

NEW KITTEN CARE

A cat cannot (and should not) be compared with any other domestic pet, because of its many unique qualities. Cats combine a strong sense of independence with a deep affection for its owner. It is self-reliant, but can be trained in obedience and tricks. It is easy to housebreak, adapts well to apartment living, does not require you to walk or exercise it, and naturally keeps itself clean and neat.

General Health Care Suggestions:

Have your new kitten examined by a veterinarian **IMMEDIATELY** after obtaining it.

Vaccinations:.

- Feline Distemper, Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Chlamydia
- Rabies
- Feline Leukemia

We routinely **DEWORM** for the major internal parasites at the same time we immunize. Watch the stools for small white segments that look similar to rice. These are tapeworms and require a special type of medication.

Neutering:

Performed at 4-9 months of age--both male and female.

Note: Female cats are not like the female dog! They continue to come into heat every 3 -4 weeks until they are bred. Signs of heat include restlessness, nervousness, rolling on the floor, more affectionate, voice changes, etc.

General Health Care Suggestions

Litter Box Training:

Usually no problem -- done by instinct. Keep the litter box clean! Odor neutralizers or baking soda will decrease litter box odor. Change at least twice a week. Remove droppings **DAILY**. Plastic garbage bags can be used for litter box liners. Premium diets will decrease stool volume and odor tremendously.

Nutrition:

- Feed only **HIGH QUALITY FOOD**.
- Feed **DRY FOOD, FREE-CHOICE**.
- Fresh water should be available at all times. Change the water. Small amounts of milk are not harmful, however, since growing kittens become lactose intolerant, milk can cause diarrhea.
- Do not use cheap or generic foods. These cannot be digested properly.

Miscellaneous Considerations

NEVER give a cat Tylenol. It can be fatal.

A plastic carrying crate is good investment for cat trips and also as a bed at home. It will give the kitten a private place and offers security. It should be placed a couple of inches off the floor.

Signs of illness

Diarrhea, refusal to eat, vomiting, gagging, coughing, sneezing, sluggish, watery eyes, and any other abnormality.