



New Kitten Info Sheet



Congratulations on the new addition to your family. This information sheet is to guide you in how best to look after your new kitten.

To prevent against three potentially fatal diseases we recommend you get your kitten **VACCINATED**. This generally involves two injections three weeks apart – when they are nine and twelve weeks old. If your cat will not be going outdoors it will not need vaccinated against the feline leukaemia virus as this is only passed on by very close contact with infected cats. Thereafter booster vaccinations are given every year – the surgery will send you a reminder when this is due. Each time your kitten is vaccinated they will get a thorough veterinary health check. It is also gives you an opportunity to have any questions or concerns answered.

To prevent your kitten developing behavioural problem when he/she is older it is very important to **SOCIALISE** them as soon as possible. Ideally give as much contact as possible with humans from an early age. Putting on the hoover and washing machine when they are nearby will also get

them used to normal household noises. Supervised contact with children is also recommended.

To avoid the vets being a place your kitten doesn't like we advise that you thoroughly **HANDLE** him/her from a young age. Look in their ears, mouths and feel over their body, legs and feet. Then give a treat as a reward for letting you do this. This will also build their confidence if you have to brush their coat and teeth.

It is important you feed your kitten a balanced **DIET**. In general we recommend you use a commercially available diet – ideally a combination of dry and moist food. We do not advise giving your kitten milk, as this can cause diarrhoea.

Many kittens are born with roundworms, passed on by their mother's milk. It is very important to give regular **WORMING** treatment to your kitten. We recommend you worm them every month from the ages of two to six months. Thereafter depending on their contact with young children and whether they



hunt you should worm them every three to twelve months. Our vets and nursing staff can advise you on the best worming treatment for your kitten.

Some kittens will unfortunately have FLEAS and EARMITES when they arrive at their new home. Most pet shop products are not effective to kill these parasites. Our vets will be able to recommend the best and safest product for your kitten.

We recommend that you get your kitten INSURED. This gives financial piece of mind if your kitten becomes ill. Although we are not allowed to recommend a particular company please ask our staff who will be able to advise the best type of policy for you and your kitten. You must check the policy to ensure it is life- long cover and that there is adequate financial cover for problems your kitten may develop.

We recommend that you get your female kitten SPAYED (neutered). This is usually done at five months of age. This prevents against unwanted pregnancies and womb infections.



We generally recommend your male kitten being CASTRATED at five months of age. This stops him roaming



away after females, fighting (as he could pick up fatal viruses), causing unwanted pregnancies and spraying urine in your house to mark his territory.

We offer a **MICROCHIPPING** service that places a rice sized device under the skin at your kitten's neck. It contains information that can be picked up by readers that all vets and rescue centres have. This allows you to be contacted if your kitten is lost, injured or stolen and is taken in by one of these people. This currently costs approximately £25.

Brannock Vet Clinic offer a free six month check where they can examine your kitten and discuss any problems or concerns you have with them. Please do not hesitate to contact the surgery if you have any queries.

