



## **First Paw Kitten Information**

Congratulations on the arrival of your new kitten. We have put together some information you might find useful regarding your kitten's health and environmental needs. When introducing your kitten to their new home please ensure a quiet and gradual introduction to the house for the first 24 hours. If you have other pets, consider separating them from each other for the first few days until they get to know of each other's presence in the house. Kittens love to play so ensure they have access to lots of toys, things to hide in, and scratching posts to climb is beneficial.

### **Vaccinations**

These are important for your kitten to receive in their first few months of life to ensure they receive full protection from the following diseases - Feline parvovirus, rhinotracheitis and calicivirus. Your kitten will require a total of 3 vaccinations before they are fully protected. These are given at 6-8 weeks, 10-12 weeks, and 14-16 weeks. They will then require a yearly F3 booster.

If your cat will be spending some time outdoors we also strongly recommend vaccinating them against Feline Aids (FIV) which they can contract from other cats. They will require three initial vaccinations (2-4 weeks apart) and then a yearly booster. This can be given at the same time as their other vaccinations.

### **Diet**

Feeding your kitten a good quality balanced diet is very important to ensure they grow and develop properly. We recommend feeding a premium brand (eg. Royal Canin) of kitten food as these are generally made with higher quality ingredients. This can be either dry food and/or wet food, however dry food is better for their teeth. If you are changing the brand of food from what the breeder or shelter was using, we recommend transitioning slowly over 7 days to avoid tummy upsets.



### **Worming**

Kittens need to be wormed to protect them from roundworm, whipworm, hookworm and tapeworm. Kittens need to be wormed **every 2 weeks** from 2 - 12 weeks of age, then **monthly** from 12 weeks - 6 months, then **every 3 months** for life. We recommend using a high quality product either via tablets or spot on treatments. All in one products such as Advocate are a great option that protect against both fleas and worms. Please note these do not cover against tapeworm, so we recommend additional Popantel for tapeworm protection.

### **Fleas**

We recommend protecting your kitten against flea's especially if they will be spending time outdoors or if you have a multi-pet household (ie. both dogs and cats). There are many products available, we recommend and use Advocate or Advantage .

We understand the exposure to parasites is very much reduced for strictly indoor apartment cats and that some cat owners elect not to cover against them. However we still advise it especially for new kittens, rescue cats and cats fed a raw diet.

### **House training**

Most kittens will inherently house train themselves as long as they have access to a clean litterbox in close proximity. To start with you might want to confine your cat to a small area (eg laundry/bathroom) with a litter box to encourage them to toilet there. They will need to go after eating, playing and sleeping, so placing them in this area at these times will encourage them to use the box. Cats are hygienic creatures so please ensure the litter box is cleaned and changed regularly to prevent toileting issues. The number of litter boxes per household should be 1 per cat + 1 extra.

### **Desexing**

Unless you are planning to breed with your cat, all kittens should be desexed between 5-6 months of age. We can recommend a range of clinics to have these procedures performed at.