

Congratulations on getting your new kitten and welcome to the Rowan family!

You've just entered a very exciting time but we know that it's also a period when there can be a lot to try to remember. This handout is full of advice direct from the Rowan Veterinary Team to give you a first point of reference for the FAQs you are sure to have. We're delighted you have trusted us with your kitten's health and just want to remind you that one of our own vets is on call 24/7 in case of an emergency- just call the usual number.



At Rowan, we are aware that the earliest experiences in a kitten's life affect the way he or she develops, which is why we want to encourage you to pop in for a healthcheck consultation before first vaccination.

What should I expect when we first come to Rowan, apart from a warm welcome?

FREE vet check & nurse cuddle consult

A full veterinary health and and weight check

A chance for your kitten to get used to being at the vets without any extra, potentially scary, elements

Flea/worming treatment demonstration with 1 month's free NexGard Combo

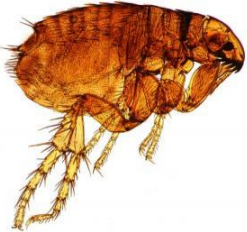
4 weeks' free insurance with Petplan®

Discussion of the issues raised in this leaflet and of any other questions you may have

Following the healthcheck consultation we will book your kitten in for vaccination, after which we offer a free program of monthly weight clinics. Please turn over for more detailed information on the main important kitten topics.

VACCINATIONS

An initial course of 2 injections is given 3 weeks apart with the first being given from 8 weeks of age and the second from 11 weeks. Your kitten is free to go out two weeks after the 2nd injection. It is important to boost this vaccination annually to maintain protection against diseases such as cat flu and leukaemia. At Rowan we aim to use the best vaccine available and have ensured that we use a vaccine which protects against feline leukaemia virus.



FLEA PREVENTION

All cats are liable to catch fleas if they are not treated regularly. With central heating creating an ideal environment for fleas, treatment is required all year round.

At Rowan, we recommend 'NexGard Combo' spot-on because we believe it is the most effective flea and tick control available. Applied monthly, it also prevents ear mites and roundworms (see below). Beware: Many pet-shop products are not effective at treating fleas.



WORM CONTROL

Kittens need to be wormed every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then monthly for life. Worms can be dangerous to pets. They also pose a risk to humans, particularly children; some may even cause blindness. You do not need to see adult worms for your pet to be infected as most animals only shed the eggs in their faeces.

At Rowan, we recommend 'NexGard Combo' spot-on applied monthly to control roundworm and tapeworm.

MICROCHIP

We advise microchipping your kitten at 2nd Vaccination. Having your kitten microchipped takes just a couple of minutes and means that he or she can be returned to you if found. Microchips are also necessary for identification if travelling abroad.

NORMAL BEHAVIOUR AND REQUIREMENTS

Allow your kitten to 'hunt' by providing varying toys. If he or she won't play then try a different toy. You can hide food or catnip in toys to enable your kitten to 'catch' something at the end of the hunt. Kittens should be able to stretch to full length to scratch and stretch the back muscles, remove old nail sheaths and to mark boundaries so providing a scratching post or alternative is important.



Many of the behavioural problems adult cats present with are associated with unwanted expressions of normal feline behaviour. By being aware of natural feline behaviour and modifying the environment accordingly we are able to minimise stress and the risk of behavioural problems (and disease) developing.

Kittens require free and immediate access to food and water in separate locations from one another and in a private place as cats are solitary animals. It is necessary to provide more than one private resting place and ensure that there are safe entry and exit points within the territory. Litter trays should be in a private place and at the perimeter of a room. In multi-cat households it is necessary to have at least one litter tray per cat plus a spare. Access to 3-D space is also beneficial (e.g. wardrobes, cat furniture, shelves etc) as are places to hide such as cardboard boxes.

SOCIALISATION

Kittens are most sensitive to socialisation between 2 and 7 weeks old so it is important to begin socialising your kitten as soon as he or she gets home. Gently lift, restrain and examine your kitten little and often and expose him or her to several people of different ages. Allow your kitten to explore independently to build confidence.

We recommend the use of Feliway plug-ins or sprays for the first month your kitten is in his or her new home. It is also useful to use the spray in the car and the cat basket, which should always be left out with the lid off and bedding inside, as well as the odd treat!

INSURANCE

At Rowan we are big fans of pet insurance. Owning a kitten can be expensive as it is but unexpected treatment costs can be very unwelcome and sometimes, sadly,

unaffordable. With pet insurance you can rest assured your furry friend is covered for all eventualities and we recommend you get a "Lifetime" policy. We do direct claims with Animal Friends, Argos, John Lewis, Kennel Club, M&S, More Than, Pet Plan, Sainsburys and Tesco. See our leaflet "The Importance of Insurance" for further information.



NUTRITION

It is important for development to feed a kitten diet for the first 6 months. We recommend Hills Vet Essentials which is a good quality dry diet. Specific advice is found on the side of the packet. Remember, every kitten is an individual and regular free weight checks are the best way to stay on track.

Ask us about toxins!

e below) your kitten's appetite will increase whilst his or her daily requirement for food will decrease. Many pet cats are therefore overweight and more susceptible to disease. To prevent this occurrence we recommend feeding Vet Essentials Neutered Cat.

DENTAL CARE

A dry diet is much better for dental health than a wet diet. We also recommend use of Hills t/d twice a day as a treat to maintain dental health. We offer a free consult with one of our nurses to demonstrate this and to discuss related issues.



There are dietary supplements available to aid dental health, such as Dentagen products, and you can even brush your kitten's teeth!

NEUTERING

In the UK it is routine to neuter unless you plan to breed from your cat, thus preventing unwanted territorial and mating behaviour as well as unwanted pregnancies. For queens (females) the procedure is a spay and for toms (males) it is a castration. Your kitten can be neutered from 12 weeks of age. However, this is dependent on each individual kitten so book in for a complimentary neutering consultation where you can discuss the right time the vet. Please note that once your kitten has been neutered he or she will need less food (see above)!

We hope you have found this pamphlet helpful, please do ask any questions you have and at Rowan we always value your feedback!