ✓ Inflammation of the membrane around the eyes (conjunctivitis)
- ✓ Swollen lymph glands
- ✓ Vomiting and diarrhea

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*A lot of these signs are very non-specific and many diseases can have a similar clinical picture.*

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### **Is there any treatment?**

No specific treatment for the virus is available. Secondary bacterial infections can be effectively treated with antibiotics but this is usually only temporary until another infection occurs.

### **How can I prevent cats becoming infected and is there a vaccine?**

As most cats become infected from bite wounds during fighting, the risk of FIV infection can be minimized by making sure your cat is neutered and, where possible, kept indoors.

There is currently a vaccine to prevent FIV infection. It is important that your cat be tested for FIV prior to being vaccinated. Because we do not have a test that differentiates between vaccinated and truly infected cats, we recommend that cats vaccinated with the FIV vaccine be microchipped or have some similar form of permanent identification. Currently we are recommending that this vaccine only be used on high-risk cats. Please ask one of our staff if this vaccine is right for your pet.

## Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

### **What is feline infectious peritonitis?**

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is an important disease of domestic cats. The disease is most often seen in cats up to 2 years of age. Although FIP is not a particularly common disease, it is important because once a cat develops the disease, the outcome is almost invariably fatal.

### **What is the cause of FIP?**

FIP is associated with infection of a virus called Feline Coronavirus. Other members of the coronavirus virus family infect and cause disease in various animal species but Feline Coronavirus is only known to cause disease in cats and other members of the cat family. There are many different strains of Feline Coronavirus, which differ in their ability to cause disease. Diagnosis of Feline Coronavirus infection is

very difficult. FIP remains one of the least understood of all cat diseases.

**How does a cat become infected with Feline Coronavirus (FCoV)?**

It is not certain how most cats become infected with FCoV. Direct contact between cats is the most likely route of transmission. Biting insects such as fleas may also spread infection.

**What clinical signs does a cat infected with FIP develop?**

Most cats exposed to FCoV, even to the potentially FIP-inducing strains, are able to develop an immune response that protects them, thus only a small proportion of infected cats actually develop clinical disease. However, those that do develop disease almost invariably die.

In cats that do develop FIP disease, the first signs of illness may be vague - dullness, lethargy, decreased or absent appetite and variable pyrexia (fever, raised temperature) are common findings. After a period of several days or a few weeks other signs will develop. The most typical signs involve the accumulation of fluid in the abdomen leading to a swollen abdomen. Similar fluid in the chest cavity may result in difficulty breathing. In some cats, little or no fluid accumulates ("dry" FIP as opposed to "wet" FIP) but there may be a severe inflammation in a variety of body organs including often the eyes, the brain, liver, intestine or other organs of the body leading to a variety of clinical signs. Once disease develops, most individuals deteriorate fairly rapidly, although some cats remain normal for several weeks. However, eventually the disease will result in death in almost every case.

Because FIP presents with a variety of clinical signs, and many of these signs occur with other diseases, FIP is particularly difficult to diagnose. X-rays may be helpful to determine the presence of fluid in the abdomen or chest, and some changes may be found on routine blood analysis but none of these findings provide conclusive proof of FIP (other disease can also cause the same abnormalities). Currently the only way to make sure of the diagnosis of FIP is by histological examination of affected tissue (or by post-mortem examination) by a pathologist at a laboratory. If there is any doubt about the diagnosis, a biopsy may be suggested by the veterinarian so that FIP can be distinguished from a treatable disease.

**Is there any treatment for FIP and is there a vaccine?**

FIP is fatal in almost all cases. There is no specific treatment. Anti-inflammatory drugs such as corticosteroids (sometimes used in combination with immunosuppressive drugs of the type sometimes used in cancer therapy, although these may have side-effects) may temporarily suppress symptoms and improve the cat's quality of life. In many cats, once a diagnosis has been made euthanasia is often the most humane and appropriate course of action.

Vaccines have been developed to help in the prevention of FIP. Because the sequence of events leading to clinical FIP disease is so poorly understood, and because infection may have occurred before vaccination, the success of vaccination is not certain.

**Are other cats in the household at risk?**

Other cats in the household are at greater risk for developing FIP. Fortunately, infection will lead to disease in only a few cats. It is sensible not to introduce any new cats into a home where there has been a case of FIP until at least one month afterwards (two or three months for infected multi-cat households to see if any additional cases are going to occur, even then there will be a risk from possible carriers).

