

Your Kitten's Lifetime of Wellness

La Crosse Veterinary Clinic 2128 State Road 16; La Crosse, WI 54601 (608) 781-3466 www.lacrossevet.com

Congratulations on this wonderful addition to your family! In order to ensure that your new kitten has a long, healthy, productive life, we recommend the following health maintenance schedule:

6 to 8 Weeks Old

- Initial Wellness Examination and Discussion
- Feline Leukemia Virus / Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Testing
- First Distemper Combination Vaccination* – *Panleukopenia (Distemper), Calicivirus, and Viral Rhinotracheitis*
- Intestinal Parasite Exam (*fecal sample*)
- Feed a premium Growth/Kitten Diet
- Start Flea-Tick Preventative (*once a month all year round*)
- Schedule Spay or Neuter Surgery (*4-6 months of age*)

9 to 11 Weeks Old

- Second Distemper Combination Vaccination*
- First Feline Leukemia Vaccination*
- Continue Flea-Tick Preventative (*once a month all year round*)

12 to 14 Weeks Old

- Third Distemper Combination Vaccination*
- Second Feline Leukemia Vaccination*
- Continue Flea-Tick Preventative (*once a month all year round*)

15 to 17 Weeks Old

- Fourth Distemper Combination Vaccination*
- Rabies Vaccination* – 1 year

4 to 6 Months

- Spay or Neuter Surgery
- After surgery, switch to a premium Adult or Light Diet.

Annually (1-6 years of age)

- Wellness Examination & Dental Health Evaluation
- Distemper Combination Vaccination* -every year
- Feline Leukemia Vaccination * –*every year (if cat has risk of exposure)*
- Rabies Vaccination * – every year
- Continue Flea-Tick Preventative (*once a month all year round*)
- Yearly Microscopic Intestinal Parasite Examination – *Fecal Sample*

Senior & Super Senior Years (7 years of age & older)

- Annual/Bi-Annual Wellness Examination, Blood Screening, Urinalysis, & Dental Health Evaluation
- Distemper Combination Vaccination * – *every year*
- Feline Leukemia Vaccination* –*every year (if cat has risk of exposure)*
- Rabies Vaccination * – every year
- Continue Flea-Tick Preventative (*once a month all year round*)
- Yearly Microscopic Intestinal Parasite Examination – *Fecal Sample*

**We use non-adjuvanted PUREVAX® vaccines for superior safety and protection.*

Animals Enrich Our Lives

People who own pets live longer, happier lives. Our pets remind us of what it is to be wild, to be gentle, to be loyal, to trust, to flourish, to slow with age, and to die. They connect us to something fundamental in our beings. We are the caretakers of that connection. For all that our pets teach us, for all the love and joy they bring to our lives, they deserve good care – and they rely on us to give it!

Lifetime Veterinary Care Matters

The average lifespan of dogs and cats in the United States is 7.4 years. The **POTENTIAL** life span of the average dog or cat in the United States is 15 years. Comprehensive medical care, good nutrition and proper training allow pets to live up to their potential as long term family members. In other words, the care you give your pet throughout its life will determine how long he or she will remain a happy, healthy member of your family.

Our goal is to maximize the lifespan and the health of your dog or cat through preventative medical care and nutritional and behavioral counseling. We are advocates for your pet – our job is to advise you as to the best care options available for you and your pet.

Working together as a team, we hope to help our patients and their families spend many happy years together.

Intestinal Parasites

95% of puppies & kittens are born with intestinal worms! These parasites can cause vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, stunted growth and even death. Some intestinal parasites, especially roundworms and giardia are transmissible to humans – especially children.

Most intestinal parasites are diagnosed by an examination of a fresh stool sample under a microscope. This stool sample should be as fresh as possible (within the past 12 hours), kept cool, and should not have been rained on or frozen. A fresh stool sample should be tested annually.

Roundworms (Canine & Feline)

These are the most common type of intestinal worm in dogs and cats. They are 2-4 inches long and resemble a strand of spaghetti. They live in the small intestine, and may cause vomiting, diarrhea and weight loss. This worm is usually transmitted via infected stool, from eating rodents with infective larvae, or from the mother to her unborn puppies or kittens.

