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NEW KITTEN GUIDE

NAME: _____



Vaccine Schedule

Age	To Do	Done
Schedule		
Initial Visit (6-8 weeks)	Physical Examination FELV/FIV Test First vaccination for Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia (RCP) Intestinal Parasite Test General dewormer	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Weeks Later (9-11 weeks)	Physical Examination Second RCP Vaccination Recheck Intestinal Parasite Test General Dewormer	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Weeks Later (12-14 weeks)	Physical Examination Third RCP Vaccination First Feline Leukemia Vaccine (FELV)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Weeks Later (15-17 weeks)	Physical Examination Annual RCP Vaccination Annual Leukemia Vaccination Annual Rabies Vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annually	Physical Examination Vaccine Assessment Rabies, RCP, FELV Intestinal Parasite Test	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Vaccine Information

Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirosis, Panleukopenia

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR): This virus causes upper respiratory infection with fever, sneezing, eye and nasal discharge, conjunctivitis (inflammation of the inner eyelids and mucous membranes around the eyes), inflammation of the cornea (keratitis), and lethargy. Kittens have an increased risk of infection.

Feline Calicivirosis (C): This highly contagious and ubiquitous virus is one of the major causes of upper respiratory infection in cats. Affected cats may have sneezing, eye and nasal discharge, conjunctivitis, lethargy, loss of appetite, sores on the gums and soft tissues of the oral cavity, and lameness. In some cases, affected kittens may develop pneumonia. In rare cases, a much more virulent strain of this virus can cause inflammation of the liver, intestines, pancreas, and cells that line the blood vessels. This severe form of calicivirus can be deadly in up to half of affected cats.

Feline Panleukopenia (P): A serious illness caused by a parvovirus. This highly contagious and potentially lethal virus causes fever, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, and in some cases, sudden death. Kittens are particularly susceptible.

Leukemia

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV): The leading cause of virus-associated deaths in cats, FeLV spreads through the saliva, nasal secretions, feces, urine, and milk of infected cats. Casual contact, bite wounds, and nursing can all transmit the infection. Roughly 50 % of cats diagnosed with FeLV succumb to the disease within two and a half years. Infected cats may suffer from anemia, immune suppression, and cancer. FeLV vaccination is considered a core vaccine for all cats less than one year of age and a non-core vaccine for cats one year of age and older that have no potential for exposure to FeLV-infected cats or cats of unknown FeLV status.

Your veterinarian or technician will discuss the recommended vaccines for your pet. Up-to-date vaccinations are required for spay/neuter, hospitalization and boarding.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home confinement of kittens away from stray or unvaccinated cats is recommended until two weeks after the one year vaccines are given.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timing of vaccines and age of kitten are critical in ensuring immunity; vaccine schedule should be followed closely.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spay/neuter surgery may be done around 6 months of age.	<input type="checkbox"/>

FeLV/FIV



Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is one of the most common and destructive of all cat viruses. It is highly contagious and is spread primarily by saliva during cat fights or mating. In cats living in close contact for long periods, the virus may spread through grooming of one another. The virus may also spread by contact with infected blood and urine. Kittens may become infected while still in the womb, at birth when the mother bites off the umbilical cord, or during nursing.

Not all cats exposed to FeLV become permanently infected. In about 60% of exposed cats, the immune system destroys or inactivates the invading virus. Approximately 30% of exposed cats become persistently infected, and in 10% the virus becomes dormant (inactive in some area of the body). In this last group, the virus may later become active if the cat is given certain drugs, is severely stressed, or develops another disease.

Of the cats that become persistently infected, about half will die within 6 months of diagnosis and over 3/4 die within 3 years. While the remaining 20% may live a normal lifespan, they tend to suffer a variety of chronic illnesses.

There is no single group of signs characteristic of FeLV infection. The virus tends to damage the body in one of three ways: an uncontrolled increase of virus-altered body cells that causes tumors or leukemia of the red, white, or bone marrow cells; destruction of blood cells essential for blood clotting; or dysfunction of the immune system, resulting in life-threatening infections.