## Intestinal Parasites

### Do all kittens have worms?

“Worms” or intestinal parasites are common in kittens. Kittens can become infected with parasites almost as soon as they are born. For example, they are often transmitted in utero (during pregnancy) and through the mother’s milk. The microscopic examination of a stool sample will help us to determine the presence of intestinal parasites. This exam detects the eggs from the worms. We recommend this exam for all kittens; some may need multiple stool samples checked in the first year. Routine stool sample exams are recommended twice yearly throughout your cat’s life.

With kittens, we use a deworming product even if we do not get a positive stool sample. This medication is safe and effective against several of the common worms found in cats. We use this medication because it has very few, if any, side effects and because your kitten does not pass worm eggs every day. Thus, the stool sample may not detect worms that are present.

It is given now and repeated every 3-4 weeks for the first few months, because the deworming medication only kills the adult worms. Within 3-4 weeks the larval stages will have become adults and will need to be treated. Stool sample exams are recommended every 6 months by the Center for Disease Control to help prevent parasitic infection. All cats and kittens are at risk for parasitic infection.

**There are several types of internal parasites that cause problems in kittens, including:**

- ✓ **Roundworms** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Hookworms** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Tapeworms** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Coccidia** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Giardia** (intestinal)
- ✓ **Heartworms** (heart)

**Roundworms** – Roundworms are one of the most common intestinal parasites of the cat. They can be an important cause of illness, and even death, in kittens. These are large-bodied round worms, averaging about 3-6 inches in length. These worms are literally “swimming” within the intestine. They can also move to the lungs, resulting in breathing problems and the development of respiratory diseases. The primary pathway that roundworms are passed from the mother cat is through nursing. However, swallowing eggs, while grooming, can cause infection.

**Prevention is possible:**

- ✓ New kittens should be dewormed multiple times according to your veterinarian.
- ✓ Routine, bi-yearly, fecal exams should be done.
- ✓ Litter boxes should be scooped daily to reduce the risk of re-infection.
- ✓ **Strict hygiene for people, especially children.**

**Roundworms can be passed from animals to humans.**

As many as 10,000 cases of roundworm infection in humans have been reported in one year in the United States. Children, in particular, are at risk for health problems should they become infected.

**Hookworms**

Hookworms are more common in warm, moist environments.

Feline hookworms have hooks to attach to tissues, and then proceed to suck blood. The blood-loss anemia attributed to hookworms is a more significant problem in kittens than adult cats. In rare cases, kittens or debilitated cats might require a blood transfusion because of severe anemia.

Larvae (immature worms) will hatch from the eggs and persist in the soil for weeks or months. When the cat swallows larvae, hookworm infection is established. The larvae may also burrow through the cat's skin and migrate to the intestine, where they may mature & live.

**Prevention is the key!**

All kittens should be dewormed routinely as recommended by the veterinarian. Appropriate disposal of cat and dog feces is important.

Strict hygiene is especially important for children. Do not allow children to play in potentially contaminated environments. Be mindful of the risk posed by public parks and non-covered sandboxes. Sandboxes that have fitted covers are popular and are well advised to prevent infection of children with intestinal parasites.

Stool should be removed from litter boxes daily. Always wash hands after scooping. In addition, the infective larvae can enter the host either by mouth or through the skin, particularly the feet. Eczema and secondary bacterial infection can result due to irritation as they burrow through the skin. Be cautious if walking barefoot in the sand.

**Tape worms**

Tapeworms are another common intestinal parasite of cats. Kittens become infected with them when they swallow fleas or from some rodents (such as mice). The tapeworm hatches and then anchors itself to the intestinal lining.

Cats infected with tapeworms will pass small segments of the worms in their stool. The segments are white in color and look like grains of rice. They are about 1/8 inch long and may be seen crawling on the surface of the stool. They may also stick to the hair under the tail.

Monthly flea control, routine fecal exams, and deworming are the best preventative.

### **Other Parasites**

There are numerous other parasites, which can affect your kitten. Coccidia and Giardia are two of the other parasites that can affect your kitten.

If you are interested in learning more about these parasites or if you have any questions, please ask us for more information.

### **Protect Your Family from Intestinal Parasites**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends bi-annual (2x a year) fecal exam for all dogs and cats. All kittens should have a fecal exam at every physical examination and vaccine appointment. This helps to reduce human exposure from parasite contamination from our pets. *For more information visit [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)*

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*The CDC recommends fecal exams on all cats  
twice a year to reduce human exposure to  
parasites.*

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# Heartworms

## **Can Cats get Heartworms too?**

**YES!** Heartworms are worms that are about 10 inches in length, that live in a cat's heart. Although heartworms occur commonly in dogs, most people do not consider them a problem for cats. However, recent studies of cats with heart and respiratory diseases have found an incidence of heartworms that is far greater than previously thought.