Hookworms (Canine & Feline)

These are fine, tiny worms which attach to the walls of the small intestine and live by sucking blood from your pet. They cause blood loss (anemia) and diarrhea. These worms are usually transmitted via infected stools (ingestion or skin contact), from the mother's milk, or from the mother to her unborn puppies or kittens.

Whipworms (Canine)

These worms live in the large intestine of infected dogs and puppies. They cause bloody diarrhea and weight loss, and are transmitted via the ingestion of infected stools.

Tapeworms (Canine & Feline)

These worms live in the small intestine and are made up of multiple segments. Mature segments containing eggs are passed with the stool or may be seen around the rectum. The segments resemble flat grains of rice. These worms are usually transmitted via the ingestion of rodents, birds or fleas. These are most commonly detected by seeing segments on your pet or in their stool.

Coccidia (Canine & Feline)

These are a protozoa, not a worm. They often cause loose stools and are transmitted via the mother or infected stools.

Giardia (Canine & Feline)

These are a protozoa, not a worm. They are often transmitted via drinking infected water, and easily transmitted to humans. Giardia cause vomiting and diarrhea in both pets and humans.

Dentistry For Your Pet

All of us know about the benefits of routine dental care for ourselves. Daily brushing and flossing, and regular visits to the dentist, keep our teeth and gums healthy and comfortable. Unfortunately, routine dental care is still an often neglected item of dog and cat general health care. Your pets, as well as yourselves, deserve regular dental care.

After your pet reaches a few years of age, **tarter begins to build up** at the junction of his gums and teeth. If this tartar is not removed, it increases until it undermines the tissue and causes **receding gums**. The area then becomes infected. Infection leads to **foul breath**, as well as **pain** and a constant **unsavory taste** for the pet. **If the situation is not soon remedied, severe gum infections, abscessed teeth and cheek ulcers will develop.**

Chronic infections of the teeth and gums result in problems elsewhere in the body as well. **Bacteria enter the bloodstream** from infected teeth and cause **infection in organs** such as the liver, the kidneys, the heart and the joints. **Good dental care lengthens pets' lives an average of 10-20% through the prevention of these secondary problems.**

Miniature and toy breeds of dogs exhibit dental problems more frequently and much earlier in life than do the larger breeds. Cats are especially prone to **inflammation of the gums** (gingivitis) and cervical line lesions, a **type of cavity** that occurs at the gum line and eventually destroys the tooth. As a result of mouth pain cats may **stop eating** and show **weight loss** and **nutritional disturbances**.

You can help prevent dental problems in your pets by feeding a **dry pet food**. Daily or even weekly **brushing of your dog or cat's teeth** with a toothpaste made for pets will also help prevent tarter buildup. **Milk bones, rawhide chew toys, and some specially designed rubber toys** are all on the market to assist in this as well.

Just as with people, **your pets will still require regular dental exams, and cleaning or extractions** as necessary. Under general anesthesia the teeth are cleaned with an ultrasound dental scaler much like the one your own dentist uses, and then polished. Polishing smoothes the surface of the teeth to help discourage future tarter formation.

We encourage you to be concerned about your pet's oral health, and to keep in mind the availability of effective treatments for dental problems in your dog or cat. **Make dentistry a part of your pet's total health care plan, for a longer and happier life.**

GROOMING YOUR CAT

Both cats with short hair and with long hair need regular grooming. Grooming not only keeps cats feeling and looking good, grooming also gives you an opportunity to check your kitty over on a regular basis for any changes (lumps, bumps, ear problems, etc.) which may need extra attention or examination by a veterinarian.

BRUSHING

Both long and short hair cats should be brushed at least twice a week to keep their loose undercoat from matting (Yes, even short hair cats will form mats in their coat, especially if they are overweight and not able to groom themselves). Regular brushing also helps to keep excessive hair from going into your cat's stomach when it licks and grooms itself. (Excessive hair in the stomach will form hairballs, which your cat will either try to vomit up or will try to pass with its stool. Many cats eventually become blocked with hairballs trying to pass through their intestines and can become extremely ill and possibly die if not treated.)

Cats with short coats can be either combed with a narrow toothed metal comb or brushed with a shedding blade to lift out their loose undercoats. Cats with medium and long hair can be either combed with a medium/wide toothed metal comb or brushed with a coat rake to lift out their loose undercoats.

