



## EASTGATE VETERINARY CENTRE

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[www.eastgateveterinarycentre.co.uk](http://www.eastgateveterinarycentre.co.uk)

## KITTEN CARE

### Vaccinations

It is very important that your kitten is vaccinated. Although infectious diseases are less common nowadays we do still see them regularly. The first vaccination can be given as early as **9 weeks old** with the second vaccination **3 weeks later**. Your kitten will be fully protected 7-10 days after the second vaccination. As well as vaccinating your kitten we will also check that there are no congenital problems such as heart murmurs, hernias and cleft palates. We can also give advice on feeding, worming, insurance and any other matters you wish to discuss.

### The vaccination course covers

- **Cat Flu** - The commonest strains of Herpes virus and Calicivirus are covered with the vaccination.
- **Feline enteritis virus** - A cause of severe often fatal vomiting and diarrhoea similar to parvovirus in dogs. The above viruses are given together in one injection. This injection course is required for entrance into catteries.
- **Feline leukaemia virus** - This virus is the second most common cause of premature death of cats in the UK after road traffic accidents. The virus can be carried for several years before causing illness. As well as causing leukaemia in some cats the virus also causes tumours to form in various organs. The immune system is also suppressed leading to many other diseases. If a cat is already infected with feline leukaemia virus then the vaccination offers no protection. We do not routinely test cats before vaccination because of the cost but if you would like to have your kitten tested please ask.

### Diet

It is important that kittens are fed a suitable diet when they are growing. These diets contain more protein and calcium. Adult and home-made diets are not always suitable. Feeding a dry complete food alone is perfectly acceptable as long as a clean water supply is also provided. Dry food is cheaper and better for the cat's teeth. Many cats cannot digest milk properly so this should be avoided (lactose-free cat milk is available in most supermarkets).

### Neutering

Male cats can be castrated and females can be spayed from **4 months old** providing they are healthy. Both operations require a general anaesthetic. Females will have fur shaved from their left side and will need to come back to have their stitches removed.

### Worming

Kittens should be wormed for roundworms, which they contract, from their mother. Roundworms are a cause of vomiting, diarrhoea, coughing and ill thrift in kittens. We recommend worming kittens every 2 weeks until 12



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weeks of age. Wormer is available in liquid form and is given for 3 days in a row. Adult cats should be wormed at least every 3 months against round and tapeworm. Wormers are generally in tablet form but a spot-on version is available on prescription. Adult cats contract tapeworms from eating rodents and birds, as well as ingesting fleas when grooming.

### Pet insurance

We recommend that you choose a reputable company that specialises in pet insurance. Always read the small-print carefully. Some of the cheap insurance policies exclude problems from year to year. Some companies also offer discounts for multiple pets and for old age pensioners. Insurance does not cover vaccinations, worming, neutering, special diets and some dental treatments. Insurance is good for accidents and unexpected illnesses.

### Flea and tick treatments

There are many products available for the treatment of fleas in cats. Most pet shop and supermarket products are not effective enough to kill 21<sup>st</sup> century fleas. Spot on preparations are the easiest way to administer flea treatments; modern spot on preparations are rigorously tested and are very safe unlike some of the earlier organophosphate preparations, which are no longer on the market. **NEVER use preparations intended for dogs on cats.**

-*Frontline Spot-on* can be used from 10 weeks old, each application lasts for 5 weeks. *Frontline spray* can be used from 2 days old and lasts for 3 months.

-*Frontline Combo* is available on prescription and also acts to treat the environment by preventing eggs from hatching.

-*Broadline* is a new combination spot-on which covers the majority of fleas, ticks and worms. As it is a spot-on it makes a great alternative to pilling difficult cats.

There are several other flea preparations available most of which we have in stock.

### Microchipping

A microchip can be implanted at any age and can be done at the same time as a vaccination is given or at neutering. If an animal is lost and taken to any vets, dog warden or re-homing centre it will be scanned for a microchip. A national database associates the unique animal number with the owner's details. Implantation of a microchip and registration on the database currently costs £17.30.

### Pet Health Plans

We offer these as a way to spread the cost of your pet's routine veterinary needs. For a small monthly fee you can cover your cat's annual vaccinations, flea and worming treatments, routine checks and nail clipping, as well as other discounts. Also handy reminders are sent so you do not miss anything! Ask in practice or see our website for more details.



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