

# Kitten Schedule

- 8 Weeks: Complete Physical Exam**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia (FVRCP) vaccine**  
Deworming medication will be dispensed as recommended by Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Discussion will include the importance of proper nutrition, feeding schedule, pet insurance and flea control.
- 12 Weeks: Physical Exam**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> FVRCP and 1<sup>st</sup> Feline Leukemia vaccination**  
Deworming medication will also be dispensed at this visit. We will also record a current weight, determine a Body Condition Score (BCS). Dental care and grooming requirements will be discussed.
- 16 Weeks: Physical Exam**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Feline Leukemia and Rabies vaccination**  
Deworming medications will also be dispensed at this visit. In addition, spay or neuter surgery, pre-anesthetic bloodwork, and identification options will be discussed.
- 6 Months: Spay/Neuter Surgery with pre-anesthetic bloodwork done 7 days prior**  
Tattoo and/or microchip can be done at the time of surgery. During the procedure we will be doing a complimentary dental exam and nail trim. We will also discuss post-operative home care and dietary recommendations. Deworming medication will be recommended as per adult cat protocol.
- Annually: One year from the date of the second vaccination, your cat will be due for an Annual Physical Examination.**  
At each yearly visit our Veterinarians will gather information to determine which vaccines will be recommended based on your cat's lifestyle, health and risks.
- Examination and discussion may include:**  
Strategic deworming program  
Parasite/flea control  
Proper nutrition/dietary recommendations  
Routine dental exam and dental care  
Weight management

## Feline Vaccinations

There are several things that your veterinary team will cover during your kitten's appointment, including vaccinations. Your veterinarian will design the best protocol for your pet. Below is a list of common diseases for which vaccines have been created.

Disease Name	What does it affect?	How is it spread?	Symptoms
Feline Distemper or Panleukopenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intestinal tract</li> <li>• Bone marrow</li> <li>• Viral Disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air born</li> <li>• Contact with an infected animal or where the infected animal has been</li> </ul>	Diarrhea, vomiting, severe dehydration, fever and death
Feline Leukemia Virus(FeLV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inhibits the immune system</li> <li>• Results in various types of cancer and other chronic disease</li> <li>• Deadly infection</li> <li>• Viral Infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presents in bodily fluids- typical passed by direct contact through licking, biting and sneezing</li> </ul>	Depression, fever, loss of appetite, anemia, swollen neck glands and recurring infections.  Can be infected for long period of time before showing symptoms
Rabies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infection of the central nervous system</li> <li>• Always fatal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the bite of an infected animal</li> <li>• Humans can be affected</li> </ul>	Two Phases: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Excitatory phase/furious rabies: restless, irritable, unprovoked biting.</li> <li>2. Paralytic phase/dumb rabies: paralysis, cramps, swallowing difficulties</li> </ol>
Upper Respiratory Disease (Rhinitis, pneumonia and calicivirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respiratory</li> <li>• Viral disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air born</li> </ul>	Flu-like symptoms, nasal and ocular discharges, ulcers in mouth, on tongue or in the throat

## Parasites

Parasite Name	Where do they live?	How are they contracted?	Symptoms
Fleas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They live on the body of the pet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through contact with other animals and environments with flea infestations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Droppings or “flea dirt” in a pet's coat.</li> <li>• Flea eggs on pets or in pet's environment.</li> <li>• Allergic dermatitis.</li> <li>• Excessive scratching, licking or biting at skin.</li> <li>• Hair loss.</li> <li>• Scabs and hot spots.</li> <li>• Tapeworms.</li> </ul>
Roundworm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They live in the intestines of the pet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consuming infective worm eggs from soil in the environment (generally through normal grooming//self-licking).</li> <li>• Nursing from an infected mother dog.</li> <li>• Consuming a prey animal (usually rodent) that is carrying developing worms.</li> <li>• During embryonic development when an infected mother is pregnant (most kittens are infected this way).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Coughing</li> <li>• Potbellied appearance</li> <li>• Visible worms in feces or vomit</li> </ul>
Tapeworm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They live in the intestines of the pet.</li> <li>• They also infect humans, normally children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eating fleas and small rodents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visible segments in feces and fur around anal area.</li> <li>• Bloated stomach</li> <li>• Increased appetite</li> </ul>
Whipworm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They live in the cecum (the part of the large intestine where the small and large intestine meet).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eggs and infected larvae live in the soil and infect pets through direct contact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watery, bloody stool</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Lethargy and debilitation</li> </ul>
Hookworm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They live in the digestive system of the pet and feed off their blood.</li> <li>• They also present a zoonotic risk to people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eggs and infected larvae live in the soil and infect pets through direct contact or ingestion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Blood loss</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> </ul>