## **How are heartworms transmitted to a cat?**

Mosquitoes transmit heartworms. When an infected mosquito bites a cat, it deposits baby heartworms (larvae). The larvae migrate and mature for several months, ending up in the right side of the heart and pulmonary arteries. They mature into adult heartworms about six months from the time they enter the cat. Shortly thereafter, they begin to release immature heartworms, known as microfilaria.

Microfilariae live in the cat's blood for about one month. Mosquitoes feeding on the cat ingest them. However, most mosquitoes acquire microfilaria by feeding on heartworm-infected dogs. Because of their life cycle, it is necessary for a cat to be bitten by a mosquito to be infected with heartworms. Heartworms are not transmitted directly from one cat to another or from a dog directly to a cat.

## **How are heartworms diagnosed?**

There are several methods used in diagnosing heartworms; unfortunately, none are 100% reliable so a combination of tests is often needed. The diagnostic sequence usually consists of a physical exam to look for clinical signs, multiple blood tests, and additional diagnostics.

Diagnosis can be difficult and there is no known treatment of feline heartworms, so... Prevention is the key.

We recommend for all cats (and dogs) to be on a Heartworm Preventative.

We recommend the use of Revolution®, applied topically once a month, all year round.



## Fleas and Ticks

### What can be done about fleas on my kitten?

Fleas do not stay on your kitten all of their time. Occasionally, they will jump off and seek another host. Therefore, it is important to kill fleas on your new kitten before they can become established in your house. Many of the flea control products that are safe on adult cats are not safe for kittens less than four months of age. Be sure that any flea product you use is labeled safe for kittens

We recommend the use of a topical medication applied once a month. These products can be used in kittens as young as six to eight weeks. Revolution® is a topical heartworm and flea preventive that is effective and cost effective.

Revolution® is effective and highly recommended. If your kitten or cat is experiencing a “flea emergency” or is infested with fleas, we recommend administering Capstar® prior to using a monthly flea treatment. This pill kills all the adult fleas present on your pet within 30 minutes but does not have any residual or lasting effects. If you use a flea spray, your kitten should be sprayed lightly. The Seresto® collar for cats offers 8 months of flea and tick prevention. This collar is safe for cats 10 weeks and older. Flea and tick dip is not recommended for kittens. Remember, not all insecticides that can be used on dogs are safe for cats and kittens. **Products that contain permethrin or amitraz are highly toxic or deadly to cats.** Please use extreme caution in any over the counter flea and tick products, as they can be very toxic and dangerous for cats and kittens.

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*For every adult flea you find on your pet, there are at least 95 eggs.*

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### Ear Mites

Ear mites are tiny insect-like parasites that live in the ear canal of cats (and dogs). The most common sign of ear mite infection is scratching of the ears. Sometimes the ears will appear dirty because of a black material in the ear canal; this material is sometimes shaken out.

In order to determine if your kitten has mites, we take a small swab of the material in the ear and look at it under the microscope. These mites can cause irritation to the ear canal and may require the doctor to look down into the canal with an otoscope.



## Spay and Neuter

### **Why should I have my female cat spayed?**

Spaying offers several advantages. The female's heat periods result in about 2-3 weeks of obnoxious behavior. This can be quite annoying if your cat is kept indoors. Male cats are attracted from blocks away and, in fact, seem to come out of the woodwork. They seem to go over, around, and through many doors. Your cat will have a heat period about every 2-3 weeks until she is bred. In many cases, despite your best efforts, the female will become pregnant. We can still spay your cat if it is early in its pregnancy. Spaying is the removal of the uterus and the ovaries. Therefore, heat periods no longer occur.

It has been proven that as the female cat gets older, there is a significant incidence of breast cancer and uterine infections if she has not been spayed. Spaying before she has any heat cycles will virtually eliminate the chances of developing breast cancer. **We strongly recommend that she be spayed before her first heat period. This can be done between 5-7 months old.**

### **Why should I have my male cat neutered?**

Neutering offers several advantages. Male cats go through a significant personality change when they mature. They become possessive of their territory and mark it with their urine to ward off other cats. The tomcat's urine develops a strong odor that will be almost impossible to remove from your house. They also try to constantly enlarge their territory, which means one fight after another. Fighting results in severe infections and abscesses, transmittance of diseases, and often causes rage in your neighbors.

We strongly urge you to have your cat neutered at five to seven months of age. If he should begin to spray his urine before that time, he should be neutered immediately. The longer he sprays or fights, the less likely neutering is to stop it.

