



Kitten Veterinary Care Checklist

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Kittens need a lot of care! Use the checklist below to make sure your kitten is on track.

- Examination – every kitten should have a comprehensive physical exam as soon as possible after coming home; this will ensure that no health problems are lurking undetected. Exams will be continued at regular intervals during growth to make sure development is progressing as expected.
- Intestinal Parasite Testing – kittens can pick up a variety of parasites; testing will help us determine the best treatment for your new pet.
- Deworming – kittens need to be dewormed multiple times, sometimes with multiple medications, in order to eliminate the risk of parasites spread from mother to kitten and picked up from the environment.
- Parasite preventatives
 - Fleas, mites, intestinal parasites, and heartworm disease – your kitten can be protected from these parasites with a once a month topical treatment. Even indoor kittens are at risk of exposure to these parasites and will benefit from preventatives.
- Disease Testing – FIV and Feline Leukemia Virus are two serious, potentially fatal diseases common in the feral cat population, as well as some domestic cats. All kittens should be tested for these diseases at least once, and in some cases twice, during development. Knowing a kitten’s disease status will help us plan effectively for the best quality of life long term. It will also help prevent your other cat(s) from being exposed to these infectious diseases.
- Vaccines
 - Rhinotracheitis, Calici, and Panleukopenia Viruses –this combination vaccine (often referred to as ‘FVRCP’, ‘RCP’, or ‘feline distemper’) protects kittens from the three most common viruses impacting the upper respiratory tract; kittens should receive this vaccine every 3-4 weeks until at least 16 weeks old, when their immune system is capable of creating a lasting immunity to these diseases.
 - Rabies – rabies is always fatal, and in New York City all cats should be up to date on vaccination for this virus.
 - Leukemia virus – feline leukemia can be prevented with a vaccine, and all kittens should be vaccinated; later in life the vaccine can be continued if cats will be outside and exposed to the disease on a regular basis; even if kittens will be indoors only, initial vaccination will ensure some immune protection in case of escape or emergency.
- Spaying or Neutering – we recommend all cats be spayed or neutered around 5 months old, before puberty begins and their risk of long term diseases increases. If cats are spayed before puberty, they have a 99% lower risk of breast cancer later in life!