



# Ark House Vets

'we care like you care'

## Your new kitten – a checklist:

**Vaccination** - Vaccinations against Cat Flu (herpes and calicivirus) and Feline Enteritis are needed for all cats even if they will not be going outside. Cats that will be allowed outdoors should also be vaccinated against feline leukaemia virus (FeLV). Two vaccinations are needed, at 8 and 12 weeks of age. Thereafter, an annual booster injection is needed to maintain the level of immunity.

**Microchip:** A microchip is a way of permanently identifying your cat, so that you can be reunited if they get handed in as a stray or after being injured. Unlike a collar, the microchip cannot be lost. Implanting a microchip can be done from a young age in a normal appointment, without the need for an anaesthetic and is not expensive. Ask a member of staff for more details.

**Worming:** Kittens should be wormed at the time of the first and second vaccinations. After this, on average cats should be wormed every 3 months. If you have young children you should consider worming monthly as roundworms may pose a health risk especially to children and people with poor immunity. Indoor cats will not need worming as often as this, but cats that hunt a lot may need worming every month. *If you find giving your cat tablets difficult, you are not alone!* Our nurses can administer a tablet for you, or you might prefer to use a 'spot on' wormer which is applied to the skin. Any of our staff will be happy to discuss the needs of your individual cat with you.

**Flea treatment:** Fleas are small blood sucking insects that use cats and kittens for a good meal. They also bite people. Fleas can cause severe anaemia in kittens and skin disease in all cats. Some kittens will already have fleas when they are re-homed and there are safe products available from the Veterinary Surgery to treat kittens from 2 days old if required. Be careful with products from elsewhere, as they may be unsafe or ineffective. If there are no other pets in the household, flea treatment may not be needed until your kitten is going outside. Ask a member of staff for further information.

**Diet:** It is important to feed a diet which is designed for kittens rather than adult cats, to ensure the right nutrients are present for growth and development. Ask a member of staff for more information and some free samples.

**Neutering:** This is usually carried out at 6 months of age for both males (castration) and females (spaying). If female cats are going outdoors before this time and there may be a tom cat about, we sometimes spay at 5 months to avoid unwanted pregnancy. For more information about neutering, please ask a member of staff.

**Insurance:** Insuring your cat will give you peace of mind that if they have an illness, accident or injury, they can receive the best possible care without you having to worry about the cost. Whilst you look around to find the best policy for your kitten, the practice can provide you with 4 weeks insurance with Pet Plan, free of charge. Please ask at reception to arrange this or for more information.



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