## *Pet Identification*

We use the AVID Identification Microchip system. This tiny device is implanted with a needle much like administering an injection. A special scanner can detect these chips; veterinary hospitals, humane societies, and animal shelters across the country have these scanners. A national registry permits the return of microchipped pets throughout the United States and Canada. We strongly recommend microchipping all pets.

AVID microchips can be added to a national database allowing owners to register their information in connection to their pets microchip number so they can be contacted if their pet is found.

An AVID microchip is included in the **Kitten Club**.

## Behavior & Training

### **How should I introduce my kitten to its new environment?**

A cat is naturally inclined to investigate its new surroundings. It is suggested that the cat's area of exploration be initially limited so that these natural tendencies do not create an unmanageable task. After confining the cat to one room for the first few days, you should slowly allow access to other areas of the home.

### **How should I introduce my new kitten to my other cat?**

Most kittens receive a hostile reception from other household pets, especially from another cat. The other cat usually sees no need for a kitten in the household and these feelings are reinforced if it perceives that special favoritism is being shown the kitten. The existing cat must not feel that it is necessary to compete for food or attention. The new kitten should have its own food and food bowl and it should not be permitted to eat from the other cat's bowl. Although it is natural to spend time holding and cuddling the kitten, the existing cat will quickly sense that it is being neglected. The new kitten needs lots of love and attention, but the existing cat should not be slighted. In fact, the transition will be smoother if the existing cat is given more attention than normal.

### **The introduction period will usually last 2-4 weeks and will have one of three possible outcomes.**

1. The existing cat will remain hostile to the kitten. Fighting may occasionally occur, especially if both try to eat out of the same bowl at the same time. This is an unlikely occurrence if competition for food and affection are minimized during the first few weeks.
2. The existing cat will only tolerate the kitten. Hostility will cease, but the existing cat will act as if the kitten is not present. This is more likely if the existing cat is very independent, has been an only cat for several years, or if marked competition occurred during the first few weeks. This relationship is likely to be permanent.
3. *Bonding* will occur between the existing cat and the kitten. They will play together, groom each other, and sleep near each other. This is more likely to occur if competition is minimized and if the existing cat has been lonely for companionship.

### **What type of playing should I expect from a kitten?**

Stimulating play is important during the first week. Stalking and pouncing are important play behaviors in kittens and have an

important role in proper muscular development. If given a sufficient outlet for these behaviors with toys, your kitten will be less likely to use family members for these activities. The best toys are lightweight and movable. These include wads of paper, small balls, and string or ribbon. Kittens should always be supervised when playing with string or ribbons to avoid swallowing them. Any other toy that is small enough to be swallowed should also be avoided.

### **How do I insure that my kitten is well socialized?**

The socialization period for cats is between 2 and 12 weeks of age. During that time, the kitten is very impressionable to social influences. If it has good experiences with men, women, children, dogs, other cats, etc., it is likely to accept them throughout life. If the experiences are absent or unpleasant, it may become apprehensive or adverse to any of them. Therefore, during the period of socialization, we encourage you to expose your cat to as many types of social events and influences as possible.

### **Can I discipline a kitten?**

The best way to manage problem kitten behaviors is with household management that avoids problems. We need to remember that what we perceive as a problem is totally normal to that little cat. If you do need to move a kitten away from an unsafe situation quickly, and do not want it to come back, loud noises are most effective. You can use the sharp sound of a cap gun, a mini air horn, or even a bicycle horn. It is important to move through your house at your kitten's level and check out the world. Yes, maybe on your hands and knees. Do you see exposed cords of any type? You can put a rollon deodorant on them, which is distasteful to your kitty. Is she climbing in your plants and digging? Put decorative rock around the base instead of exposed soil. Many behaviors become "owner absent" behaviors, meaning the cat learns that it cannot get on the counter when you are in the room, but it is allowed when you are out. This is not malicious. They do not speak our language, and truly believe things are different when you are gone. Many devices help with these behaviors that can be placed on a counter top or couch. Scat mats provide a very low level electrical shock when the cat steps on them. Tattle tail alarms are a motion detector that sits on the counter and goes off when the cat jumps up. Garden Scarecrows help keep the cats from using your garden as their litter box by spraying a jet of water when they detect the cat's presence. Ask us for ideas if you are having issues.

### **My kitten is already becoming destructive. What can be done?**

**Nail Trims:** Nails may be clipped according to the instructions below. However, your cat's nails will re-grow and become sharp again in about 4-7 days. Therefore, to protect your property, it will be necessary to clip them one to two times per week.

