

Your New Kitten – FAQ

What Vaccinations are needed?

We recommend the following schedule for all kittens:

- 6-8 weeks: F3 – Feline panleukopenia virus, feline herpes virus and feline calicivirus.
- 12-14 weeks: F5 – Feline panleukopenia virus, feline herpes virus and feline calicivirus, Chlamydia, Feline Leukemia or with Feline AIDS
- 16-18 weeks: F5 – Feline panleukopenia virus, feline herpes virus and feline calicivirus, Chlamydia, Feline Leukemia

Feline AIDS is a debilitating disease similar to human AIDS and is primarily contracted via cat bite and scratch wounds. It is reported that between 9-26% of cats in Victoria have been infected with FIV. There is no treatment or cure but there is a vaccine available that can aid in the prevention of infection. We recommend this vaccine for any cat that may be allowed outside from time to time.

What worming do I need to do?

Worms living in your cat's intestine can deprive them of nutrients as well as causing vomiting and diarrhoea. Worm eggs are everywhere and kittens commonly get a worm infestation from their mothers shortly after birth. Regular worming with an effective "all wormer" will keep your kitten free of worms. We recommend "profender" which treats all worms of cats, including lungworm.

"Profender" is applied topically to the skin behind the head and so is a very easy way to worm your cat. Milbemax tablet is also a good worming preparation. We advise the following worming schedule:

- every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then
- at 16 weeks of age, then
- every 3 months for life.

What flea prevention should I use?

We do not recommend bombarding young kittens with potentially toxic chemicals like flea rinses or washes. There are now very safe highly effective products perfect for treating fleas on young animals. We recommend "Bravecto" as it kills adult flea as well as eggs and larvae as well as ticks and lasts for 3 months. It is applied as a spot of liquid to the back of the neck.

When do I get my cat de-sexed and what are the costs?

We recommend de-sexing to be done at 6 months of age. This is in line with current AVA recommendations. Malvern Vet has been re-awarded ASAVA (Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association) "Hospital of Excellence" Accreditation repeatedly since 1981- so you can be assured all surgeries are performed to the highest standards. All cats are placed on IV fluids to further improve the safety of the procedure, and receive pain relief medication before and during the procedure and are

dispensed further pain medication to go home with. Cats can be taken home on the same day and need to be kept rested for the next 7- 10 days. Intradermal sutures are used which are dissolvable with no ties visible for pets to pull at and no need to be removed.

Feeding your kitten:

To ensure your kitten has the adequate building blocks needed for rapid growth, a diet balanced in calcium, protein, energy, vitamins and minerals is essential. We recommend Hills Science Diet Kitten as it provides all these things and have additional nutrition for healthy teeth, joints and skin. Feeding small meals often to begin with is recommended:

- 4 times daily between the ages of 6 & 12 weeks
- 3 times daily between the ages of 3 & 6 months
- 2 times daily between the ages of 6 & 12 months

By one year your cat can convert to the Hills Science Diet Adult Cat and should be satisfied with 1 or 2 meals a day. Introducing raw chicken wings to chew once or twice a week will help minimize dental problems later in life.

Microchipping:

It is a good idea to get your kitten microchipped at the same time as desexing if they are not already. Whilst under anaesthetic they won't feel the pain of the large gauge needle used to insert the microchip. The microchips sit under the skin at the back of the neck. They are encoded with a bar code which is registered to a national data base for the life of your kitten.