



## Kitten Care Sheet

Congratulations on your new kitten! If you haven't been to us before, welcome to Westport Veterinary Clinic. If you already have other pets registered, we are delighted to welcome your new addition to the family.

Below is just a quick summary of some of the main things to be thinking about as you get your new kitten settled in. Please don't hesitate to speak to any one of our team with any questions you may have.

### Vaccinations

Regular vaccinations are important to protect 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.

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 kittens e.g. Virbac Veterinary HPM (HyperPreMium)

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.

We also have the buy one get one free offer on the first baby food as well as getting your 6<sup>th</sup> bag free as part of our loyalty scheme!



### 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 37% 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 find the enclosed leaflet in your kitten pack 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>
Indoor Cat	£199.71	£10.50	£73.71
Outdoor Cat	£206.00	£12.50	£56.00

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

## Insurance

We strongly advise getting your new kitten insured as soon as possible, to give you peace of mind that your pet is covered should they need it. A lifetime policy is the most comprehensive cover available. We work in partnership with Petplan to offer 4 weeks free insurance as **Immediate Veterinary Cover**, we can start the process after your kitten has seen a vet. This will be activated by yourself via the email you receive from Petplan. Please use this time to look around at the different insurance companies to find out which is best for you. If you have any questions please ask one of our team.

## 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!

The best time to start dental care for your kitten is now! Getting them in a routine is much better and easier than having to start after they already have sore mouths. We also advise using Healthymouth water additive, which has been shown to reduce plaque build up in cats by an average of 81.3%.

At the regular weight checks up until 6-8 months old, our vets and nurses will show you how to introduce dental care products.

## Flea, Tick and Worming treatments

We advise using flea, tick and worming treatments once monthly until 6 months old. Due to the rapid development and growth all kittens experience at this age, we need regular weight and health checks with the nurse to ensure correct dosing.

The treatments we advise using are Broadline and Frontline Combo; this provides good, reliable protection against fleas, ticks and worms – this treatment regime is important for your own as well as your kittens protection.

## Neutering

When your kitten is old enough, we strongly advise neutering (spay or castration) from 4 months of age. Female cats can become pregnant from 4 months old and with a gestation period of around 63 days you could have many more kittens than you bargained for!

Entire Male cats are more likely to be involved in road traffic accidents, be involved in cat fights and have much larger territories, we can neuter from 6 months of age.

## Microchipping

We strongly advise getting your cat microchipped, if they remain indoors there is always the chance of them escaping and we especially recommend it if they are outside all the time. We are able to administer the identification chip at the time of the health check or it can be done at the time of neutering at a reduced rate.

## Emergency Out of Hours Care

If you ever need help or advice outside of normal working hours, please use one of our dedicated Emergency out of hours providers. You can just call our practice number and we will either divert you straight through or leave a message with the number to call.

**VETS+ER LTD** vets ER - 01324 623188  
WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US 53 Grahams Road, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, FK2 7DJ

**Vetsnow** vets Now – 0131 444 0990  
1b Hutchinson Crossway, Gorgie, Edinburgh, EH14 1RR

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