Diseases commonly associated with FeLV infection include anemia, cancer, chronic respiratory disease, chronic infection of the mouth and gums, chronic eye disease, chronic skin disease, urinary tract infections, chronic digestive tract disorders, reproductive diseases (abortions, stillbirths, kitten deaths) and other systemic diseases, such as feline infectious peritonitis (FIP), FIV, or toxoplasmosis.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is strikingly similar to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS. FIV is found in most parts of the world and has been seen as far back as the 1960's. The virus is present in the saliva of infected cats, who spread the disease by biting. FIV does not spread to kittens while they are in the uterus, but, rather, through the milk when they begin to nurse. Not every kitten in the litter will become infected. Although any cat may become infected, FIV is most common in male free-roaming cats that fight.

Infection with the FIV virus is divided into three stages: acute, subclinical, and the chronic clinical stage. The acute stage lasts 3 to 6 months and is characterized by mild illness, with intermittent short episodes of lethargy, decreased appetite, and fever being typical signs. Often this stage goes unnoticed. The subclinical stage lasts from months to years. Affected cats appear healthy but their immune system continues to deteriorate. In the chronic clinical stage, the deterioration of the immune system predisposes infected cats to a variety of disorders. Chronic mouth infections, respiratory infections, intestinal disease, fungal diseases, eye diseases, diseases of the nervous system, cancers, and leukemia are common. Near the end of the disease process, many cats develop a wasting syndrome and lose 20% to 30% of their body weight over a period of several weeks. With FIV infection, the average time from diagnosis to death is 5 years.

FIV and FeLV cannot infect people or dogs, and owners of infected cats have no cause for alarm.

Spaying/Neutering



Spaying your female pet (ovariohysterectomy)

- o Removal of the ovaries and uterus. Ideal age is 6 months.
- o Eliminates the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer.
- o Spaying eliminates the ability to be “in heat” and the cat can no longer have kittens.
- o Eliminates unwanted pregnancy.
- o If pet is spayed before the first heat cycle, your pet has a less than 1% chance of developing breast cancer.
- o If spayed after one heat cycle, your pet has an 8% chance of developing breast cancer.
- o If spayed after two heat cycles, the risk increases to 26%. After two years, no protective benefit exists.

Neutering your male pet (castration)

- o Removal of the testicles and spermatic cord.
- o Ideal age is 6 months.
- o Eliminates the risk of testicular cancer.
- o Greatly reduces the risk of prostatic cancer and prostatitis.
- o Reduces the risk of perianal tumors.
- o Reduces roaming and fighting.
- o Eliminates or reduces spraying or marking in males neutered before 6 months of age, or before the onset of these behaviors.
- o Eliminates unwanted litters.

Spays and castrations are performed with the pet placed under full general anesthesia. The pet sleeps painlessly through the entire operation. A freshly sterilized pack of surgical instruments is used for each individual patient. Our licensed veterinarian is sterile scrubbed, gloved, and gowned for each individual patient. They are then placed in our surgery room and are monitored with an ECG, blood pressure, and respiratory monitor.

Common myths – spaying or neutering your pet does not:

- o Cause laziness or hyperactivity
- o Reduce instinct to protect your family and home
- o Cause immature behaviors
- o Postpone or delay normal behavioral maturity
- o Alter personality in any manner

Surgery Extras



Electrocautery Surgery**

***Orrville, Seville & Medina locations only*

Many people are familiar with the concept of laser surgery, due to the popularity of various cosmetic and eye surgeries now available in human medicine. A similar state-of-the-art technology, referred to as electrocautery surgery, is now available for all of our surgical procedures. Electrocautery surgery is one of the most cutting-edge approaches to surgery available in both human and animal medicine. By passing an electronic wave (similar to FM radio waves) through various metallic probes, we are able to cut, cauterize and seal nerve endings all at once. This allows us to reduce bleeding, post-operative swelling, and post-operative discomfort. Electrocautery surgery is superior to laser surgery technology in that it is easier to perform and safer to use. There is less damage to the surrounding tissue than with a laser, which results in faster healing time. We can perform any traditional surgeries (such as spay, neuter, and declaw) as well as other additional procedures using the electrocautery unit.

