



Care of a New Kitten

Small Animal Vet in Limerick.

Limerick Vet
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- **Treat with an effective wormer every 2 weeks until 6 months of age, and every 3 months for life.**
- **A good quality balanced diet is important to develop a strong and healthy body.**
- **Vaccination is done at 9 weeks or older. Annual boosters are necessary.**
- **Male and female dogs not intended for breeding should be neutered.**
- **Pet health insurance is now available to cover the cost of treatment.**
- **A microchip placed under your kitten's skin helps it to be returned to you if it strays or is stolen.**
- **Only use safe and effective worm and flea treatments.**

Congratulations! You have a new kitten, soon to be an adult cat. This should be a wonderful and happy experience for you, your family and your kitten. Most owners think of their new kitten as a family member and want to ensure that it is healthy, and that the best is done to keep it healthy.

Vaccinations

All kittens and cats should be fully vaccinated. This can begin from as early as 9 weeks old, with a second inoculation given 2 to 3 weeks later. The vaccinations are against **Feline Leukaemia, Feline Parvovirus** and **Cat 'flu'**.

Feline Leukaemia virus causes an AIDS-like disease as well as cancers, anaemias and reproductive diseases



It is a very common, devastating disease and is the second biggest killer of cats after accidents. **Feline parvovirus**, also called **feline enteritis**, is a viral infection causing acute illness or sudden death in cats and especially kittens.

Toilet Training

Cats are usually fastidious about cleanliness and most kittens have been house-trained by their mothers. Place a litter tray in a quiet spot away from human traffic lanes but not too far from the kitten's bed. If you find the kitten soiling an area other than

the litter tray quickly carry it to the tray, but do not punish it. A distracting noise, such as a hand clap, will often stop it going to the toilet quicker than you can reach it. Changing the litter box frequently will also encourage the kitten to continue to use it.

Kittens are what they eat!

Kittens and cats have specific nutritional requirements in comparison to dogs and should only be fed good quality cat food as *recommended by your veterinary surgeon*. Kittens grow to full adulthood in about 12 months and only gets one chance to develop a strong healthy body.

Do not feed dog food, raw food or a home prepared diet. This practice recommends and supplies *Science Plan Kitten* as the best diet for your kitten.



Dental Care

Pets need their teeth cleaned daily to prevent plaque, tartar, gum disease and tooth loss. Feed dry food, and avoid bones and hard nylon chews which may damage teeth or gums. Brush your pet's teeth daily with special pet toothpaste only.

Fleas

Fleas are small brown insects that live on pets. They spread disease, infest humans and cause skin diseases. Fleas can be a problem all year round and treatment should be given continually. Most available flea treatments are ineffective; therefore use only **safe** and **effective** products as recommended by your Veterinary Surgeon.

**“Neutered
is
best!”**

Neutering

Female cats should be spayed at or about 6 months of age to prevent her coming “calling” or into season, and the birth of unwanted kittens. Castration of male cats is recommended strongly as it reduces the tendency to roam, to fight and eliminates the strong unpleasant urine odour associated with un-neutered male cats.

Insurance

Despite making every effort to keep your kitten or cat safe and healthy, accidents and illnesses do occur. Pet Health Insurance is now available at a reasonable price to cover the cost of treatment. Please ask for a brochure.

Grooming

Long haired cats need to be brushed daily to keep their coats clean and unmatted. It is best to start grooming early to get kittens used to being brushed.



Ear Mites

These are insect-like parasites commonly found in the ears of cats and dogs. They are highly contagious spreading easily to other pets. Head shaking, frequent ear scratching and black wax may be the only signs of infestation. Complications such as bacterial or fungal ear infections or damage to the ear and surrounding skin may occur.