# Spaying and Neutering

## **Anesthesia**

Spaying and neutering are routine surgeries, but because they require an anesthetic there is a risk just like with any anesthetic procedure. We take every precaution that we can to minimize the risks while every patient is under anesthesia:

- We only use the safest gas anesthetic.
- We use pre-anesthetic and induction medications that minimize the amount of gas anesthetic needed, and provides circulatory support.
- We provide pain medication during surgery to lessen discomfort felt by the patient after surgery.
- Pet's heart rate and blood pressure are continuously monitored with a Doppler heart and blood pressure monitor.
- All pets are monitored by a skilled, trained, and experienced Animal Health Technician.

## **Pre-anesthetic blood work**

Your pet looks healthy, and has been given a clean bill of health by the veterinarian. So why would we consider doing a blood test?

Even young animals can have underlying problems with their major organs that can't be detected by a physical exam. A blood test lets us know how the major organs (kidneys, heart, liver etc.) are working. Most young animals will not have a problem in their lab work, in this case it gives us a base line for what's "normal" for your pet in case there are future problems.

A small amount of pets do have problems that would lead us to change the types of anesthetic or pain control drugs used, or to postpone the surgery all together.

## **Intravenous Fluids**

IV fluids are delivered through a catheter. They have many benefits, including:

- Supporting the kidneys. The kidneys excrete the anesthetic drugs, and IV fluids make it easier for the kidneys to filter them out. This helps your pet recover from anesthetic faster.
- Blood pressure. Anesthetics can lower an animal's blood pressure. IV fluids help keep blood pressure at a normal level.
- Hydration. Because pets are fasted before surgery they can become a little dehydrated. IV fluids help alleviate this.
- Quick access to a vein in case of an emergency. If an emergency does happen, every second counts. If an IV catheter has already been placed, we will have instant access to a vein to deliver emergency drugs.



## WHY TAKE THE RISK? GET YOUR PET MICROCHIPPED

### Permanent Identification

#### **Tattoos**

British Columbia has a Province-wide tattoo identification program. Animals are tattooed in the right ear with a code specific to the veterinary hospital where the tattoo was done. If your pet is lost, and ends up at a shelter or another veterinary clinic, the staff there will be able to tell where your pet was tattooed. They will contact that clinic to get your contact information. Tattooing requires a general anesthetic, and is generally done at the same time that your pet is spayed or neutered. If you adopt an older pet that does not have a tattoo, veterinarians generally suggest that you have a tattoo done the first time your pet is given a general anesthetic (such as during a dental cleaning.)

#### **Microchips**

Microchips are another form of permanent identification. A small microchip is injected under the skin of your pet. A document is sent to the microchip company with your contact information, and information about your pet (such as name, breed, colour, medical information, etc.) The microchip can be read with a special scanner. Your pet will also receive a collar tag to wear that indicates that he or she has a microchip. If a clinic or shelter does not have a microchip scanner, they will be able to give the microchip company the number on your pet's tag in order to get in contact with you. Microchip implantation does not require an anesthetic, and can be implanted in a veterinarian's office.

#### **Does my pet need permanent identification?**

We recommend that all dogs and cats have a tattoo or microchip.

No one plans on their pet going missing. Having a tattoo or microchip greatly increases the chance that you and your pet will be reunited.

Very often we hear that a pet doesn't need a tattoo or microchip because he or she never goes outside. Very often, "indoor only" pets do go missing. These pets tend to panic, as they're not used to being outside and they become frightened. They can tend to bolt from anything that scares them; loud noises, cars, strangers, and other animals. Collars and tags are a good form of identification, but they can break off. This is why we recommend collars and/or tags as well as a permanent form (tattoo/microchip) of identification for ALL pets.

#### **Keeping your information up to date**

Once your pet has a tattoo or microchip, it's important to ensure that the veterinary clinic that tattooed your pet and/or the microchip company has your updated contact information. If you move or change your phone number, remember to call your veterinary clinic to update your information.

If you have any questions about permanent identification, please feel free to give the clinic a call. One of our staff members will be pleased to assist you.

## Feeding your Kitten

Start healthy feeding habits as soon as your kitten arrives! Excellent nutrition will influence your kitten's health status, development, appearance and attitude. How you feed your kitten will also help prevent excess weight gain during the growth stage and help reduce the likelihood of obesity as your kitten matures. Nutritional excellence is a key component of wellness medicine, where the goal is to prevent rather than treat health problems later in life. The following tips will get you off to a good start.