Microchip – Pet Identification

The Home Again microchip is one of the best permanent animal identification systems available for companion animals. The patented technology of a Home Again microchip prevents it from migrating from the original implant site, which is normally between the shoulder blades. This makes it easier to find the chip if scanning the pet is needed. Home Again has recently improved its scanning device so that the scanner is able to read microchips made by different companies, including those made in America and also European microchips. Home Again microchips now allow us to obtain your pet's body temperature at the same time as scanning their microchip. We can now avoid taking rectal temperatures in cats that are chipped. This allows us to successfully acquire the information needed to help return lost pets to their owners. The best time to have a microchip implanted is during a procedure that requires anesthesia (such as a spay or neuter), but it can be done anytime. Please ask your friendly customer care specialists, technicians, or doctors for more information if you are interested in this technology.

Signs Your Pet Needs to See the Vet

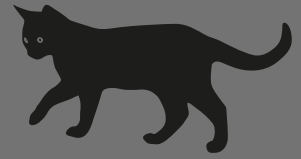
Sometimes it's difficult to identify when your cat's not feeling well. Watch for these signs of illness, and consult with your veterinarian as soon as possible if your pet begins to show any of them.

Vomiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sudden inability to move legs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crying in pain when touched	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clumsy or Disoriented Behavior	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seizures	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any loss of consciousness	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coughing, especially at night	<input type="checkbox"/>	Panting in a cat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Difficulty breathing or labored breathing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any blue, purple or pale hue to the tongue and gums	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sudden collapse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Excessive Drooling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Straining in the litter box without producing urine	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crying out while urinating	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bloated abdomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sneezing excessively	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uncontrolled bleeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nosebleed or bruising anywhere on the body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any unusual odor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hair loss	<input type="checkbox"/>
Runny/crusty eyes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Runny nose or nosebleed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Squinting	<input type="checkbox"/>	New or painful lumps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bad Breath	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes in interaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bad breath is an indicator of an oral problem—studies have shown that 70% of cats have gum disease as early as age 3.		Cats are social animals, so changes in interactions with humans or pets can signal disease, fear, anxiety or pain.	

Inappropriate elimination	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signs of stress	<input type="checkbox"/>
A cat that urinates inappropriately could have any number of conditions associated with the behavior, including lower urinary tract disease, kidney disease, urinary tract infection, stress cystitis, and diabetes mellitus. It can also be a sign of arthritis, which makes it difficult for cats to get into the litterbox.		Stressed cats may exhibit signs of depression, hide more, urinate outside the box, or spend more time awake and scanning their environment. These signs may indicate a medical condition, so it's important to rule out physical ailments before addressing the stress behaviorally.	
Changes in food and water consumption	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unexplained weight loss or gain	<input type="checkbox"/>
Most cats are finicky eaters. Decreased food intake can be a sign of several disorders, ranging from poor dental health to cancer. Increased water consumption can be caused by diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, or other health problems.		Sudden weight loss can be a sign of hyperthyroidism, diabetes mellitus, or a host of other diseases. Obesity, on the other hand, can cause increased risk of diabetes mellitus, joint disease, and other problems.	
Changes in grooming	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes in sleeping habits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patches of hair loss or greasy or matted appearance can signal an underlying disease. Cats who have difficulty grooming often suffer from fear, anxiety, obesity, or other illness. An increase in grooming may signal a skin problem.		If your cat is sleeping more than normal (keep in mind that average adult cats may sleep 16-18 hours a day – though much of that is 'catnapping'), it could be a sign of an underlying disease.	
Changes in vocalization	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes in activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
An increase in vocalization or howling is often seen with an underlying condition like hyperthyroidism or high blood pressure. Many cats also vocalize more if they're in pain or anxious.		A decrease in activity is often a sign of arthritis or systemic illness, while an increase in activity can be caused by hyperthyroidism.	