**How to trim my kitten's sharp toenails?**

Kittens have sharp toenails. They can be trimmed with your regular fingernail clippers or with nail trimmers made for dogs and cats. If you take too much off the nail, you will get into the kwik and you may get a few drops of blood. If this happens, neither you nor your cat will want to do this again.

You can usually see the pink of the kwik through the nail. Avoid the pink area, and you should be out of the kwik. When cutting nails, use sharp trimmers. Dull trimmers tend to crush the nail and cause pain even if you are not in the kwik.

You should always have styptic powder available. This is sold in pet stores under several trade names, but it will be labeled for use in trimming nails.

Please feel free to ask any of our staff to show you how to trim your kitten's nails.

**Nail Shields:** These are generally made of smooth plastic and attach to the end of the nail with special glue. The nails are still present, but the caps prevent them from causing destruction. After 2-4 weeks the nails will grow enough that the caps will be shed and will need to be replaced.

**Surgical Declaw:** Surgical declawing is the removal of the nail at its base. This is done under general anesthesia. Contrary to the belief of some, this surgery does not cause lameness or psychological damage. Actually, a declawed cat will not realize the claws are gone and will continue to "sharpen" the claws as normal without inflicting damage to your furniture. This surgery can be done as early as 12 weeks of age or anytime thereafter. It can also be done the same time as spaying or neutering. Once declawed, your cat should always live indoors since the ability to defend itself is compromised.

We perform surgical declaw procedures on a routine basis. However, we use a surgical laser for the procedure. The laser technique allows the surgeon to have less bleeding and swelling, less pain associated with surgery and an overall better recovery.

**We only recommend surgical laser declaw procedures.**

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*The laser declaw allows the surgeon to have less bleeding and swelling, less pain associated with surgery and an overall better recovery.*

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## Using the Litter Box

### **Do I need to train my new kitten to use a litter box?**

Most cats by nature use a soil type surface for elimination. By providing a litter box with an appropriate and appealing substrate (material), most cats do not need to be trained to use it. At about 30-36 days of age kittens leave the nest to search out a loose substrate for elimination. The kitten learns specific areas and substrates to use by observation of the queen (mother). Although some cats, especially those on their own property will dig and bury their wastes, many cats only partly cover their feces especially if they are off of their home territory. Some cats do not bury urine or stools at all, even on their own property.

### **Is there anything that I need to do to aid this process?**

Initially it is best that the kitten be confined to a small area with an appropriate sized litter box. This allows you to take advantage of a cat's tendency to eliminate in a loose material. As long as the kitty litter is easily accessible and is the only loose substrate available, very little effort should be required to litter box train the kitten. About the only other indoor area that might be equally or more appealing to some cats is the soil around houseplants. Ensuring that the cat is prevented from getting into houseplants, except when you are around to supervise deals with this problem. Kittens, like dogs, will need to eliminate after they eat, after they wake up and after play. At those times place the kitten in its litter box and praise her for elimination. A kitten does not need to be confined continuously, but should be supervised to prevent accidents and frequently brought back to the appropriate elimination location. A little urine or stool odor from previous elimination should help to attract the cat back to the box. In fact, if the kitten soils in a location other than its box on the first attempt, clean up the area thoroughly using a product that is designed to neutralize cat urine odor, and perhaps even move a small amount of the stool or a few drops of the urine to the box to attract the cat to that area.

### **What type of litter material should I use?**

There are many types of litter materials available today. These include plain clay litters, fine "clumping" litters, plastic pears, recycled newspapers, wood shavings and many others. Some have materials added to control odor although scented litters may be aversive to some cats. The type you choose is up to you. Since the kitten will first start eliminating by following the cues of the queen, continuing with the same litter as used in the first home is helpful.

Research tells us that cats prefer “scoopable litters” with no scented material.

### **What size and type of litter box should I buy?**

Initially, the size of the litter box should be determined by the size of the kitten or cat. A very small kitten may need a box with shorter (lower) sides or a ramp for easier access. As the kitten grows, a larger box is generally more appropriate. Some owners prefer litter boxes with covers on them. This is acceptable if it is acceptable to the cat. You need to be sure that the cat can negotiate the opening by stepping into it and that the cat is not too large to fit into the opening and turn around.

### **Where should I put the litter box?**

The litter box should be placed in a location that is easily accessed by the cat, yet out of the way. Try to avoid congested household areas. The cat should have some privacy and quiet to eliminate. Laundry and furnace rooms are often used, but be sure that noise from household equipment is not disruptive and aversive to your cat. Make sure that the cat does not get locked out of the room at a time when it may have to eliminate. Try to put the litter box in an area that is convenient for you to check on and keep clean. Do not put food and water bowls right next to the litter box. If there are dogs in the home, then the litter box should be located where the cat can eliminate without being bothered by them.

