



1133 S. Fort Thomas Ave, Fort Thomas, KY 859-781-7387

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW KITTEN

We are so happy you have a new “furry” addition to your family. Your first year with your new kitty will consist of three different vet visits, and a neuter or spay, if needed.

FIRST VISIT

New kitten physical exam
Feline leukemia/FIV/heartworm test
Intestinal Parasite exam
Three doses of Nemex dewormer
First series of upper-respiratory vaccine (FVRCP)
Free Nail Trim
Complementary take-home bag

SECOND VISIT (3-4 weeks later)

Second office call (20 minutes)
First series of Felv vaccine (outdoor cat only)
Second series of FVRCP
Free nail Trim

THIRD VISIT (3-4 weeks later at 12 wks of age or older)

Third office call
Third series of FVRCP – last one year
Second series of Felv – last one year (outdoor cat only)
Rabies shot – lasts one year
Microchip
Free nail trim
Scheduling of your spay/neuter (due at four months and four pounds)

After your kitten’s final visit, bring your animal in once a year for a physical exam. We will send you a reminder email or postal mail. After the first series of vaccines, the others last 3 years with the exception of the feline leukemia vaccine, which is a necessary vaccine every year.

Bringing your Kitten Home

Here are some steps you can take to prepare you home for your new kitten:

- Setup a private room closed off to any other animals you may have
- Have a clean fresh litter box and fresh food and water ready
- Kitties love toys. Ask our staff on which ones they recommend
- Having a cat carrier is highly recommended



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Introducing your Kitten to Existing Pets

Your new kitten, and any other animals in the household, will require some adjustment to their new surroundings.

The kitten room will alert existing animals of a change. This is when your cat carrier will come in handy. The carrier will allow the animals to be introduced to each other without the threat of harming one another. Once the animals have calmed down slowly take the kitten out of the carrier and allow physical contact. If everyone is okay with this, put the kitten on your lap and allow them to sniff and to get acquainted. Expect some hissing, and swatting. As long as you're there to make sure everything is going well, it's usually best to let them sort it out for themselves.

Following the introductions it would be a good time to show the kitten to his/her new home. Show where the food and litter box are located allowing a safe haven for your kitten. Although cats have adapted to living with people and other household pets, most still need an adjustment period. You may be able to introduce them within a day, or it may take several days. Keep your kitten secure in her/his private area until you are sure she/he is safe with your other pets when unsupervised.

You can expect a few behaviors with your new kitty: hiding, lack of appetite, hissing/growling, and possibly an upset stomach to new a few. Call us if he/she doesn't feel well after 48 hours.

Diet

We recommend feeding a mix of dry kitten food along with a small amount of canned food. Dry food can be left down for snacking throughout the day, with canned offered once to twice daily. If possible, continue feeding your kitten the same food she's accustomed to, gradually mixing in her new food over a couple of weeks. A sudden diet change can cause intestinal upset, including vomiting and diarrhea.

"Kitten-Proofing" Your Home

Be aware that many common household items present dangers for a kitten. These include, but are not limited to; electrical cords, strings hanging from blinds, small objects that can cause a choking hazard, some houseplants and flowers. Take a look at your house from a kitten's perspective to see what you think might entice her into a dangerous situation.

Prevention of Litter Box Issues

Keep the litter box clean. Scoop daily and change the entire contents weekly, cleaning with soap and water. Place it in a low-traffic area, for privacy. If you have a multiple-cat household, the general rule of thumb is to have one box for each cat, plus one. (For example, if you have two cats, you should have three boxes.)

If your kitten or cat suddenly stops using the box, she could have a medical issue, so call us as soon as you notice any change in litter box habits.



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Spay/Neuter

We strongly urge you to have your kitten spayed or neutered, even if you have an indoor-only cat. This can prevent medical problems down the road, as well as many behavioral issues, such as spraying/markings in the house. It also ensures that your pet does not contribute to the increasing problem of overpopulation.

Scratching and Destruction

Please keep in mind that scratching is an instinctive and normal feline behavior, so you should not punish your cat for clawing the furniture. Instead, provide him or her with an acceptable alternative. Before you take the drastic step of declawing your cat, make note of his/her favorite subjects to scratch and provide a substitute, such as a scratching post that has a similar texture. First, cover the object your cat wants to scratch with plastic and place a scratching post near it. When your cat tries to scratch the inappropriate object, pick them up and show them the post a number of times. You may have to gently take their paws and “show” them how to use it. Once your cat has the idea of using its new post, you can gradually move it to an area that is acceptable to both of you. Make sure the post is tall enough so your cat cannot reach the top of it when stretched out full length. If you have more than one cat, it’s a good idea to have more than one post.

Cats use scratching as a territorial marker, so they like to leave visible evidence they have been there. Choose a material that easily frays or shreds. Fabric, sisal, corrugated cardboard, and cork are all good choices.

Well-trimmed nails also can help reduce problems with scratching. You can bring them to the clinic to have the nails trimmed or we can show you how to do it at home. You also may want to try Soft Paws, which are soft plastic sheaths that fit over your cat’s nails. These last up to 8 weeks and are reasonably priced.

De-Clawing

A cat should be 3.5-4.5 lbs. before considering declawing. We recommend declawing your cat to be a last resort. While it is a quick procedure, it is an amputation surgery that is similar to removing human fingers at the first joint. While recovery is usually without complications, infection can easily occur. Also, declawing an older cat can contribute to behavior problems. Ask us for our declaw handout for more information.