Common Behavioral Problems in Kittens



Here are some common challenges that you may face with a new kitten

THE NIGHTTIME CIRCUS

Does your new kitten exhibit a burst of nighttime activity, leaving you with little sleep? This is a common complaint among kitten owners. Many kittens don't get a great deal of exercise or activity during the day. While you are at work, they spend the day sleeping. And in the evening, you may enjoy curling up on the sofa with your new companion. Thus, all that kitten energy explodes in the wee hours of the morning. To manage this problem, you need to channel your kitten's energy into activities when you are awake. A kitten that is kept awake all evening with games or chasing toys is much less likely to get into mischief in the middle of the night.

Make sure that you don't scream at your kitten or chase it when it exhibits this behavior. This only encourages the activity. If you can't ignore the behavior, you can deliver a remote punishment (e.g. a squirt of water). Of course, closing the bedroom door or slipping in some ear plugs may help to ensure a full night's slumber.

Also, do not get up and feed your kitten when it exhibits this activity. It will quickly learn that awakening you reaps great rewards, and if you try to stop this behavior, your kitten will often become more persistent. Consistent disregard on your part will eventually extinguish this behavior.

ANOTHER FINE MESS

Although they may weigh less than 5 lb., kittens can inflict substantial property damage in a relatively short time. Their main weapons of destruction are their front claws, although some kittens also chew items.

Scratching is normal and provides many benefits to cats – it stretches their muscles, leaves a scent and a visual mark, and grooms their nail beds. Cats are going to scratch. The key to successful management is to target the scratching at acceptable items in prominent locations. These scratching structures should be sturdy, either horizontal or vertical (depending what your kitten likes), and made from materials that your kitten favors. To find out what your kitten prefers, you can offer a variety of choices or mimic the shape and materials of unacceptable targets. You also must make unacceptable targets aversive (e.g. place double-stick tape or aluminum foil on them) or unavailable. Trim your kitten's nails weekly to keep its nails blunt. For difficult cases, consider soft rubber nail caps that are applied monthly (Soft Paws – Soft Paws, Inc., Three Rivers, Calif.).

Although it is less common, some kittens chew household items, especially string-like objects or plants. Just as you childproof your house, you need to kitten-proof. Keep plants out of reach. Unplug cords or place them out of reach, too. A protective covering for cords that can't be removed from the environment can be found at home improvement stores. A remote punishment may be effective; consider coating target items with an unpleasant material such as a commercial deterrent spray or bittering agent or attaching a motion alarm. It is important to provide acceptable items to chew: a small pot of wheat grass or a rawhide chew bone may help. Playing with fishing pole-type toys will tire the kitten and provide an appropriate outlet for oral activity.

INAPPROPRIATE PERCHES

It's normal for kittens to explore their environment and perch on high surfaces. By using the vertical space, kittens increase the relative size of their home environments and their ability to survey activity.

If you want to teach your kitten to stay off kitchen counters and dining room tables, first you must provide alternative vertical perches. Try placing a commercial scratching post or shelving near off limit surfaces, and encourage your kitten to use the acceptable perches by playing with your kitten on or near the perches, feeding treats on them, and praising your kitten when it uses the perches.

Next, make the unacceptable surfaces undesirable. It is best to have something that does not require your activation, because unless you are extremely covert in delivering a negative consequence (e.g. Squirting the kitten with water), the kitten may just learn not to jump on that surface when you are watching. Try placing double-stick tape. In addition, do not tempt your kitten onto counters or tables by leaving attractive items on them such as food, flowers or plants.

NOT ALL FUN AND GAMES

Cats, especially kittens, need appropriate outlets for play. If these needs aren't met, cats will sometimes use their owners as play targets. If your kitten becomes too excited or aroused, it may injure you. Over-exuberant play behavior toward another pet in the household may also result in problems.

Cats that exhibit play-related aggression need to have appropriate daily interactive play with remote toys. Initiate these play periods, and avoid any activity that results in your body being the target of the play. Try to anticipate such an attack, and redirect it onto a toy (e.g. carry a ball to toss). Avoid giving any type of reward for the play aggression – running and screaming may only encourage the behavior. Do not deliver any direct interactive punishment (e.g. don't hit the cat), because it may induce fear or defensive aggression. You can interrupt inappropriate play behavior by providing remote punishment (e.g. using a squirt bottle or an alarm) or leaving the room if the cat instigates inappropriate play. Adding another care of a similar age an energy level to your house is also an option.

