

Congratulations!

Congratulations on your new kitten! All the responsibilities can be overwhelming, especially when there are so many sources of information at your fingertips. Our goal is to clearly summarize what we here at the Glenview Animal Hospital recommend. We also want you to know that we are only a phone call away. Getting a good start with your kitten will lead to a long and happy life!



Indoors vs. Outdoors

In general, it is recommended that your kitten be kept indoors. Especially if you are planning on having your kitten declawed. If your kitten spends time outdoors, they are at a greater risk for many diseases, parasites and trauma. If your kitten will be going outside, please do not hesitate to discuss this with us. We will want to discuss different protocols for vaccinations and parasite control.

Reasons to stay indoors:

- Viruses
- Trauma
- Lost or Stolen
- Parasites: internal and external
- Zoonotic (contagious to humans) parasites and diseases
- Decreased life expectancy
- Additional vaccines and parasite control

The Adult Years

The Adult Years

Adulthood 1-7 years

- Yearly wellness exams are recommended
- Physical examination
 - Opportunity to discuss feeding, behavior, and other concerns
 - Annual booster vaccination
 - Prescribe flea and tick preventative when needed
 - Address any concerns found on physical examination



Senior Years

Greater than 7 years

We have found that many of the problems that we see in older cats begin to creep up as early as seven years of age. Animals, by nature, do not show signs of disease until they simply can not hide it any longer. Often, by that time, it is too late to eliminate the problem. It is for this reason that veterinary medicine has learned that it is extremely important to screen for issues before they become apparent.

Wellness examinations twice a year are recommended at this age. One visit we will continue to do the yearly adulthood care and on the six month visit we will perform a full blood panel and urinalysis to screen for early disease processes. Remember, doing this once a year is analogous to doing it every six to eight years in a person. A cat's physiology changes at a much faster rate than people's physiology.



Kitten Care

What to Expect the First Year



2400 Waukegan Road

Glenview, IL 60025

847-724-4812

*Dedicated to providing
compassionate & comprehensive
care for your pet*

Your Kitten's First Year

Our goal is to maintain wellness in your kitten through disease prevention. The following are the recommendations of our staff to help achieve this goal.

Vaccinations

Core Vaccinations

Distemper Complex

- Actually contains 3 vaccines: Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia
- Must be given every 3 weeks until 16 weeks of age
- Generally a minimum of three vaccinations
- Boostered Yearly

Rabies

- *Required by law*
- Given once as a kitten at 16 weeks of age
- Boostered Yearly

Non-Core or Elective Vaccinations

Leukemia Vaccination

- Given ONLY to cats who go outside or are exposed to outside cats
- 2 vaccination series as a kitten
- Boostered Yearly



Internal and External Parasites

Intestinal Parasites

Roundworms and Hookworms

- All kittens are assumed to be carrying these worms at birth
- Can cause serious illness in humans, especially children
- Kittens should be dewormed two to three times during the first 4 months

Flea Prevention

- Revolution is the recommended product
- Applied topically once monthly
- Needed April-October in this climate
- Safer than the more generalized insecticides available at the pet stores
- Fleas also carry tapeworms and other diseases such as typhus and the plague



Microchipping

- A major advantage in re-uniting lost pets with owners. Even cats who are strictly indoors could possibly run outside and get away from home
- Size and shape of a grain of rice
- Implanted at time of spay or neuter
- Not a tracking device- gives a serial number that can be scanned at most veterinary hospitals and shelters

Spaying and Neutering

- Recommended at six months of age
- This age decreases chances of medical issues from being spayed or neutered at too young of an age or too old
- Also will decrease chances of behavioral issues such as aggression and "marking"



Dental Care

- 2nd most common health problem in cats (#1 obesity)
- Dry food is best for dental maintenance
- Brushing will promote oral health
- Chew toys and dental treats help
- Periodic professional cleaning will be recommended at yearly exams if required
- The more home maintenance done, the less frequent professional cleanings needed