
Microchipping

This identification lasts for the life of your pet. In NSW, microchipping is compulsory for kittens. If your kitten is not microchipped, it can be done in a consultation with your veterinarian or at the same time as desexing. The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and is implanted between the shoulder blades. The number on the microchip is then registered on the Companion Animal Registry. Your kitten should also be registered on the Companion Animal Registry. By law your kitten should also be registered with the local council.

Toileting

At least one litter tray per cat should be provided. It should be changed daily as cats may refuse to use a dirty litter tray. The tray should be kept somewhere private and quiet. Litter trays are usually made from plastic and can either be open, or have a hood to offer your kitten privacy. There are many types of litter, including clay, clumping, recycled newspaper or plant material.

Environment

Your kitten will need somewhere comfortable to sleep. A good range of toys are available, such as Kong's, fluffy mice toys, cat treats, balls, scratching posts etc. You can rotate them over a period of a week so they are 'fresh'. Most kittens love to sleep on something soft like a pillow or blanket. You can also buy cat baskets with soft foam or fluffy material inserts, foam beds and igloo's that your cat can curl up in. Place your kitten's bed somewhere safe and warm, with its food, water bowls and litter tray not too far away.



Native Fauna

Domestic cats can be predators of our wildlife. You can minimise the risk by attaching bells to the opposite sides of the collar, keeping the cat inside at night or build a cat aviary. You can also purchase or make 'floppy fencing'. It attaches to the original fencing and is unstable to climb on so cats won't come into or out of the backyard.



Pet insurance

Pet Insurance offers you peace of mind. If your pet is involved in an accident or suffers a sudden illness the medical costs can be several hundreds to thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, many pets are euthanized each year as owners are unable to meet these unexpected costs. Pet Insurance is your safeguard against this outcome.

Things to watch out for

If your kitten appears listless, lethargic, off their food, or have any concerns, please don't hesitate to call us.

Our consultation hours at Orange Veterinary Hospital are:

Monday to Friday
8.30-5.30pm

Saturday 8.30am to 12.00pm

We also offer an after hours service. Please call

6362 1510 outside of these hours.

Caring for your new kitten



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Congratulations!

Your new kitten will be a lot of fun & will become an important member of your household. With this comes a big responsibility for their health & wellbeing. Good housing, lots of affection & plenty of appropriate play are vital for your kittens progression to a healthy & enjoyable family pet. Here's some basic tips for helping with your kitten's health.

Vaccinations

The standard vaccination is called an F3. It protects against Enteritis & 2 different cat flu viruses – Feline Rhinotracheitis & Feline Calicivirus. These vaccinations are given at 8 weeks & 12 weeks, then every year for continued There is also vaccine for the prevention of Feline AIDS, commonly known as FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus). It is administered as an initial series of three doses, 2-4 weeks apart. It is given to kittens at 8 weeks of age or older. Cats more than 6 months of age should be tested to ensure they are free of the AIDS virus before being vaccinated. An annual booster is also needed to ensure continued protection.

Worming

Intestinal worms are dangerous to your kitten's health. Most kittens are infected early in life, especially with roundworms through their mother's milk. Kittens should be wormed:

- Every 2 weeks until 3 months old
- Every month until 6 months old
- Every 3 months for life

Pregnant and nursing queens should also be treated.

Various worming tablets, drops and pastes are available. Speak to our friendly staff to find out what product is best for your kitten.



Heartworm

Heartworm is not a problem in the Orange area, but cats travelling out of the region, even for short periods, should be protected. Heartworm is spread by mosquitoes & does not require cat-to-cat contact. Treatment can be relatively easy by using a spot-on such as Advocate.



Fleas

There are many different flea preparations available, some of which are combined with other parasite control. Prevention or early treatment is recommended since fleas reproduce at astounding rates.



Socialisation & Training

Socialising your kitten with other kittens & owners is an important stage of their development. Up to the age of 14 to 16 weeks is their socialisation period, and what they are exposed to now will shape their future personality and behaviour. Kittens can be trained to walk with a harness, to sit, and to fetch. Brief, fun lessons usually around 5-10 minutes tend to be more rewarding and keep your kittens attention. Make sure you use plenty of praise and positive reinforcement for good behaviour.

Diet

Kittens have specific requirements, and it is important to feed a premium food in order to meet these needs. Dry and tinned forms are available. Most kittens can eat dry food by 8 weeks of age. If they are eating a balanced kitten food, they require no other supplements, including milk. In fact, some cats are lactose intolerant and develop diarrhoea if given milk. A ready supply of fresh water is highly recommended.

Kittens should have smaller meals more often, as a

guide:

- 6 to 12 weeks – 3 to 4 feeds daily
- 3 to 6 months old – 2 to 3 feeds daily
- 6 months and adults – 2 feeds daily

It is important to train your kitten to eat establish their territory from about 6 months of age. This is to keep their teeth & gums healthy throughout life. Chicken wings must be fed fresh to avoid food poisoning. Discard any uneaten bones after 1 hour.



Desexing

Desexing will prevent any unwanted litters as well as undesirable behaviours. Male kittens can start spraying to establish their territory They will also fight and roam to satisfy the natural male urge to become dominant in their territory. Female kittens can come into season from about 5 months of age. They become vocal and restless when on heat. Breeding from your pet cat is strongly discouraged, since there are thousands of cats and kittens put down each year due to cats not being desexed.

To avoid these problems desexing of both males and females is recommended around 5 to 6 months of age with the local council.

In addition, pet tags are a good idea for wandering kittens. You can record your cat's name, address and phone number, or the number of your vet for emergencies.