### **Choose your kitten's diet carefully**

There is excessive and confusing information in the market regarding kitten foods. The old adage "you get what you pay for" applies particularly well to pet foods. We encourage you not to compare foods by the "Guaranteed Analysis" on the label. This is based on a chemical analysis only and measures gross quantities of ingredient classes – it tells you nothing about the quality or digestibility of the ingredients. Highly digestible kitten food means you feed less.

Be sure to feed your kitten a diet that has successfully completed an AAFCO growth trial.

### **Benefits of excellent nutrition**

Royal Canin Feline Development Formula provides your kitten with exceptional nutritional quality. While eating this diet, we expect your kitten to have a luxurious, shiny coat, to be bright and lively, have strong healthy teeth and gums, and make small, well-formed stools. Superior nutrition helps kittens build bone, muscle, tissue, and boosts their immune system to help fight disease.

### **Feed your kitten as an individual**

Feed your kitten frequent, small meals if possible. Your kitten has a small stomach and high energy needs. You can leave small quantities of dry food out constantly and let your kitten "nibble on the kibble" as desired.

Monitor your kitten's weight/appearance. You should see a lean, well-conditioned body and be able to feel, but not see its ribs. Adjustments in the amount of food left out may be necessary to prevent your kitten from becoming overweight, particularly between 4 and 9 months of age.

### **Feed some canned food**

While you may prefer to feed your kitten dry food, you should always introduce some canned food (even just a tablespoon a day). Cats are very sensitive to the "mouth feel" of the foods they eat. As cats age, they sometimes develop medical conditions that are better managed by increasing their water intake. Feeding canned food is the best way to do this. Cats that have never been exposed to canned foods as kittens often refuse to eat them later in life, when they may be extremely beneficial.

### **Where to feed your kitten**

Feed your kitten in a quiet place. This helps establish consistency, reduces excitement around a meal and helps reduce the incidence of stomach upset. Ensure that the feeding area is not in close proximity to the litter box - it may interfere with litter box training.

**Measure the food, and feed in your kitten's own bowl**

Always measure your kitten's food so that you can make appropriate adjustments as necessary depending on your kitten's body condition. If you have other cats in your home, feed your kitten separately, from its own bowl. Kitten foods are formulated to be optimum for growing kittens - you do not want your adult cats eating kitten food, and vice versa. Dry diets can be moistened to soften them for very young kittens.

**Change diets slowly**

If you are changing your kitten's diet, gradually introduce the new diet over 7-10 days. Mix a small amount (1/4 of ration) with the previous diet for the first day or two. Then increase the portion of the new diet over the next week, until your kitten is only eating the new diet. This will reduce the likelihood of vomiting and diarrhea. Your kitten should make formed stools that are easy to scoop up. Please inform us if this is not the case.

**Milk**

Cow's milk is not recommended for kittens. In fact, many kittens cannot digest milk and may develop diarrhea, as a result. All your kitten needs to drink is fresh, clean water.

**Treats**

More and more of us are enjoying the use of treats to socialize, train and just plain love our kittens. Ask us about healthy, low calorie treats for your kitten. Treats can be moistened to soften them for very young kittens.

**How long to feed kitten food**

Your kitten should be fed kitten food exclusively until 9 to 12 months of age. This will help optimize bone and soft tissue development. Adult cat foods are often more urine acidifying and restricted in minerals – this could interfere with optimum bone development in growing kittens. Royal Canin® Feline Development Formula is an excellent diet for growing kittens of all breeds and sizes.



## Why We Feel Confident In the Food Products We Provide

1. The foods we provide are made at their own production centers, no other brands of food are manufactured there.
2. They source their ingredients as locally as possible and have rigorous contracts with these sources to ensure consistent and quality supply.
3. The production centers have state of the art equipment which screens incoming ingredients for contamination and also assesses nutritional breakdown. If a truck-load of incoming ingredients does not pass the multiple tests, it is turned away.
4. Only slaughtered, human grade animals are used in their diets. There are NO “already dead” animals rendered and used for these diets.
5. These food production centers are spotless and meet rigorous health inspections. The employees are all pet owners themselves.
6. They do beneficial food trials with animals to research the nutritional and health benefits their food provides. They maintain their animals in “natural” settings or use their own pets and data from outside hospitals. They do NOT do invasive or terminal experiments.
7. Diet pricing does fluctuate as cost of the ingredients fluctuate. These companies refuse to source cheaper, lower quality ingredients or change their formulations to fool clients in order to keep their pricing low.
8. They strive towards international accreditation for environmental standards.
9. They guarantee all of their diets 100%. Not only for quality but for palatability as well.
10. They have technical support staff made up of veterinarians and veterinary specialists who can answer any questions and will review your pet’s medical cases to ensure they are getting the appropriate nutrition.