### **How often should I clean the litter box?**

One of the most important factors in continued litter box usage by house cats is cleanliness. Cats are very fastidious animals and spend time each day making sure their coat, feet, and face are clean. One can assume that they would like a clean place to eliminate. The number of cats in the home and litter usage determines the time between litter cleaning. Fecal material should be removed on a daily basis, whether the litter material type is clumping or plain. Litter boxes should ideally be cleaned each day, and except for the clumping types the litter should be changed and the box should be cleaned out once per week. Remember that each cat is an individual. Your cat may like more frequent cleaning of the litter box to maintain good usage patterns. Some cats dislike the odor of the cleansers used to clean litter boxes, so rinse the box with just hot water thoroughly after each cleaning. A number of products are self-cleaning and this can be particularly appealing to some cats.

### **How many litter boxes do I need in my home?**

**The general rule is 1 box per cat, plus 1 extra box.** The number of litter boxes needed depends on the number of cats, the size of the

home, the temperament of the cat, and other pets in the home. When there are multiple cats, multiple pans should be available in different locations, not all side-by-side in one place. Because there can be varied interactions between individuals, multiple boxes in multiple locations allow housemates to avoid one another if they so choose. Even for only one cat, two boxes may be appropriate depending on the layout of the home and the individual preferences of the cat. Some cats prefer one box for urine and one for stool. Some physical limitation may prevent a cat from climbing stairs and so a box in the location the cat frequents is needed. In general, there should be at least one litter box per cat, and some behaviorists advise one more box than the number of cats in the house.

**What if the kitten does not use its litter box?**

Should the kitten begin to eliminate in locations other than its litter box, first review the steps above. Is the litter in an area that is appealing and easily accessed by the cat? Is the litter box being cleaned often enough? Are there enough litter boxes for the number of cats? Try and determine what there is about the area that your cat is soiling that is so appealing to your cat. And perhaps most important is there anything about the area, box or litter that might be preventing its use (or scaring your cat)? To determine the most appealing litter for your cat, offer two or more different litters in the same type of box, side-by-side and see which one, if any, the cat uses most frequently. Next, determine the type of litter box the cat prefers by offering two or more litter box types side-by-side (each with the preferred type of litter). You can determine the cat's preferred location by offering the preferred litter box with the preferred litter in two or more locations and determining which one, if any, the cat uses more frequently. If litter box problems then persist, additional guidance and perhaps a behavior consultation might be required.

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*The general rule is 1 litter box per cat, plus 1 extra box.*

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# Urinary Blockage

**Did you know that Feline Urinary Disease can turn deadly?** Cats straining in the litter box can be a serious condition. Urinary infections can be found in many species. They are very common in cats. Male cats with urinary problems can end up in a life-threatening situation. This is often called a *Urinary Blockage*. This happens when the urethra is blocked with stones, crystals or a mucous plug from infection. When the urine is blocked from leaving the bladder it can quickly become a dangerous situation for the cat. The bladder can become very full and will back up into the kidneys, which can cause significant kidney damage. Within hours of becoming blocked the cat will become extremely ill and can result in death if not treated quickly by a veterinarian.

Signs to look for are straining in the litterbox, howling in pain, lethargy, not eating and/or vomiting. Once emergency treatment of the blockage has been performed the cat will most likely stay in the hospital for a few days on IV fluids and medications. A urinary catheter will be placed while the bladder is flushed out.

Careful monitoring of the cat when they go home is critical to ensure that they do not have another blockage. Further procedures may be needed if the cat has multiple blockages.

If you have questions about your cat's urinary health please ask our Doctors and staff.

## Household Toxins

Animals, especially puppies and kittens love to chew and tend to get into everything. It is important for you to provide acceptable chewing toys and to make sure that harmful items are kept out of your pet's way until they learn acceptable behavior.

Listed below are some common household poisons that can cause a problem for your pet, should your pet chew on or swallow them. This is not an all-inclusive list.