BATHING

Cats do not usually need baths due to the fact that with regular brushing and self-grooming (by licking) they tend to keep themselves very clean. However, if the need arises and your cat does need a bath, make sure their undercoat and mats are brushed out before they get wet. Water will only tighten hair that is loose or matted. Make sure your cat's eyes are protected with a substance like "artificial tears" which is for protecting eyes from shampoo. Also, make sure to use a shampoo that is made specifically for cats. Human and some canine shampoos may be extremely drying to a cat's skin, or may contain chemicals that are harmful or deadly to cats.

If for some reason you need to bathe your cat regularly, they should not be bathed more than once per month. More frequent bathing will dry and possibly damage their skin.

NAILS

Cats need to have their nails clipped about once or twice a month. This includes back claws as well as front. A nail clipper made for cats will help so you don't splinter or crush their nails while trimming. (Human nail clippers are made for flat, not round nails). By trimming your cat's nails, you will keep the nails from growing into their foot-pads. The nails will be less likely to accidentally scratch you during handling. Your cat will not need to chew its nails to keep them short. (Chewing nails often results in nails that bleed or get infected from being too short.) Also, their nails will not get stuck in your carpets or furniture and possibly cause irreparable damage.

EARS

Cat's ears do not usually need any cleaning. The skin inside the ear should look very pale to light pink and should be free of any dark waxy or crusty debris. (Normal ear wax for a cat should be clear to light yellow.)

Infections in cats ears are generally either ear mites or yeast/bacterial infections. All ear infections are treated very differently and may be aggravated by the incorrect treatment. If you suspect your cat has a problem with his ears, he should be examined by a veterinarian as soon as possible. Ear infections can be very painful.

EYES

Your cats eyes will need protection during bathing and may need to have crust cleaned out of the corners every now and then. Any additional treatment to the eyes should be under the supervision or recommendation of your veterinarian.

Problem signs may be redness, swelling, discharge, squinting or rubbing of the eyes. If you suspect your cat has a problem with its eyes, you should have him seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible.

FELINE UROLOGICAL SYNDROME

Feline Urological Syndrome, also known as Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease, is one of the most common medical problems of cats. It occurs due to the formation of crystals, made up primarily of magnesium, within the bladder. These sand like crystals irritate the bladder lining, causing pain, and allowing bacterial infections to set in.

FUS affects both males and females, but due to their anatomy it is a much more serious problem and **often deadly problem in male cats**. Crystals and mucous clumping together can form a plug within the penis which blocks urination. **A cat that is plugged and cannot urinate will become ill very rapidly. If not treated in time, the bladder will rupture and the kidneys will fail. Death usually occurs within 24 hours.**

Female cats have a wider urethra, so they don't plug up as easily. They will, however, develop painful bladder infections (cystitis). Cats of either sex can also develop stones in the bladder or the kidneys.

Signs of FUS in both males and females are bloody urine, straining to urinate (often confused with constipation), pain on urination, or frequent urination, often outside of the litter box. Onset of signs is often very sudden. You may see vomiting, depression, squatting in a strange position, reluctance to move or walk, weakness or loud cries of distress.

CAN FUS BE TREATED?

Yes, it can. Females are usually healthy enough to be treated at home. Males that are plugged are anesthetized and a catheter is passed into the bladder, dislodging the plug. The catheter is left in place for 1-3 days to allow the bladder and urethra to heal. Treatment is also given as needed for dehydration, infection and shock.

Both males and females will need to be treated with special diets, antibiotics, and sometimes urinary acidifiers as well. The prescription diets are continued for the lifetime of the cat because without long term dietary management, FUS usually recurs.

CAN FUS BE PREVENTED?

The best way to prevent FUS is to feed your cat a prescription diet recommended by your veterinary clinic. These diets have been developed to provide a balanced diet and to control for urinary pH and correct mineral content all at the same time. They also come in regular and low calorie for cats of different activity levels.

Encourage frequent urination by keeping your cat's litter pan clean. Provide plenty of fresh water. Avoid overfeeding to prevent obesity. FUS is more common in overweight cats. **Above all, remember that FUS is a true medical emergency.** If you think your cat may be suffering from this problem call your veterinarian immediately!

