



Railway Veterinary Clinic

Station Road

Loughrea

Co. Galway

Tel. 091 841 935

Fax. 091 847 383

James J. Smyth, M.V.B., Cert. S.H.P., M.R.C.V.S.

Megan Evans, B.V.Sc.

Routine Check List for Kittens

Feeding

At this age we recommend Hills Kitten Food. The Hills range is specifically designed to provide the correct levels of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals for a growing kittens. There is no need to use supplements, but always ensure there is a constant supply of drinking water. There is no need to give milk, as this can actually cause diarrhoea. At 12 months of age your kitten can move on to Hills Adult to continue optimum development.

Vaccination

This begins with two vaccinations 3 to 4 weeks apart. This course will protect your cat from cat 'flu, enteritis and feline leukaemia. To maintain your cat's health against these diseases a yearly booster is required - we will send you a reminder when this is due.

Insurance

Pet health insurance to cover veterinary fees is essential these days. Unexpected illness or accident can be very costly, but being insured means that your pet's health is never compromised. Don't put it off until it is too late - it only costs from as little as € 11.77 per month!

Cats		
Crossbreed	€11.77	€141.23
Pedigree	€12.89	€154.68

Worming

This is necessary for all kittens. Initially for kittens we recommend dosing at 6 weeks of age and every 4 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then every month until 6 months of age. After 6 months of age we recommend dosing every 3 months.

Flea Control

Spot-on treatments are easy to use. A single tube is applied to the back of the neck and gives your kitten one month of protection. These products are environmentally friendly and are not toxic to the animals. For year round cover simply apply one tube per month. It helps to treat the house as well.

Neutering

This is a most important subject. Our policy is to spay and castrate all cats from 6 months of age. If left un-neutered your cat will have to be managed very carefully at every season and could have an

unwanted pregnancy. If left unneutered your cat could spray in the house and will be much more likely to roam and therefore potentially be injured on the road. There are other health issues that can be avoided by neutering your cat also, we would be happy to discuss these with you.

Dental Care

We clean our teeth twice a day - imagine what our mouths would be like if we didn't - cats are no exception! It's important to develop a dental care regime at an early age to get your kitten used to brushing his teeth. We suggest cat specific toothpaste and a finger toothbrush to apply it as it is extremely easy to use. In fact your kitten will probably regard it as a treat! This should be used daily to keep your kitten's mouth in tiptop condition. Alternatively you could start by dipping your finger in tuna water and gently rubbing this finger over your pets gums. Start with the front teeth first. When your pet is at ease with this activity you can gradually introduce your special toothbrush. Never use human toothpaste, as it can upset your pet's stomach. Hill's T/D diet is ideal for removing plaque as it is eaten, during each bite.

House Training

Usually your kitten has learnt to use a litter tray from its mother. If not, then place the tray in an accessible place and make sure that it is always kept clean as a kitten may reject a dirty litter tray. As your kitten grows older then he will start to go out in the garden too.

Behaviour & General Training

Use a firm 'No' to discourage your kitten and remember to be consistent. It is important to use their name and give a simple command. Don't forget we are at the other end of the telephone, don't let behavioural problems get you down. Our staff would be happy to listen and offer constructive suggestions to help you overcome any difficulties you may be experiencing with your kitten.

Microchips

This is when a tiny microchip (about the size of a grain of rice) is injected under the loose skin of the neck. The microchip's unique 15 digit code is registered with a pet database. This provides your pet with a secure proof of identity - unlike collar tags that can be lost and can be taken off. If your pet should get lost it would be taken to the local authorities, a charity organization or veterinary centre. Immediately on arrival the animal would be scanned - and you would be reunited with your pet as soon as possible. To microchip costs approximately €40 and this affords life long registration.

The above points are a brief summary of some of the beliefs and protocols of this Practice.

If you would like to discuss anything, or would like a bit of advice, do not hesitate to contact us - it's what we are here for!