

Congratulations on the arrival of your new kitten!



Vaccinations

Vaccination protects your kitten from a number of serious and highly infectious diseases. It works by priming their immune system so that if they come into contact with the disease later, their body is better able to 'fight back'.

All kittens and cats should be vaccinated against:

- ➔ Feline Influenza (Cat Flu)
- ➔ Feline Infectious Enteritis (Panleukopaemia)
- ➔ Feline Leukaemia – especially if an outdoor cat

Primary vaccinations are given from 8 weeks of age, with a second vaccination 3-4 weeks later.

Kittens are fully covered one week after the 2nd vaccinations and can go outside.

Booster vaccinations will need to be given yearly.

If you are planning to travel abroad with your cat, they will also need to have the rabies vaccination. This can be given from 3 months of age, with a booster vaccination every 3 years. Please ask for further information on travelling with your cat.

Worms and worming

Kittens and cats can pick up worms, particularly if they catch and eat wildlife. Kittens can also become infected with worms through their mother's milk, so regular worming is essential.

A heavy infestation of worms can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and weight loss. Some worms can be passed to humans, especially young children.

The main types of worms are:

- ➔ Roundworms – they look like tiny strands of fine spaghetti and are commonest.
- ➔ Tapeworms – these are made up of segments which look like grains of rice
- ➔ We advise that kittens are wormed every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age; this then reduces to every month until 6 months of age. After this time, routine worming is every 3 months.

Fleas

Fleas are an annoying and expensive problem in pet households which can easily be prevented. Regular flea treatment is advised to avoid infestation within your home, which can be difficult to eradicate. Remember when your cat has fleas you are only seeing about 5% of the problem; the majority of the lifecycle of the flea is spent in the home environment and not on your pet. Fleas can be a problem all year round, not just the spring and summer months.

Monthly treatment with a spot on flea treatment such as prinox or frontline is recommend.

2 London Road, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1HX

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Feeding

The aim of feeding a kitten is to provide complete nutrition for healthy development and growth. Feeding too little or too much can result in many complications. To ensure a correct growth rate and weight gain we recommend meals of a high energy density complete kitten diet until adult body size. A well made kitten diet will provide everything your kitten needs. We recommend 'Hills Vet Essentials' which is scientifically formulated to provide the best start in life for your kitten.

Going Outside

Before your cat goes out, they should have completed their initial vaccinations and be microchipped. It is also better to wait until your kitten has been neutered as entire animals are at greater risk of injury.

When you first let your kitten outside choose a quiet time when you are available to supervise them, and preferably shortly before feeding time to make it easier to get them to come back in again.

Teeth

Plaque and tartar can build up your cat's teeth very quickly. We recommend brushing your kitten's teeth from a young age so they get used to it. Teeth should be cleaned daily with a soft bristle toothbrush and pet toothpaste, both of which can be purchased from the practice. At 6 months of age we recommend a health check, at which point your kitten's 'bite' can be checked. This is checking that the adult teeth are all lined up correctly and are not going to cause any problems in later life.

Insurance

We are proud to say that the standard of veterinary care available to animals these days is extremely high. There are a lot of insurance companies that offer a range of policies, the best thing is to shop around and get a lifetime cover policy. Pet Plan is the insurance company that we recommend here at Henley House.

All routine procedures such as vaccination and neutering, and preventative measures such as flea and worming treatments are not covered by insurance. Remember that conditions that existed before taking out the policy will not be covered. Also if you change insurance provider throughout your cat's life, previous conditions will not be covered by the new company.

Neutering

If you have no intention of breeding from your kitten, we advise spaying or castrating your kitten at a young age.

Females can be spayed from 4 months of age, and males can also be castrated from 4 months of age.

Pet Health Plan

Here at Henley House we offer our Pet Health Plan (PHP). This is not an insurance but is a convenient way of spreading the cost of preventative health care that your kitten will need, including vaccinations, worming and flea treatments. Please speak to any member of staff for further details.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns on 01825 766099. You can also join us on Facebook on www.facebook.com/henleyhousevets

We look forward to watching your kitten grow into a happy and healthy cat.

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