### A

Acetaminophen  
Alcoholic Beverages  
Amphetamines  
Anti-Depressants  
Antifreeze  
Arsenic  
Aspirin  
Avocado

### B

Bismuth  
Bleach  
Brake Fluid

### C

Caffeine  
Candles  
Carburetor Cleaner  
Chocolate  
Cleaning Fluid  
Coffee  
Cold Medications

### I

Ibuprofen (Advil)  
Ice Melting Products  
Insecticides

### K

Kerosene

### L

### D

Deodorants  
Deodorizers  
Diet Pills  
Disinfectants  
Drain Cleaner  
Dye

### F

Fabric Softener sheets  
Fertilizers  
Fungicides  
Furniture polish

### G

Gasoline  
Grapes

### H

Hair Colorings  
Herbicides

### P

Paint  
Paint Remover  
Permanent Wave Lotion  
Prescription Drugs  
Phenol  
Photo Developer  
Pool Treatment Supplies

### R

Laxatives

Lead

Lye

**M**

Macadamia Nuts

Marijuana

Matches

Mercury

Metal Polish

Mineral Spirits

Moldy food

Mothballs

**N**

Naproxen Sodium (Aleve)

Nail Polish Remover

Nicotine

**O**

Onions

**P**

Pain Killers

Raisins

Rat poison (d-Con)

Rubbing Alcohol

**S**

Shoe Polish

Sleeping Pills

Snail/Slug Bait

Soaps/Detergents

Suntan Lotion

**T**

Tar

Thallium

Turpentine

**V**

Vitamins

**W**

Windshield Washing Fluid

Wood Preservative

For more information visit [aspca.org](http://aspca.org) and click on animal poison control.

## Poisonous Plants

Listed below are some common household poisons that can cause a problem for your pet, should your pet chew on or swallow them. This is not an all inclusive list.

**A**

Aloe

Amaryllis

Avocado

Azalea

**B**

Black Locust

Black Walnut

Bleeding Heart

Blue-Green Algae

**D**

Daffodil

Delphinium

Dienffenbachia

Dracaena

Dutchman's

Breeches

**E**

Ergot

Evergreens

Bird of Paradise

Bittersweet

Boxwood

Buckeye

Bulbs

## C

Caladium

Carnations

Castor Bean

Cherry

Chinaberry Tree

Christmas Rose

Clematis

Clover

Cocklebur

Cornstalk Plant

Crocus

Cyclamen

Horse chestnut

Horsetail

Hurricane Plant

Hyacinth

Hydrangea

## I

Iris

Ivy

## J

Jack in the Pulpit

Jerusalem Cherry

Jimsonweed

Johnson Grass

## L

Lantana

Larkspur

Laurel

Lily

Lupine

## M

Macadamia Nut

Marigold

Marijuana

## F

Ferns

Fescue

Flamingo Plant

Four O' Clock

Foxglove

Foxtail Barley

Fruit Salad Plant

## G

Gladiolas

Golden Chain

Golden Seal

## H

Heavenly Bamboo

Hemlock

Holly

## N

Narcissus

Nephthytis

Nettle

Nightshade

## O

Oaks

Oleander

Onion

## P

Pigweed

Pines

Poinsettia

Poison Ivy

Potato

Pothos

## R

Ragwort

Red Maple

Rhododendron

Rhubarb

Rosary Pea

## S

Mexican Breadfruit  
Milkweed  
Mistletoe  
Monkshood  
Morning Glory  
Mother-in-Law  
Mushrooms  
Mustards

St. Johnswort  
Schefflera  
Senecio  
Spurges  
Star of Bethlehem  
Sweet Pea

**T**

Tansy  
Targo Vine  
Tobacco  
Tomato Plant  
Tulip

**W**

White Snakeroot

**Y**

Yellow Jasmine  
Yesterday, Today,  
Tomorrow  
Yew Yucca

For more information visit [aspca.org](http://aspca.org) and click on animal poison control.



## Dental Care

### **Is your pet protected from the “Silent Killer of Pets?”**

More than 80% of dogs and 70% of cats over the age of 3 suffer from periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is a serious condition in which the gums and supporting bones of the mouth begin to deteriorate. The tartar buildup on the teeth contains excessive bacteria, which moves into the bloodstream and causes serious health problems. The bacteria leads to heart, kidney and liver damage to name a few, it also causes bad breath.

However, this process can be prevented with the appropriate dental care at home and with your veterinarian. We want to help you provide the best dental care for your pet. Listed below are the recommendations for your pet to help prevent dental disease.

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*Excessive bacteria leads to heart, kidney and liver damage to name a few, it also causes bad breath.*

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### **Brushing their teeth**

Nothing can replace daily tooth brushing to prevent tartar buildup. The best time to brush a cat's teeth is after the evening meal when both you and your pet are relaxed. If your cat hisses, bites, scratches, or shows any other signs of aggression during the procedure, stop immediately and consult your veterinarian for professional advice.