Flea & Tick Prevention

Revolution Plus

- o Monthly topical
- o Safe after 8 weeks of age and must be at least 2.8 pounds.
- o Kills adult fleas, prevents flea infestations, and treats and controls tick infestations
- o Starts killing 4 types of ticks in 6 hours, and kills all fleas in 12 hours.
- o Protects against ear mites, roundworm, hookworm and heartworm.

Bravecto

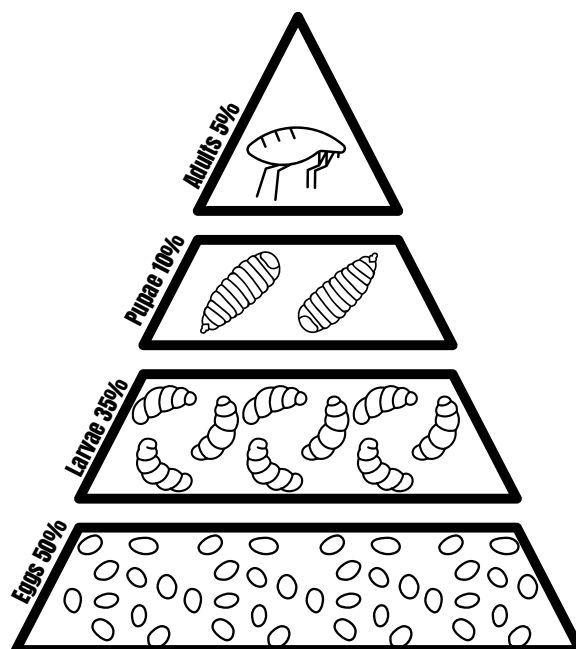
- o Topical
- o Lasts for 12 weeks (3 Months!)
- o Safe after 6 months of age and must be at least 2.6 pounds.
- o Starts killing fleas in 2 hours with full flea kill in 8 hours.
- o Kills 2 types of ticks.

Catego

- o Monthly Topical
- o Safe after 8 weeks of age and must be at least 1.5 pounds.
- o Full flea kill in 6 hours.

Flea & tick prevention is recommended year round as ticks can survive in Ohio's winter months.

The adult flea accounts for only 5% of the flea population. Once you are seeing adult fleas, there is a high chance of a flea infestation, as eggs, larvae and pupae make up 95% of the life cycle.



Poison-Proof Your Home



Living Room

- o Check out your plants – both inside and outside your home. Lilies can be especially poisonous to cats, so eliminate them from any bouquets.
- o Keep home fragrance products out of reach. This includes open dishes of liquid potpourri and simmer pots.
- o Don't spray aerosols or any heavily-fragranced products around caged birds or other caged pets.
- o Keep ashtrays and nicotine replacement products out of reach.

Kitchen

- o Know what foods are poisonous to pets. Watch out for sugar-free chewing gum with xylitol, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, onions, garlic, unbaked yeast bread dough, fatty foods and chocolate.
- o Keep garbage cans behind closed doors. Trash and compost bins can contain many pet toxins, such as cigarette butts, coffee grounds, moldy dairy products and chicken bones.
- o Keep alcoholic beverages out of reach.

Bathroom

- o Keep medications safely locked up in secure cupboards – don't leave them on countertops or tables. Do not store them in plastic zippered bags, which are easily chewed through. This includes inhalers, dietary aides and nutraceuticals.
- o Never medicate your pets with human products without first contacting your veterinarian.
- o Always check the container before giving medication to your pet to make sure it's the correct medication. In addition, store your own medications separately from your pets.
- o Pet Poison Helpline 1-800-213-6680 receives many calls from people who accidentally gave their own medication to a pet.
- o Keep pets away from cleaning products. Shut them out of the room while spraying bathroom cleansers or other products.
- o Close toilet lids to keep pets from drinking water, especially if you use automatic chemical tank or bowl treatments.