Feline Nutrition

Kitten/Growth Diet

Kittens (and pregnant/nursing mothers) need a special diet high in protein and fat to help their rapidly growing bodies build strong, healthy bones and muscles. The ingredients in these foods must be high quality for the kitten to be able to use them efficiently and effectively! With cat food, lower priced foods (generic and grocery store brands) are generally produced with poor quality ingredients and little or no control of ingredients (note: chicken beaks and feet have similar protein content to chicken meat, but they are not useable to your cat!).

Colors, Flavors, Shapes & Textures

Many marketing techniques for pet foods are based on what humans find more appealing, not on what is necessarily good for our pets. Dogs and cats are for the most part color blind, and certainly don't care about the color of their food. Artificial colorings & flavors are also linked to food allergies, carcinogens and stomach upset. Dry food is most beneficial for your pet's teeth and gums and should make up the majority of his diet. Canned foods are more expensive, since the majority of each can is water.

So, when choosing a cat food, remember not to be swayed by marketing techniques which may be unnecessary or even harmful to your pet, and in addition may be more expensive due to advertising instead of quality.

How Long To Feed Kitten/Growth Diet

Kittens should remain on a quality kitten/growth diet until they are 6-9 months old. At this time they can be switched to an adult/maintenance diet.

How Many Meals A Day?

When kittens are very young (5-16 weeks) they should be offered food 3-4 times per day, or have food available at all times (only if there is not an older cat around who may eat their food; resulting in an upset stomach or weight gain from the rich kitten food). As kittens grow in size and strength, they can be tapered to only 2 meals per day. As adults, we recommend feeding 2 measured meals per day rather than free choice feeding. Free choice feeding usually results in overweight cats.

How Much To Feed

Kittens may eat as much as they want at each feeding. However, as adults most cats only need between ¼-1/3 cup of maintenance or light food twice a day.

Vitamins & Supplements

There are many quality vitamin/mineral supplements and fatty acid supplements which can be added to your pet's diet to improve their skin, haircoat and overall nutritional level. Please speak with a member of our clinic for recommended supplements to help your pet.

Treats

Natural and low calorie treats are the healthiest snacks for your cat. Remember, a treat is not a meal, so keep portions very small. Human Food is **very** different (lots of fat) from cat food and the most harmful treat to offer. If too many treats are fed at one time or too often, your cat's diet and nutritional balance will be upset and very likely his stomach will be upset as well; resulting in vomiting, diarrhea or loss of appetite.

Switching Diets

It is sometimes necessary to switch your pet's diet. Whatever your reason, most cat's are very sensitive to diet changes and need to have their food mixed gradually to the new food (over several days) in order to prevent stomach upset, diarrhea or refusal to eat.

Storing Pet Food

Dry pet food will spoil easily if it is not sealed in an air-tight container. However, even in an air-tight container, dry food will spoil when exposed to heat and humidity. It is recommended to store food in an air-tight container in a cool dry area. It is also recommended to purchase smaller quantities of food more often in the warm summer months. Canned food spoils very quickly and should not be left out for free choice feeding. Your pet should only be fed a quantity which he will be eat immediately and the remainder refrigerated with a tightly sealed lid.

Water

All kittens and cats should have access to fresh, cold water at all times. Cats living outside part or full time may need a heated water dish in the winter to ensure that water does not freeze.

FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS

For years now, we've had safe and effective vaccines for distemper, rabies and the respiratory diseases that used to kill millions of cats every year. Because most of our clients are vaccinating their pets, these once very common infections are now under control. (They are still common in outdoor and unvaccinated cats.)

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is another disease for which there is no effective treatment or cure. Once cats become ill with this disease they will die. By preventing the spread of this infection through blood testing and then yearly vaccinations, millions of cats can be saved each year.

FeLV is an infectious disease, which can be carried and spread for long periods of time by cats who are harboring the virus but show no obvious symptoms of disease. (FeLV can be spread through saliva, urine, blood, and through the placenta to unborn kittens. Symptoms of FeLV may include anemia, weight loss, recurring or chronic illness, syndrome including lethargy, fever and diarrhea, breathing difficulty or jaundice.) Cats who appear perfectly healthy can be infected, yet not come down with an illness for months or years. However, during this time they are contagious to other cats.

FeLV destroys the cat's immune system so they fall prey to anemia, cancer or other infectious diseases. A simple blood test is 99% accurate in diagnosing FeLV. (The test may be less accurate in kittens/cats who have only recently been exposed.)