Gently position the cat in a corner (of a sofa, chair, or room) so that he or she will be secure and more easily handled. Carefully lift the cat's lips to expose his teeth.

Rub your finger over the cat's teeth and gums for a minute or so. This will get the cat used to having something in his mouth. It might be necessary to do this a couple of days before going on to the next step.

Put a small amount of tooth paste specially formulated for pets on your finger and allow the pet to taste it.

Slide a finger brush onto your index finger and put a small amount of toothpaste on the brush. Gently rub the brush over the cat's teeth and gums. If necessary, repeat this process in the next brushing

session. Because finger brushes don't reach the bum line, they should be used for as short of time as necessary.

Apply a small amount of toothpaste to a bristle brush. Place the brush bristles at a 45° angle to the gum line. Move the brush gently in circular patters over the cat's teeth. Start by brushing a few teeth. As the brushing session continue, slowly include more teeth. Teeth should also be brushed in a back and forth motion. Build up to about 30 seconds on each side of the cat's mouth.

### **Tips**

- ✓ Remember that cats can be more sensitive to new things.
- ✓ Take each step slowly and allow the cat to become familiar with what you are doing.
- ✓ When using a toothbrush, use the smallest size available.
- ✓ If the cat refuses to accept the toothbrush or finger brush, try using a piece of gauze wrapped around your finger with toothpaste on it.

### **Oxyfresh**

Oxyfresh is a tasteless, odorless solution, which promotes healthy gum tissue and improve oral hygiene. Eliminates pet breath and tartar formation. This solution is added to your pet's drinking water or available as a spray mist.

### **Fluoride**

Applied on clean teeth while under sedation or general anesthesia to help strengthen the teeth.

### **T/D Treats**

Part of the Hill's Prescription Diets, T/D is made of a special fiber matrix that scrubs the exposed tooth surface like an edible toothbrush, reducing bacteria laden plaque from building up.

## *The Grooming Shoppe*

Tina Holtsberry, our certified pet groomer, heads the Grooming Shoppe. She has been grooming at Western Veterinary Clinic since 1982. Tracy Chrzan, a certified pet groomer, has been grooming for several years and then joined our grooming team in 2018. These two have made our grooming facilities well known in the community.

**Your pet will receive a complete make over including:**

1. Pre-bath brushings to eliminate tangles
2. Gentle blow-drying of the coat
3. Cleaning excessive hair and wax from the ears
4. Cleaning of the anal glands
5. Bathing, brushing and combing of the hair
6. Cutting or clipping of the coat (if applicable)
7. Removal of loose or shedding hair
8. Trimming of the nails
9. Bows or bandanas (if applicable)
10. Perfume or cologne

# Emergency Care

Several types of emergencies are possible when you own a cat. Please be cautious around an injured animal and contact your vet immediately.

## What can I do while obtaining veterinary help?

- ✓ Keep calm.
- ✓ Contact WVC or a Local ER facility for after hour emergencies. Inform us of the situation and get first aid advice.
- ✓ Keep your cat warm, as quiet as possible, and keep movement to a minimum if there is possible trauma, broken limbs, etc.
- ✓ Obtain a suitable container such as a strong cardboard box. Drop a blanket or thick towel over the patient. Tuck it in carefully or maneuver the cat onto the blanket so it can be gently placed in the cardboard box or directly into your car. Get to the veterinary clinic as soon as possible, but drive carefully!

## Emergency Contact Information

### **Western Veterinary Clinic**

574-234-3098  
25190 State Road 2  
South Bend, IN 46619

#### **Hours:**

Mon: 7:30am to 6pm  
Tue: 7:30am to 6pm  
Wed: 7:30am to 6pm  
Thu: 7:30am to 6pm  
Fri: 7:30am to 6pm  
Sat: 7:30am to 1pm (1<sup>st</sup> and  
3<sup>rd</sup> only)

### **Night Owls Wellness and Urgent Care**

574-259-8387  
Fax: 574-259-3290  
2324 Grape Road  
Mishawaka, IN 46545

#### **Hours:**

Mon: 10am – 10pm  
Tues: 12pm – 8pm  
Wed: 10am – 10pm  
Thurs: 12pm – 8pm  
Fri: 10am – 6pm  
Closed on Saturday & Sunday

## Other area Emergency Centers:

### **North Central Veterinary Emergency Centers**

Westville (open 24/7) – 219-785-7300  
Mishawaka (Fri PM – Mon AM) – 574-544-6200

**NIVES** (Fort Wayne, IN) – 260-426-1062

**Purdue University** (West Lafayette, IN) – 765-494-1107