

Kitten should be vaccinated at about 9 weeks of age and again three weeks later. The vaccination protects them against 'Cat Flu' (two types), Feline Enteritis and a major fatal disease, Feline Leukemia. To protect your kitten for life he must have a booster vaccination every year.

### **WORMING and FLEAS**

We recommend worming your kitten when he comes in for his first vaccination at 9 weeks old then every 2 weeks until twelve weeks old. Then every month until 6 months old, and then every three months for life. This is very important as worm eggs in cats faeces can in rare cases cause problems in people. Extra care should be taken with the handling of your cats faeces with both pregnant women and young children. Ensure you follow a proper flea control regime for your kitten, as flea eggs when ingested while grooming cause tape worms. Information on both these topics is available from the veterinary team.

### **NEUTERING**

Neutering your kitten at six months will make your pet much nicer to have around. The unsprayed female cat is restless in season, calls constantly and will have a tendency to wander, looking for a mate. Males are territorial and will spray walls and furniture, they will get into fights, leave home for many days - often forever. The odour of the uncastrated male maybe attractive to cats but definitely not in the home, and very difficult to eradicate.

Neutering your cat will not alter its personality and can only enhance their 'pet value' making them more home loving, gentle and placid. Contrary to popular belief, your female will be just as happy if she never has a litter of kittens.

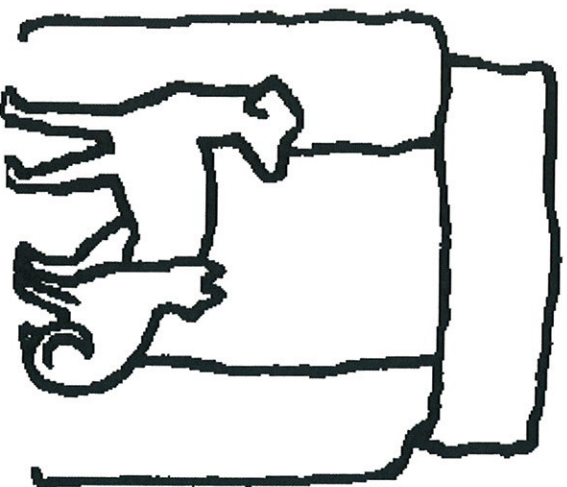
### **INSURANCE**

We strongly recommend pet insurance for your kitten. We are able to provide an insurance cover note, in conjunction with Pet Plan. You always want to be able to pay for things you hope will never happen.

### **PET HEALTH CLUB**

Finally, consider our Pet Health Club which , for a small monthly payment, covers all your dog vaccines, flea and worm treatment. It also gives 10% off other services.

## **STONEHENGE VETERINARY HOSPITAL**



*"Because We Care"*

## **YOUR NEW KITTEN**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



## YOU AND YOUR NEW KITTEN

The cat cannot be compared with any other domestic pet, for he is unique. His quiet grace, intelligence and perpetual playfulness are a joy, he is always scrupulously clean and adapts well to living indoors.

Although the cat's independent personality makes him appear self-sufficient, you must remember he is totally dependent on you for proper care, feeding and love.

### KITTENS FIRST DAYS AT HOME

These early days should be quiet, allowing kitten the peace to become familiar with his new surroundings. Lots of play and handling at this stage can be distressing as kitten has not had the time to settle in. Handle him as little as possible and try to keep the children and other household pets from frightening him.

Whenever you are near to your kitten, talk to him in a soft and soothing voice: cats are greatly reassured by quiet verbal communication. When you need to pick kitten up, use both hands, one under his bottom and the other under his chest, speak to him reassuringly all the time. Never grab a kitten by scruff of the neck, you may injure him.

### FEEDING

Correct feeding is unquestionably the single most important factor in raising and maintaining a healthy kitten and will effect the cat's entire life from kittenhood into old age.

Kittens should be fed frequently, at least four times a day, and always have fresh water available. Cats will not thrive on human food, dog food or hit and miss diets. This is a unique species that requires specific well balanced nutrition. To maintain your kitten in the best of health we recommend Royal Canin Growth, kitten food for the first 4 months then Royal Canin Lifestage food for the adult cat. If your kitten shares the house with a dog, you must feed kitten where he will feel safe and not be disturbed. Further help and information on kitten and cat feeding is freely available from our nurses.

### VACCINATION

## SOCIALISATION AND HABITUATION

Kittens in pairs can be more than twice the fun, and hardly take more care than one kitten. Two kittens romping, wrestling and curled up asleep together must be one of the most satisfying aspects of pet ownership. They will exercise more readily and be company for each other. However, the cost of owning a cat does double, so lots of thought must be given to this.

Cats like a warm cosy living area, and somewhere safe and snug to sleep. So please don't expect your cat to spend his nights cold and wet outside, or trying to find shelter in a dismal shed or garage until morning. It is a fallacy, borne out of the concept of probably the farm hunting cat that has given rise to the idea that our family pet should lead the same lifestyle. Most accidents, often fatal, happen when your cat is left out overnight.

Kittens by nature are inquisitive, they are prodigious climbers, but not yet skilled enough to recognize an unsafe perch!. Accidents do happen, so try to make your home as kitten proof as possible. Particularly don't leave bathtubs and sinks full of water unattended, water does hold a fascination for kittens and cats. Likewise ensure the toilet lids are closed, kitten may not be able to jump out! Keep all toxic household and garden products safely closed in a cupboard.

All felines are fascinated by small, cosy, enclosed places, airing cupboards, drawers, open washing/drying machines, kitchen cupboards, do check before closing doors.

### LITTER BOX TRAINING

Not a difficult task at all, as cats are wonderfully clean by nature. Most kittens will already have been trained by their mother to use a litter tray. Place the litter tray away from where the kitten is fed but where he can reach it easily, put the new kitten in the tray and gently scratch with his paws, he will very quickly get the idea.