Remember, there is an effective vaccine available to prevent Feline Leukemia Virus! This vaccine must be boosted yearly. We recommend if you are adding a new kitten/cat to your family, that you keep them isolated from your resident cats with their own food, water and litterbox until they can be blood tested and vaccinated against the Feline Leukemia Virus.

ELECTIVE SURGERIES

NEUTERING/SPAYING

The average life-span of a neutered/spayed cat is 40% longer than that of an intact cat. Unspayed females will usually develop breast cancer or severe uterine infections by the time they are 8-10 years of age. Unspayed females also are in heat frequently, during which time they are noisy and troublesome to live with. Worst of all, millions of unwanted kittens are put to death in this country every year because there aren't enough homes for them all.

Unneutered male cats have very strong smelling urine, which they like to spray in the house to mark their territory. They are also prone to wander in search of female cats and are also very territorial. These traits lead to high rates of death from being run over by cars, fight wounds and contagious illnesses. Male cats are also, of course, equally responsible for pet overpopulation.

We recommend spaying (surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus) of female cats, and castration/neutering (surgical removal of the testicles) of males, for all pets that will not be used for purebred breeding. Optimal time for these surgeries is between 4 & 6 months of age. Your pet will stay healthier throughout its life (especially spaying females BEFORE their first heat cycle), a happier and better behaved pet, and you will have done your part to reduce the pet overpopulation problem.

DECLAWING

Many people who keep their cats indoors prefer to have their front paws declawed. Occasionally, we will declaw all four feet, but this is hard on the cats and seldom necessary since cats mark territory and scratch with their front claws. The surgery can be performed as early as 9 weeks, or it can be performed when the cat is spayed/neutered.

The older the cat, the more painful declawing becomes, so please decide early if you want your cat declawed. If you start trimming your kitten's nails (front & hind paws) every 4-6 weeks (we can show you how), and train it to use a scratching post, you may not need to declaw at all.

Keeping Your Kitty Litter Box Trained

Most kittens will learn from their mother's to use a litter box at a very young age and will have no problem adjusting to the litter box in your home.

Cats who suddenly do not use their litter boxes are usually trying to tell you that either they are not feeling well or that they are unhappy for some reason. These cats should first be seen by a veterinarian to rule out health problems. Then if their health is good, the cat can be treated for behavioral problems before undesirable habits start.

If your cat has an accident outside of the litter box, do not punish him or her. Scolding usually makes them more upset and confused, and can create other fear-related problems. The accident area must be cleaned immediately and properly to decrease the appeal of soiling in that area a second time. Clean the area thoroughly with a "pet stain and odor remover" containing a neutralizer which breaks down the urine (not just mask its odor). [Cleaners containing ammonia will appear to clean the area, but since ammonia is also found in urine, your cat's nose will not differentiate the smell and your cat may think the area is still dirty and repeatedly soil that space. Also, water and vinegar will only mask the smell to a human nose, not to your cat's nose.]

To prevent cats from returning to soil in an undesirable location, you can try placing food & water bowls in that location, two sided sticky tape, plastic carpet runners with the bumpy side up, aluminum foil, or even citrus scent.

The following are a few tips to keep your cat happy about using the litter box you provide.

- Find out what type (clay or clumping) and brand of litter your kitten was using before coming to your home. Start with the same litter, and once your kitten is settled, you can gradually mix litter over to the brand you prefer.
- Make sure that the litter box is located in an area which is quiet (out of normal traffic and out of reach of dogs, children, etc.), is easily accessible, and for multi-level houses it is preferable to have a box on each floor. Also, the litter box should not be located next to food and water bowls.
- We recommend that the number of litter boxes in the household equals or exceeds the number of cats.
- Many cats do not like scented litter and do have a preference to clay or clumping litter. You may need to try one or two boxes of each type to find their preference.
- Litter box height and size are critical. Boxes should be easy to climb in and out of, and large enough so as your kitten grows in size they do not feel cramped.
- Some people prefer for their cats to use a covered litter box for odor and mess control. These boxes must be scooped at least twice a day to keep the odors down for your cat. Cats will be hesitant to enter a box full of strong odors. To condition your cat to the cover over his box, start with the lid propped up and gradually (over a couple of weeks) work on lowering the lid until it is completely shut.
- All boxes need to be scooped a minimum of once daily. Boxes need to be emptied of old litter and scrubbed clean once a week for clay litter and every 2-4 weeks for clumping litter.
- Avoid scary or unpleasant events from occurring while your cat is in or near the litter box. Events would include startling noises, giving medicines, falling objects, etc.

