



# NEW KITTEN INFORMATION

## VACCINATION

Your kitten requires a series of vaccinations to ensure that they are protected against common feline diseases found in New Zealand. These vaccinations can begin at 6 weeks of age, with boosters being administered 3 – 4 weeks apart. The last booster must be given at or over 14 weeks of age to ensure it is effective. It is important to ensure that your kitten is fully vaccinated before they are allowed to venture outside. We recommend that your kitten be let outside no sooner than 10 days after their final vaccination. Cat flu vaccines may not offer 100% protection against cat flu, but they **do dramatically reduce** the severity of illness if they are exposed to it.

Vaccinations rely on your pet's immune system responding to the vaccine. They work best when your kitten or cat is healthy. Every vaccination includes a full veterinary health check to ensure that your pet is fighting fit prior to vaccination!

After the initial kitten course of vaccinations, a booster vaccination is given 12 months later. After the first annual booster, the frequency of boosters will depend on your cat's lifestyle and whether or not they go to catteries.

## DESEXING

We recommend that all kittens are de-sexed as soon as they are old enough; normally when they are 5-6 months of age. The benefits of desexing are to prevent unwanted litters, and to ensure that your animal will not develop reproductive diseases when they are older. There is no proven advantage to allowing your cat one litter or one season before desexing.

## MICROCHIPPING

Although it is not part of council legislation to have your cat or kitten micro-chipped, it is a simple procedure that guarantees the identification of your pet if they are lost and end up at a vet clinic, shelter, or SPCA. Microchip cat flaps are now available that allow easy control of unwanted house guests, without the need for your cat to wear a collar or bulky magnet. **We highly recommend microchipping your cat.**

## ENRICHMENT

We know that it can be a bit of an adjustment having a new fluffy thing tearing through your house. For this reason, we recommend that you have a range of toys that are suitable for cats of all ages, which helps to keep them busy, occupied, and learning. There is also a fantastic website that we recommend for cats that are primarily or only indoors: [www.indoorcat.org](http://www.indoorcat.org)

## **DENTAL HEALTH**

Cats have teeth just like ours! They will lose their baby teeth and grow adult ones – which need to be taken care of. The best prevention of dental disease is by regularly brushing their teeth once daily. If you are interested in tooth brushing, it is best to start acclimatising them to this when they are young. Our staff can advise you on various products and techniques to help keep your cats teeth clean. Cat toothpastes are flavoured for their tastes (ie; poultry or malt) as they don't like bubblegum or mint flavour; and the right sized toothbrush needs to be used for your cat. All consultations with a veterinarian and cattery checks include an evaluation of your cat's dental health.

## **CATTERY**

We have a cattery on site that runs throughout the year. If you would like to book your cat or kitten into the cattery, or if you have any questions, then please give us a call. We require all cats that stay with us to be fully vaccinated.

## **INSURANCE**

Pet insurance is becoming more and more recognised as a must-have if you are a pet owner. We have information on a few different pet insurance companies that list their plans and premiums. There are more companies available if you search online. As with all insurance it is important to read the fine print and ensure that the plan you choose is right for you. We recommend a combined medical and surgical plan to cover all eventualities.

### **Some pet insurance tips:**

Remember, insurance companies will not cover pre-existing conditions mentioned in your pet's notes and they usually won't start insurance for a pet over 8-10 years of age.

When looking into pet insurance, there are a few important questions you should think about first.

- Do you want the insurance company to contribute to routine vaccinations?
- Do you want your insurance company to help pay for consultations for tummy upsets and ear infections (i.e. medical cover)?
- Do you only want to use it for the big bills – like if your pet is hit by a car?

Your premiums and excess payments will differ depending on how you answer these questions.

Then you need to check the following information in the policy you are interested in:

- Do they cover breed related conditions?
- What is the premium and excess per condition?
- For each condition diagnosed – is there a limit per condition or per year? And, will this value reset to zero next year?

For example; Diabetes is a condition that requires life-long treatment. If the policy limit says \$5000. Does it mean \$5000 for the life of the pet for this condition, \$5000 to spend in the first 12 months since diagnosis of this condition, or \$5000 per year for this condition with it resetting to zero every year?

