

Important Information for Your New Cat

Vaccinations

Start FVRCP (Feline Distemper, respiratory viruses) vaccine between 6-8 weeks of age.

Booster FVRCP vaccine every 3-4 weeks until 14-16 weeks old.

Rabies vaccine given at time of last FVRCP vaccine.

After this it's once a year.

Feline Leukemia is transmitted through body fluid exchange with another cat. If your cat is an inside cat with no contact with other cats, this vaccine is optional. If your cat is in contact with other cats, we recommend vaccinating your cat for Feline Leukemia. The Leukemia vaccine can be combined with the Feline Distemper vaccine. There is no cure for Feline Leukemia.

Worming

It is recommended that all kittens be wormed when you first get them. The general wormer is inexpensive and does not harm your cat if they do not have worms. Adult cats can be wormed annually, or if you notice any loose stools or worms in the stool. You can bring in a stool sample when you come for annual shots for the doctor to check for worm eggs.

Declawing

Cats recover from this surgery very quickly. We usually only declaw the front feet, but can declaw all four if the owner feels it's necessary. Cats can be declawed anytime after they are 8 weeks of age. After the surgery, the doctor wraps the paws in pressure bandages to control any bleeding. The bandages are removed before the cat goes home. There are no stitches to be removed. We recommend using a pelleted litter or shredded newspaper or paper for 3-4 days after surgery to help prevent infections. If a paw would start to bleed, applying pressure with a paper towel or Kleenex can usually stop it.

Spaying/Neutering

Female cats can be spayed after 6 months of age. Male cats can be neutered after 9 months of age. The doctor waits until the cat is nearly mature before performing these surgeries. Cats who are fixed at an early age, particularly male cats, can have problems later in life with urinary obstructions. It is difficult to catheterize a cat, but especially difficult when they have been fixed too early. Male cats will have no stitches to be taken out after surgery. Female cats will have stitches that need to be taken out in 10-14 days. There is no charge for suture removal.

All Surgeries

The doctor does surgical procedures Mondays through Thursdays. We have the owner drop the animal off in the morning, and surgery is done that afternoon. The animal can be picked back up anytime the next day. The owner is asked to withhold food and water after midnight the night before bringing the animal in for surgery.

Flea Control

Fleas are external parasites that bite the cat and suck blood. The bite irritates the skin and will cause scratching. The scratching can result in hair loss, hot spots, rash, etc. If the cat develops a flea bite allergy, the symptoms get much worse. The best way to control fleas is to prevent them from getting on your cat. There are a variety of products that are sold over the counter from spot on products and shampoos to sprays. In our office, we recommend using Frontline Plus, Vectra, or ProMeris. All three products are sold in three dose packages. Frontline Plus is also effective against ticks. We also offer a premise spray if the cat's environment becomes effected by fleas.

Tick Control

Cats that are outdoors a lot, will often encounter ticks. Again we use Frontline Plus to prevent most tick infestation.