Utility Room

- o Keep rodenticides far away from pets. Keep in mind that rodents can transfer the toxins to accessible locations. Certain rodenticide products do not have treatment antidotes. Check products to learn their ingredients and possible toxicity to pets.
- o Do not use insecticides around your pet without knowing their toxicity profile. Read labels and use products only as recommended. Never use dog flea and tick products on cats.
- o Don't leave batteries lying around. Dogs enjoy chewing on them, and they can cause serious harm if ingested.
- o Keep glues out of reach – they can be tasty but some may cause serious harm. In fact, certain glues expand greatly in the stomach, leading to bowel obstructions. Keep pets out of the room when using glue on a home improvement project.

Garage

- o Ethylene Glycol (antifreeze) products are extremely toxic to pets. Choose propylene glycol products as a safer alternative, or keep pets far away from any ethylene glycol product. If you spill any on a driveway, clean it up immediately, or dilute it with several gallons of water. Keep all automotive products – like windshield washer fluid – away from pets and immediately clean up any spills.

Outside

- o Dogs like to eat certain fertilizers such as bone meal or blood meal. Keep bags tightly sealed and use products according to label instructions.
- o Grub or snail killers – especially those that include metaldehyde – can be harmful to pets. Avoid them if possible.
- o Yard insecticides that contain organophosphates or carbamates can be very dangerous if ingested in high concentrations.
- o Keep pets off lawns until commercially-sprayed herbicides are completely dry.

Household Resources Checklist



Basic Supplies	Yes	No
Are basics provided in a convenient location that provide safety and some privacy during use (i.e. away from appliances or machinery that could start unexpectedly)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does each cat have its own food bowl?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does each cat have its own water bowl?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does each cat have its own litter box in a well-ventilated location (1 box per cat +1)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the litter kept clean and scooped as soon as possible after use or at least daily?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is unscented clumping litter used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are containers washed weekly with mild detergent such as dishwashing liquid?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structural Features	Yes	No
Can each cat move around freely, exploring, climbing, stretching & playing if it chooses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are climbing structures or opportunities provided?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does each cat have its own scratching post?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does each cat have its own resting area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does each cat have a "perch" so it can look down on its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is a radio or television on when the cat is home alone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Social Contact	Yes	No
Does each cat have the opportunity to engage in play with another animal or the owner if it chooses on a daily basis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you spend individual time petting each cat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you spend individual time playing with each cat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Body Care & Activity	Yes	No
Does each cat have toys that mimic quickly moving prey?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does each cat have toys that can be picked up, carried, and tossed in the air?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are toys rotated on a regular basis (at least weekly) to provide novelty?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your cat being combed/brushed at least once weekly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Litter Box Basics



Litter Box	Most kittens are naturally attracted to a litter box for elimination. Problems tend to arise when the litter box isn't accessible, clean, or attractive. Sometimes a kitten discovers alternative, equally attractive elimination spots such as the dirt in a potted plant. It is easier to avoid a litter box problem than to fix one.	Have one litter box per cat plus one extra litter box.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Avoid covered litter boxes. Most cats do not like them.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Scoop the litter box at least once a day.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Totally change the litter once a week.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Put the litter boxes in various places. Avoid places where there is a loud noise or where air blows on them, like the furnace.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Keep the litter box in a room where the dog does not have access to it.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Have your cat neutered at a young age to prevent spraying.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litter Box Problems	When your kitty won't use the litter box	Rule out any medical problem (i.e. bladder infection, cystitis).	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Give your cat a choice of different litter. Some cats don't like certain types of litter (i.e. clumping, fragranced, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Move the litter boxes. Your cat may not like the location.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Have the cat neutered if still intact.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Retrain your cat to use the litter box. Put them in one room with the litter box (preferably a room that has a hard floor that is easy to clean up). When your cat gets good at using the litter box in that one room...they get the privilege of two rooms...etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Disinfect and clean the spots with an enzymatic cleaner where your cat has inappropriately eliminated. This may deter them from using that spot again.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Zoonotic Diseases



A zoonotic disease is an infectious disease that people can catch from animals, and vice versa. Regular veterinary visits, preventative vaccinations and medications, and good hygiene can help prevent them.

