



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR NEW FELINE

1) *Why the need for all these vaccinations?!*

Good question! We must give multiple vaccinations because every kitten's immune system develops at a different rate. In addition, cells passed from the mother's milk to fight infection called maternal antibodies persist for long periods of time and may actually inactivate the vaccine. We commonly give three combination vaccines at three-week intervals to overcome these factors and ensure your kitten is properly protected against extremely debilitating and often-fatal diseases such as Distemper & Feline Leukemia. Additionally, because Rabies is a disease that can be transferred to humans, this vaccine is a legal requirement of the state of Wisconsin.

2) *Can I get worms from my cat?*

Intestinal parasites or "worms" can be transmitted to humans. The risk is greater in small children who walk barefoot and contact fecal matter on the ground and in the soil. Open sores, cuts or oral contamination are the most common modes of transmission. The parasite may develop into the larval stage in the infected person and damage the skin (*cutaneous larval migrans*), the intestines (*visceral larval migrans*) or, rarely, the eye (*ocular larval migrans*) causing blindness. Unfortunately, most kittens and puppies have intestinal parasites transmitted from their mother's milk. Fortunately, with good hygiene, you can dramatically decrease your risk of these infections. It is important to have your cat checked regularly for intestinal parasites, treated when infected, and protected from fleas & ticks.

3) *What if my cat never goes outside?*

Annual Vaccinations and fecal screening for intestinal parasites are still necessary. Viral diseases and parasite eggs are microscopic. They can be brought inside to your house pets on your clothes, in the dirt on your shoes, in the air from other cats living outside, on or in the occasional rodent that sneaks inside, and on insects such as flies. Also, rabies vaccinations for cats are a legal requirement by the State of Wisconsin!

4) *Anything else that I really should do?*

Yes.

- First, **SPAY or NEUTER** your pet at 4-6 months of age! This will have the greatest health benefits to your pet if done before they reach sexual maturity, around 6-7 months of age. This also prevents unwanted litters of kittens, and minimizes potential behavior concerns such as spraying and vocalizing during heat cycles.
- Second, feed a **GOOD DIET**. The benefits of a high quality diet are simply essential to good overall health.
- Third, **HOME DENTAL CARE** should be started while your kitten is young, to prevent future tooth loss and painful periodontal disease.
- Fourth, if you have **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**, please don't hesitate to utilize our talented staff and printed materials for your reference.
- Finally, lots of **TENDER LOVING CARE!** Enjoy yourself! Nothing is better than a warm, purring, loving friend!