



Kitten School part 1

At Veterinary Wellness Center, our Care Team wants to help you spend as much quality time as possible with your pet. Here is some information we think will help your kitten's health get off to a great start!

VACCINES

Vaccines train the immune system to identify threats. Diseases that could otherwise cause death can be prevented or significantly decreased when the immune system knows how to respond.

Kittens should be vaccinated every 2-4 weeks between 8 and 16 weeks of age to fully train their immune systems.

Vaccine companies may help pay for treatment if vaccines are given by a veterinarian at the recommended ages and intervals.

Side Effects:

- Less than 4 out of 1,000 cats (0.4%)
- Usually mild- decreased appetite, decreased activity, soreness
- Rare cases- facial swelling, hives, & sudden itchiness can be signs of an allergic reaction

Recheck at VWC at no charge within 24 hours for vaccine reactions.

After hours- please call Pet Doctor 911 for immediate assistance (956) 683-7387.

VIRAL INFECTIONS

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) & Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) can suppress a cat's immune system. Cats with either of these infections may be more likely to get additional infections, dental disease, urinary disease, or cancer.

Testing is recommended starting in kittens, and only requires two drops of blood taken in the clinic. The test may need to be repeated for cats that have ongoing exposure or get sick later in life.

Cats that test positive can still live healthy lives. They should be housed separately from other cats so they can be monitored more closely. This also decreases the risk of transmitting the infection to other cats.

These viruses cannot be transmitted to people or dogs.





HEARTWORMS

Heartworms are transmitted to dogs & cats by mosquito bites. Indoor and outdoor pets of any age are at risk of getting heartworms.

Heartworms can be prevented with low doses of anti-parasite medication. Kittens need a dose of medication every month, and treatment continues for life.

Heartworms will cause permanent damage to the heart and lungs. In severe cases, this damage can lead to heart failure and death.

There is no treatment for heartworms in cats, so prevention is even more important. Dogs need heartworm protection too!

INTESTINAL PARASITES

Symptoms of intestinal parasites in kittens can range from mild to life-threatening. Testing is important to determine which parasites are present in each pet.

Most heartworm prevention medications also treat intestinal parasites!

Some intestinal parasites can be transmitted to people. Symptoms are most severe in young children, and include skin irritation and blindness.

NUTRITION

Kittens should eat a high-quality kitten food from brands like ProPlan, Science Diet, or Iams for their first year.

Dry food should always be measured using an 8-ounce measuring cup.

How can you make sure your pet gets a balanced diet?

- The Easy Way- dry or canned food
- The Fresh Way- refrigerated or frozen meals
- The Custom Way- home cooking after a nutritionist consultation

DON'T FEED:

- Chocolate, onions, garlic, grapes, or raisins due to risks of toxicity.
- Chicken bones due to risks of intestinal puncture and life-threatening infection.
- Raw proteins due to risks of infection in pets & people.

Don't feed pets from the table due to risks of begging and decreased interest in balanced food options. Kittens can "earn" food during training or be fed in their own bowl.