



## **Your New Kitten**

### **Vaccinations:**

Our vaccination schedule for kittens is as follows:

- 6 weeks: CVR
- 9 weeks: Feline Leukemia
- 12 weeks: CVR and Feline Leukemia
- 16 weeks: Rabies Vaccine

Vaccines are extremely important in kittens. Our vaccines protect against feline rhinotracheitis (caused by herpesvirus), feline panleukopenia, feline calicivirus and Chlamydia. We also recommend the feline leukemia vaccine for all cats. This vaccine is separate, but highly recommended especially in multiple cat households or cats with any access to the outdoors. Once your kitten has the rabies vaccine at 16 weeks of age, we will only need to booster vaccines once a year.

Vaccine reactions are extremely rare, but can be seen in kittens. As such, we like to give all kitten vaccines in the morning and encourage you to monitor your kitten throughout the day for signs such as swelling of the lips, hives, vomiting or increased breathing rate. If a vaccine reaction does occur, please contact us immediately and we can advise you what to do next.

### **Spaying or Neutering your pet:**

Spaying or neutering your cat is highly recommended. With these procedures, cats may have surgery around 6 months of age. These procedures not only avoid unwanted pregnancies, but are also highly effective at preventing various diseases such as mammary tumors and testicular tumors. They often help with urinary marking in male cats as well. These procedures do require general anesthesia. We ask that you call and schedule a day for the procedure. On that day, you will drop off your kitten in the morning and pick them up that afternoon. We do ask that you remove all food around 8:00 PM the night before the surgery and remove the water bowl around 7:00 AM the morning of the surgery.

**Heartworms:**

Heartworms are a parasite transmitted by mosquitoes. Mosquito bites can transmit the larva to your pet, which then grows into an adult worm. These adult worms take up residence in the right ventricle of the heart and the pulmonary vessels. If left untreated, this disease can lead to congestive heart failure and death. Prevention is key, as treatment is expensive and can be dangerous. A monthly heartworm preventative can be purchased on our website, [www.coolspringsah.com](http://www.coolspringsah.com). These tablets are highly effective at prevention and are easy to administer monthly. This prevention can be started when your kitten is about 16 weeks old. We recommend Interceptor or Heartguard Plus products for your kitten.

**Flea and Tick Control:**

Fleas and ticks are another problem your pet may encounter. Fleas cause itching and can lead to a flea allergy and hair loss. Ticks carry many infectious diseases, most importantly Cytauxzoonosis. This can be a fatal disease, so flea and tick prevention is highly recommended for any cats that have access to the outdoors. Ectoparasite prevention is usually applied topically once a month. There are a few products on the market that are labeled for cats. These can be purchased over the counter at various pet and other retail stores. These products have different ages when you may begin application, so check the label to make sure your kitten is old enough to receive the product. Be sure to read the label carefully, as some products are not labeled for feline use. We highly recommend Easy Spot and Frontline Plus for your cat. When applying these medications, be sure to not bathe your kitten 2 days prior and 2 days after application. We do not typically recommend the use of flea and tick collars, Hartz products or grocery store brand products.

**Fecal Worms:**

We typically screen kittens for fecal parasites such as hookworms on their first visit to the vet. If these parasites show up on a fecal evaluation, we can provide you with the appropriate dewormer. Intestinal worms are not as common in kittens as they are in puppies.

**FeLV/FIV Combo Tests:**

Most kittens we see have previously had a combo test done to test for exposure to either Feline Leukemia (FeLV) or Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). If your kitten has not been tested for these two serious diseases, we highly recommend having a test done prior to beginning the FeLV vaccine series. These two diseases are fatal in cats and spread cat-to-cat through close interaction or fighting. This is especially important for cats in multi-cat households or cats that live indoor/outdoor or strictly outdoors.

At Cool Springs Animal Hospital, we know a new kitten can be both exciting and overwhelming. Please do not hesitate to ask questions either in person or on the phone. We are happy to give you any advice or information whenever questions arise.