Common Toxic Plants & Substances

Micheál Murphy "A Field Guide to Common Animal Poisons"

Plant or Substance	Body Area Affected
Acetaminophen (maples)	Hepatic-Liver
Alcohol	Nervous System
Allium	Blood Hemolysis
Amitraz (<i>parasitocides</i>)	Cardiac-Heart
Anticoagulant rodenticides	Blood Coagulation
Araceae	Gastrointestinal
Arsenic	Gastrointestinal
Bird of Paradise	Gastrointestinal
Black Locust	Gastrointestinal
Black Walnut	Gastrointestinal
Bleach	Gastrointestinal
Bleeding Heart	Nervous System
Blue-green algae	Hepatic-Liver
Bromes	Dermal-Skin
Bromethalin (<i>rodenticides</i>)	Nervous System
Broomweed	Dermal-Skin
Broomweed	Reproductive
Buckthorn	Gastrointestinal
<i>Bufo</i> toads	Gastrointestinal
Burdock	Dermal-Skin
Burning Bush	Gastrointestinal
Cacti	Dermal-Skin
Carbon Monoxide	Respiratory-Pulmonary
Cardiac Glycosides	
Cardinal Flower	Nervous System
Cholecalciferol (<i>Vit D3</i>)	Renal-Kidney
Cholinesterase inhibitors (<i>ectoparasitocides-flys, lice, etc. agricultural chemicals</i>)	Nervous System
Christmas Rose	Gastrointestinal
Copper	Hepatic-Liver
Coyotillo	Nervous System
Crab's Eye	Gastrointestinal
Daphne	Gastrointestinal
Desert Bailey	Cardiovascular
Detergents	Gastrointestinal
Elderberry	Gastrointestinal
English Ivy	Gastrointestinal
Estrogen	Blood Production
Ethylene Glycol (<i>antifreeze</i>)	Renal-Kidney
Fertilizer	Gastrointestinal
Garbage Ingestion	Gastrointestinal
Goatshead	Dermal-Skin
Guajillo	Nervous System
Heliotropium	Hepatic-Liver
Holly	Gastrointestinal
Horse Chestnut/Buckeye	Nervous System

Plant or Substance	Body Area Affected
Horsebrush	Hepatic-Liver
Hyacinth	Gastrointestinal
Hydrangea	Gastrointestinal
Insect Stings	Dermal-Skin
Kentucky Coffee Tree	Nervous System
Lead	Nervous System
Lechuguilla	Hepatic-Liver
Locoweed	Cardiovascular
Marijuana	Nervous System
Mesquite	Gastrointestinal
Methylxanthines (<i>chocolate</i>)	
Mistletoe	Gastrointestinal
Morning Glory	Nervous System
Mushrooms	Hepatic-Liver
Narrowleaf Sumpweed	Reproductive
Nicotine	Nervous System
Nightshades	Gastrointestinal
NSAID's (<i>asprin, ibuprofen, naproxen, phenylbutazone</i>)	Gastrointestinal
Perilla Mint	Respiratory-Pulmonary
Petroleum products	Gastrointestinal
Puncture Vine	Hepatic-Liver
Pyrethrins (<i>flea/tick products</i>)	Nervous System
Rattlebox	Gastrointestinal
Rattlebox	Hepatic-Liver
Red Stemmed Peavine	Respiratory-Pulmonary
Sacahuiste	Hepatic-Liver
Sago palms	Hepatic-Liver
Sandburs	Dermal-Skin
Sennas	Musculoskeletal
Stinging Nettle	Dermal-Skin
Strychnine	Nervous System
Tarweed	Hepatic-Liver
Tricyclic antidepressants	Nervous System
Venomous Reptiles	Dermal-Skin
Wild Barley	Dermal-Skin
Wisteria	Gastrointestinal
Yellow Star Thistle	Nervous System
Yew	
Zinc	Blood Hemolysis
Zinc Phosphide (<i>rodenticides</i>)	Nervous System



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR NEW KITTEN

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! 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**. Eukanuba & Hill's Science Diet are our recommendations. 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!