



## New Kitten Information

### Vaccines

In Calgary, there are 3 vaccines recommended for cats. Two of these are strongly recommended core vaccines.

#### 1. FVRCP - Core Vaccine

- Rhinotracheitis
- Calivirus
- Panleukopenia virus

**Administered:** 8 weeks, 12 weeks, 16 weeks, 1 year later, then every 3 years.

#### 2. RABIES - Core Vaccine

**Administered:** 16 weeks, 1 year later, then every year OR every 3 years.

#### 3. FeIV

- Feline leukemia virus

**Administered:** 8 weeks, 12 weeks, then yearly. Recommended for any cat who may go outdoors or if you live in a multi-cat household (including a foster home to pets).

If your kitten was not vaccinated at the exact ages above, don't worry. Talk to your family veterinarian to produce a vaccine schedule suited for your kitten. Kittens are not considered fully vaccinated until one week after the last kitten vaccine is given (typically 17 weeks of age).

An exam will be done at the time of each vaccine. This allows us to monitor your kitten as they grow; assessing their heart, lungs, gastrointestinal tract, skin, and teeth. The veterinarian will also address any questions or concerns you may have.

### Parasites & Bugs

Kittens obtain gastrointestinal worms through their mother. Some of these worms could spread to humans (known as zoonotic disease).

- Kittens should be dewormed every 2 weeks; from 2 weeks of age until 8 weeks of age, and then monthly depending on their exposure.
- Preventatives for ectoparasites (fleas & ticks etc.) are recommended.

Medications should always be discussed with your family veterinarian before applying.

**Some topical medications purchased at pet stores can be deadly to cats.**

### Dental Care

Like humans, kittens have two sets of teeth. Their deciduous teeth (baby teeth) are fully erupted by 8 – 10 weeks of age. These teeth fall out around 4-6 months of age as their adult teeth are erupting.

Let baby teeth fall out on their own, don't pull them out. If baby teeth are present at the time of spaying or neutering, your family veterinarian may recommend pulling them to prevent overcrowding.



## Diet

Kittens require certain nutrients for bone growth and development. They should eat a food that has a life stage meant for “growth” or for “all life stages.” At this age, there is no benefit of kibble vs. wet food, however:

- It is best to introduce canned food (does not have to be given continually) to kittens as this may make it easier to feed them wet food later in life if necessary.
- Cats are sensitive to bitter taste and prefer room temperature food over cold food.
- They should be fed according to the feeding chart for that particular diet.
- Your veterinarian can show you how to body condition score your kitten to determine if they are an appropriate weight as they continue to grow.
- Raw food should not be fed to kittens (less than 1 year of age).

## Environment Enrichment/Socialization

Kittens peak socialization is between 6 & 16 weeks of age. This is the ideal time to get them accustomed to having their paws, lips/mouth touched and ears handled. This will make trimming nails, looking in their mouth, and cleaning ears easier when they are older.

Do not allow kittens to bite/paw at your hands; always use toys when playing.

Allowing any cat outdoors without supervision is not recommended. City of Calgary bylaws state that your cat must remain on your property. This means it is illegal to allow your cat to roam the neighbourhood.

Indoor cats have greater tendency to become obese due to the sedentary lifestyle. It is important to provide a variety of environmental enrichment during your cat's life.

For more information on environment enrichment please visit the trusted resources posted in this handout.

## Spay & Neuter

Spaying and neutering your pet involves removing their reproductive organs. This is recommended to help prevent pets from reproducing, as well as roaming and fighting (intact male cats). It will also reduce the risk of uterine infections and mammary cancers.

- It is recommended to spay/neuter at 5-6 months of age, when kittens are approaching sexual maturity.
- Microchip administration is offered at the time of spay/neuter

## Licensing Your Pet

All cats and dogs must be licensed in Calgary. For more information on licensing and associated fees, please call 311 or visit the City of Calgary website in the trusted resources section of this handout.

## Pet Insurance

Pet insurance is strongly recommended. Emergencies are always unexpected costs that could add stress to any situation. Having an insurance plan already in place will help ease your concerns if an accident or illness happens. Once a cat has a pre-existing illness/accident, the insurance company will NOT cover it under their health plan. For this reason, it is best to get insurance as soon as possible. Insurance plans will vary based on costs and deductibles.



## Trusted Resources

Veterinary Partner: [www.veterinarypartner.com](http://www.veterinarypartner.com)

Pets Web MD: [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)

Indoor Pet Initiative: <https://inforpet.osu.edu/>

Worms and Germs: [www.wormsandgermsblogs.com](http://www.wormsandgermsblogs.com)

Cat Healthy: [www.cathealthy.ca](http://www.cathealthy.ca)