Hookworm

Hookworms are thick worms that are whitish to reddish brown with a hooked front end.

o Signs and symptoms

- Puppies and kittens: Anemia and pale mucous membranes, failure to gain weight, poor hair coat, dehydration, and dark, tarry diarrhea.
- Adult dogs and cats: Usually few signs, often the source of infection for puppies; can cause severe anemia, diarrhea, and weight loss in extreme cases.
- People: Red, itchy, serpentine lesions on the skin.

o How it's transmitted

- Puppies and kittens: Crossing the placenta and through the mother's milk.
- Dogs, cats and people: Ingesting them in feces and from the worms penetrating the skin (often from infected soil).

o How to prevent it

- Deworm puppies & kittens every 2 weeks until they can receive a monthly control product.
- Promptly remove animal feces from your yard and litter boxes.
- Monitor children playing outside and cover their sandboxes when not in use.
- Wear shoes and gloves when gardening.
- Wash hands thoroughly after playing outside or exposure to soil.

Roundworm

Roundworms are worms that are usually tightly coiled when passed and look like spaghetti.

o Signs and symptoms

- Puppies and kittens: Failure to gain weight, poor hair coat, pot-bellied appearance; puppies 4-6 months of age with heavy infections may expel a large amount of worms in the vomit.
- Adult cats and dogs: Vomiting
- People: Pneumonia-like symptoms, skin staining from damage to internal organs, and irritated retinas from damage to eyes.

o How it's transmitted

- Puppies and kittens: Crossing through the placenta from the mother, and ingesting eggs in feces.
- Adult dogs and cats: Ingesting eggs in feces and in infected animals like rodents.
- People: Ingesting eggs through feces in soil or on pets and ingesting items contaminated with infected feces.

o How to prevent it

- Deworm puppies every 2 weeks until they can receive a monthly control product.
- Treat infected pets to prevent shedding of eggs in feces.
- Promptly remove animal feces from yard and litter boxes.
- Wash hands thoroughly after playing outside or exposure to soil.

Toxoplasmosis

Toxoplasmosis is protozoan parasite that infects virtually all mammals and birds.

o Signs and symptoms

- Cats: Rarely causes clinical signs, but may cause coughing, shortness of breath, fever, weight loss, and lethargy.
- People: Rarely causes clinical signs, but may cause flu-like symptoms; in people with deficient immune responses it can lead to death, congenital malformation, or mental retardation.

o How it's transmitted

- Cats: Ingesting oocysts (egg cells) in feces and in infected animals like rodents.
- People: Ingesting uncooked meat and being exposed to infected cat feces.

o How to prevent it

- Keep cats indoors to prevent ingestion of infected animals and feces
- Avoid feeding uncooked meats to cats.
- Remove feces from litter box daily.
- Wash litter boxes with scalding water or steam.
- Allow only non-pregnant people with uncompromised immune systems to clean litter boxes.
- Wash hand thoroughly after exposure to soil, sand, raw meats, and unwashed vegetables.
- Wear gloves when gardening.
- Cover children's sandboxes when not in use.

Non Zoonotic Diseases

Tapeworm

Tapeworms are intestinal worms with a flattened, ribbon-like appearance.

o Signs and symptoms

- Dogs and cats: Anal discomfort and itching that often results in pets dragging their hind ends across the floor.
- People: Most are without symptoms, but diarrhea, abdominal pain, and anal itching are possible.

o How it's transmitted

- Dogs and cats: Ingesting infected fleas and tissue of infected animals like mice and rabbits
- People: Ingesting infected fleas.

o How to prevent it

- Monthly flea control for all pets



How Old Is Your Cat



Age	1-20 lbs
1	7
2	13
3	20
4	26
5	33
6	40
7	44
8	48
9	52
10	56
11	60
12	64
13	68
14	72
15	76
16	80
17	84
18	88
19	92
20	96
21	100
22	104
23	108
24	112