

## How to look after your new kitten

### 1. Worming

- a. Most kittens carry roundworms. The eggs of these worms are not visible. They can be eliminated using a complete worm tablet recommended by your vet.
- b. We recommend biweekly worming tablets up until 3 months of age followed by monthly worming until 6 months. At 6 months the dosing frequency may change depending on your cat's lifestyle.
- c. We can best advise you what the recommended dosing guidelines for your cat are.

### 2. Vaccinations

- a. Kittens should not be allowed access to public places until they are fully vaccinated. This involves a series of injections beginning from 9 weeks of age and finishing at 12 weeks.
- b. They are vaccinated for Cat Flu, Enteritis and Leukemia, potentially fatal diseases that are prevented by vaccination.
- c. Cat vaccinations need to be topped up annually with a booster to maintain immunity levels.

### 3. Feeding

- a. It is important to get this correct from the outset. Firstly, cats once weaned are better off without milk.
- b. There are some very good dry food diets on the market. These are easy to feed and are less expensive than tinned food. They are also much better for maintaining good dental health. Your kitten will love these foods provided they are introduced from an early age.
- c. We recommend Hills VetEssentials for your kitten/cat.

### 4. Neutering

- a. It is standard practice to have all cats, females and males, neutered at 6 months of age. There is no merit in letting your cat have kittens – unless you want the kittens.
- b. Male cats are 50% responsible for kitten numbers so they should also be neutered! In addition neutering tom cats greatly reduces their wandering, fighting, and spraying (foul smelling urine) around their territory – your house!
- c. These operations involve the cat staying with us for the day only.



14 The Fingerpost,  
Douglas, Cork  
Tel: 021 489 3033  
Fax: 021 489 3443  
W: [www.animalcarehospital.ie](http://www.animalcarehospital.ie)

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## 5. Microchipping

- a. We strongly advise that all kittens are microchipped as this is the only permanent method of identifying your pet and linking the animal back to you should they get lost or stolen.
- b. A microchip is a tiny computer chip (about the size of a grain of rice) which has a unique identification number programmed into it. The microchip is simply injected under the skin of your pet usually in the ‘scruff’ or skin at the back of the neck
- c. The unique number is registered with a database that holds information such as your contact phone number and address along with your pet’s name, breed and age.
- d. It is also a very good idea for your kitten to have a quick release cat collar with a tag stating that your pet is microchipped.

## 6. Pet Insurance

- a. We strongly advise that you insure your kitten.
- b. Huge advances have been made in veterinary medicine and surgery over the last number of years. While this leads to the successful treatment of previously problematic conditions, and in general an increase in the quality of care your pet receives, costs have also risen. Knowing that your pet is insured can give you the peace of mind that you are providing your pet with the best possible care without the financial burden.
- c. There are many different insurance providers out there so it is important to take your time to choose the best one for you and to understand the policy.
- d. All kittens can avail of 6 weeks free insurance at their 1<sup>st</sup> check up with no obligation to continue the policy.

**If you need any advice, please get in touch by phone [\(021\) 489 3033](tel:0214893033) or email [contact@animalcarehospital.ie](mailto:contact@animalcarehospital.ie)**