



KITTEN INFORMATION

Thank you for choosing Dean Park Pet Hospital to provide care for your new kitten.

Contained in this booklet is some important information regarding the well-being of your new pet, we hope this will allow you to make informed decisions. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch and we'll be happy to help.

Introducing your kitten to your home

Some ways that can help your kitten feel comfortable and settle into your home safely include:

- Show them where they can eat and drink, sleep and use the litterbox.
- Introduce them to other pets slowly to help everyone feel comfortable.
- Keep them indoors if possible or allow supervised time outdoors.
- If other pets are present, it is important that they are up to date with their vaccinations and flea/tick/worm control to prevent transmission to your kitten.
- If there are young children in your home, ensure they know how to be gentle and are respectful of your kitten's space.
- Check for any poisonous plants, foods or household items <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>

Diet/Nutrition

Kittens require a specific kitten diet until 6 to 12 months of age, depending on when they are spayed or neutered. A combination of a well-rounded kitten specific dry kibble and wet canned food is ideal for healthy development, especially during the first 3-4 months of life. This helps to ensure they have the correct amount of macro and micronutrients including vitamins and minerals to support their growth. We are happy to provide recommendations for food, just ask!





Vaccination

Vaccination reduces the likelihood of serious diseases if a kitten is infected. We recommend a feline combination vaccine at 8, 12, and 16 weeks (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Panleukopenia, Calici and Chlamydia (Felo)) in addition we recommend vaccines for Feline Leukemia Virus (12 and 16 weeks and Rabies, usually given 2 weeks after the final series at 16 weeks. These are followed by a booster at 1 year of age. Throughout their adult life, these vaccines are boosted at 1-3 year intervals.

Age	Felo	Feline Leukemia	Rabies
8 weeks	+		
12 weeks	+	+	
16 weeks	+	+	+

Flea/Tick/Worm Control

Kittens are particularly susceptible to acquiring biting insects such as fleas and ticks, but also internal parasites such as roundworms and tapeworms.

Flea and ticks can be controlled by using a spot-on liquid applied to the back of the neck or a chewable tablet. Prevention is best started at 16 weeks of age as kittens start to explore and are exposed to people and other animals. This is carried forward throughout the cat's life at 1–3 month intervals depending on the medication chosen.

Kittens may acquire parasites from their mothers through ingesting milk or grooming, therefore it is important to start with a preventative early on. We recommend Milbemax to be given 3 times at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age





Behaviour

Between the ages of 2 and 12 weeks old, kittens are at a critical age for learning how to socialize and fit in with their surroundings. Encouraging them to interact with household members and its surroundings in a gentle and positive way will help reinforce good behaviour as your kitten develops. Introducing them to different situations in a positive way, such as having guests over, introducing dogs and other cats in a controlled environment can help them be more accepting of them in the future.

Grooming/Nails

Grooming is an important part of cat's lifestyle and keeps their coats healthy. Introducing a soft brush at an early age to remove loose hair helps keep them healthy and builds a trusting relationship with your cat moving forward.

Providing scratching posts and trimming your kittens' nails (using a cat specific trimmer) allows your kitten to keep their claws from become too long which could result in injury to themselves, other animals, or people.

Spay/Neutering

Kittens can become reproductively active as early as 4-5 months of age. We recommend spaying or neutering your kitten around 5-6 months of age which prevents unwanted pregnancy, reduces the incidence of reproductive specific cancers, and can decrease unwanted behaviours associated with reproductive hormones, such as spraying urine in the house.





Microchipping

A microchip gives your pet the best chance of being returned to you if they ever get lost. When a missing pet is found and taken to a vet or shelter, they will be scanned for a microchip. This will identify your pet and you will be notified

The microchip is smaller than a grain of rice and is placed under the skin between the shoulders. Kittens are often microchipped while under general anaesthesia during his/her spay/neuter procedure.

Insurance

Insurance is now widely available for cats. Insurance is best started when the animal is young and healthy. Insurance can help manage unexpected health care costs such as emergencies and ongoing diseases.

Please speak with us regarding any insurance offers available. Our recommendations include Trupanion <https://trupanion.com/canada> and Pets Plus Us <https://www.petsplusus.com/>

