

Ilderton Pet Hospital

125 KING ST. ILBERTON ON • N0M 2A0 • 519-666-2288 • INFO@ILDERTONPETHOSPITAL.COM

Your New Kitten

Congratulations on the new addition to your family! This pamphlet contains a summary of important health, wellness, and training tips. We look forward to getting to know you and your new family member and will assist in any way we can to ensure your kitten's transition is a successful one.



Inside this Pamphlet...

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- Preventative Health Care
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- FeLv/FIV Testing
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- Fear Free Tips

Socialization

Your new kitten is curious and ready to explore. It is important to take advantage of that natural curiosity and expose your kitten to as many different experiences, people, noises, stimuli, handling, etc. After 12 weeks of age, your kitten's prime window of socialization is starting to close. Experiences during the social period help to give your kitten confidence to adapt to changes as an adult.

Remember to use food rewards and praise your kitten for appropriate behaviour. Ignore inappropriate behaviours to avoid inadvertently reinforcing them.

Avoid the use of your hands and feet for play and ensure an appropriate toy is used to keep the focus off you as an object of play



Keeping Your Kitten Healthy

1

Preventative Health Care

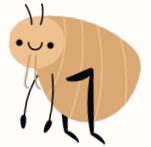
The initial veterinary visit and booster exam should be between 6-8 weeks of age. Depending on the age your kitten starts their vaccine booster series, they will need a total of 2-3 visits, 3-4 weeks apart. The vaccine protocol will be tailored to your cat's environment to ensure they are protected.

Outdoor cats and cats living in multi-cat households should be vaccinated for Feline Leukemia Virus.



2

Parasites



Intestinal parasites can pose a health threat to both you and your pet. Wash hands after handling your pet or scooping the litter. Your kitten will receive a minimum of 2 doses of dewormer, 2 weeks apart. A fecal sample should be examined to ensure all parasites are diagnosed and appropriately treated.

External parasites such as fleas, ticks and mites can be prevented with simple all-in-one products that can be applied to the skin once a month.



3

Spay & Neuter

Having your pet spayed or neutered is an important investment to prevent undesirable behaviour, unwanted litters and health complications such as reproductive organ cancers.

These surgeries should be performed before 6 months of age for the maximum protective effect.

We recommend pre-anesthetic blood work to ensure your kitten is a good surgical candidate.

4

Microchip Identification



A microchip is a permanent form of identification that is implanted under the skin. If your cat should become lost, the microchip can be scanned and the number is registered to your contact information to reunite you with your cat.

5

Dental Care

Dental disease is easily prevented with regular home care. Brushing your cat's teeth daily is a great way to fight oral health disease. Dental diets and rinses are other products that can help preserve a healthy smile.



6

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) & Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

These two viruses can be passed from an infected mother to her litter or from cat to cat. A simple blood test can determine if your kitten is free of these serious viruses.

Diet Selection

Feeding a quality diet is one of the most important investments you can make for your kitten. Select a diet with an AAFCO nutritional adequacy statement that indicates animal feeding trials have been conducted. Very little can be determined about digestibility and quality by looking at the ingredient list. Price of the diet doesn't always correlate with quality. Feeding a portion of the daily requirement as canned food can help to minimize the risk of urinary tract complications. Visit <https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Selecting-the-Best-Food-for-your-Pet.pdf> for more information on how to select a quality diet or ask us for our recommendations.



Kitten food should be fed until one year of age at which time a transition to an adult formula should take place. Follow the feeding guide on the bag to prevent over feeding and obesity. Making a gradual transition between diets (1-2 weeks) will help prevent digestive upset.

Keep it Fun!

Environmental enrichment helps to prevent behaviour problems such as house soiling, over grooming, destructive behaviour and keeps your kitten both mentally and physically stimulated. Keep the following tips in mind to keep your kitten entertained...

- Cats can be trained and learn tricks with food rewards similarly to dogs
- Provide lots of outlets for playing
- Offer items for your cat to play with: commercial cat toys, laser pointer, ping pong balls, cardboard boxes, paper bags or tunnels
- Rotate toys often to keep your cat interested
- Cats need vertical space for climbing and cubbies to hide in
- Cats need places to hide
- If there are other cats in the house, ensure that one cat isn't able to trap or block access to escape in these hiding places
- Play food hide and seek and offer kitty treat ball for play
- Visit our website at www.ildertonpethospital.com to access our VIN Animal Health Article Library to learn more.



Pet Insurance



There are multiple pet insurance companies that offer a variety of health coverage plans. Insurance is a great way to ensure you have the health coverage that meet's your needs, especially when unexpected medical issues or accidents arise. Ask us for more information.

Scratching

Scratching serves the purpose of marking territory both visually and with scent and is a normal behaviour of cats. Training your kitten to a scratching post at a young age is an important way to help prevent destructive scratching. Alternatives such as soft paws also exist for destructive scratching. Regular nail trims will help minimize damage from claws. Declawing is not recommended.

Select a scratching post with the following in mind...



- Must be a stable post, the larger the better to allow the cat to scratch fully
- Allows for both horizontal and vertical scratching surfaces
- Covered in material that cat prefers
- Hang toys from post, can be sprayed with Feliway to attract cat
- Cats like to mark areas that are out in the open. The post must be in an area that the cat is marking to be successful; worry about a permanent, more discrete location later

Litterbox Training



To ensure success in litter training, follow these tips...

- Choose an uncovered, large litterpan (up to 24"x 36") with unscented scoopable litter
- Litter should be least 3" deep
- Clean the litterbox often
- Choose a location that is easily accessible, convenient, yet provides some privacy-avoid tucking the litterpan into a corner. Cats don't like to feel trapped.
- Keep feeding and litterpan zones separate
- Provide more than one litterpan-some cats prefer one box for urine and one for feces

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions about your kitten's health! We are here to help in any way we can!