



## Feline Care Sheet

### Vaccinations

Regular vaccinations are important to protect your pet against infection with Feline Enteritis (panleucopaenia), rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and Feline Leukaemia virus. First vaccinations can be given from 9 weeks of age, followed by a second vaccination 3-4 weeks later. Onset of immunity occurs approximately 3 weeks after the second vaccination.

After this primary vaccination course it is important to keep your pet up to date with yearly booster vaccinations to ensure continued protection. Without a yearly booster, the immunity from the vaccination can quickly wane, leaving your cat at increased risk of infection. If a booster vaccination is missed, we may need to give your cat a vaccination restart, consisting of two injections 3-4 weeks apart.

If your cat is remaining indoors we still strongly advise vaccination against the Panleucopaenia, Rhinotracheitis and Caliciviruses, as these do not require direct cat to cat contact to spread.

### Diet

Getting the right nutritional balance is very important at all stages in your pet's life, to ensure healthy development and growth. The best way to achieve this is by feeding a high quality, protein based, balanced diet especially formulated for the different stages of your cat's life e.g. Virbac Veterinary HPM.

Veterinary HPM™ is an advanced low-carb, high-protein formulation specifically designed to support the long-term health and well-being of cats and dogs, the highly evolved carnivores in our own homes.

Please speak to one of our nurses and we will be able to work out exactly what and how much food your cat should be getting to help to keep them as healthy as possible. Also with our loyalty scheme you will receive your 6<sup>th</sup> bag free.



### Friends of Westport

Prevention is better than cure so we want to make preventative health care easy and affordable. Our Friends of Westport scheme covers the preventative treatments your pet needs throughout life, such as vaccinations, flea and worm treatments and regular health checks. Using our scheme can save up to 44% on just the essential preventative health care.

Extra benefits include a **10% discount** off nearly everything (most products and procedures undertaken exclusively at our practice). For more information please feel free to pick up a leaflet or speak to one of our team.

<b>FOWP Health Care Savings*</b>			
	<b>Pay as you go/ Year</b>	<b>FOWP/ Month</b>	<b>Savings/ Year</b>
<b>Indoor Cat</b>	£199.71	£10.50	£73.71
<b>Outdoor Cat</b>	£206.00	£12.50	£56.00

\*Does not include the additional 10% discount on most products & services

### Flea, Tick and Worming treatments

We advise using parasite treatment once monthly. The treatments we advise are Broadline and Frontline Combo, which come in spot-on formulations for easy dosing; this provides good, reliable protection against fleas, ticks and worms – this treatment regime is important for your own as well as your cat's protection.

## Dental Care

Periodontal disease is a serious but often overlooked health issue; indeed, around 90% of cats have some form of this progressive, degenerative disease. Cats are very good at hiding dental pain from us, but believe us, it is sore! We offer free dental checks and also look carefully for signs of this painful condition at your cat's regular health check-ups.

Caring for your pet's oral health at home can help to reduce the frequency of dental procedures they need. Just ask our vets and nurses to talk you through how to introduce dental care products. We also advise using Healthymouth water additive, which has been shown to reduce plaque build up in cats by an average of 81.75%.



## Insurance

We strongly advise getting your pet insured, a lifetime policy is the most comprehensive cover available. We work in partnership with Petplan to offer 4 weeks free insurance to cats between 6 weeks and 18 months of age as **Instant Protection**, we can start the process after your cat has seen a vet. This will be activated by yourself via the email you receive from Petplan. If you have any questions please ask one of our team.

## Senior Pet Clinic

As dogs and cats approach their senior years, they are more prone to developing health issues. We cannot reverse this aging process, but the earlier these problems are picked up, the more we can do to help manage them.

We advise attending our Senior Pet Clinic. Your pet will stay with us just for the day and this will allow us to test for some underlying conditions that are common in older animals, such as:

- **Kidney Disease** – We only see clinical signs when at least 75% of the kidneys have stopped working, but quite often pick up early renal failure on routine bloods, the earlier you start treatment the better the outcome.
- **Hyperthyroid disease** – 10% of senior cats will develop this condition, which can have many consequences on lots of different organs including heart failure.
- **Osteoarthritis** – Older animals becoming stiff and slowing down is a commonly reported issue. However this is not 'normal' and is often as a result of disease processes which can be managed.
- **Dental disease** – More than 90% of cats have some form of this progressive, degenerative disease. This doesn't only affect the teeth; there are strong links between dental disease and internal problems such as chronic kidney disease and heart failure.
- **Hypertension** – High blood pressure often goes unnoticed but has potentially severe consequences for many organs, especially the eyes, heart and vasculature, brain and kidneys. It is also useful to get a baseline value and the international society of feline medicine recommends that this should be done at least yearly in senior pets.
- **Liver disease** – This can be serious condition but high liver enzymes in the blood can also be indicative of other diseases such as Cushings disease or some cancers.

### **What's Included?**

- Complete clinical exam
- Blood pressure checks
- Blood tests – to check liver, kidneys, haematology and (in cats) thyroid hormone levels
- Urinalysis
- Dental check
- Weight check
- Nurse consultation
- Vet consultation

With all of these conditions, the earlier we start treatment/ preventative management strategies, the more we can do to help achieve a positive outcome. For more information please speak to our vets and nurses.