

# Kitten Packet

## Examinations

**Physical exams are as important as any vaccines we administer.**

Every new kitten should have a full physical examination after coming home and then with each set of vaccines, to make sure that she/he is in good health, and to discuss preventive medicine, and answer any questions you may have. After the initial puppy series, we recommend checkups at least once a year. These exams are as important as any vaccines we administer.

## Vaccines

**Kittens require a series of vaccines in their early months to protect them from illness. After kittens reach adulthood, their vaccines are updated at intervals to ensure continued protection.**

Kittens receive two core vaccines: the Rabies vaccine (which is required by New Hampshire state law) is administered at 3-4 months of age, and a booster 1 year later, then every 3 years; and the FVR-CP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia) vaccine is given every 3-4 weeks until 12-16 weeks of age. It is also updated at intervals through a cat's life. Feline Leukemia vaccine is considered if your kitten will have contact with cats other than your own. We can discuss this additional vaccine during your visit.

## Recommended Blood test (FeLV/FIV test)

**Feline Leukemia (FeLV):** Feline Leukemia is a viral disease that can cause anemia, immune system suppression and tumors. It is highly contagious and eventually fatal. It may be transmitted from mother to kittens or from cat to cat. Testing is especially important if other cats will be in contact with your kitten, or if they will be allowed outside.

**Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV):** This is another, somewhat similar contagious viral disease. It is passed from cat to cat, most often through fighting.

## Intestinal Parasite Screen

**This test is a check for a variety of intestinal parasites, and is recommended for all kittens, then once yearly in older cats. These parasites can be harmful to kittens, and sometimes people, so it is important to bring in samples regularly.**

A small, fresh stool sample can be brought in a plastic bag or Tupperware. It is checked for a various intestinal parasites. Tapeworms and roundworms may also be seen in the stool or on

the fur around the kitten's anal area. Because some intestinal parasites can cause serious disease in humans, please test regularly and give deworming medicine as directed. We also recommend wearing gloves or washings hands after cleaning the litter box. Pregnant women should not clean litter boxes.

### Heartworm and Intestinal Parasite Prevention

Heartworms are blood borne parasites that are transmitted by mosquitoes to cats. They live within the heart and can cause heart failure, breathing difficulty and death. They are difficult to diagnose in cats, and very difficult to treat. Heartworm prevention can be discussed at your visit. Due to the prevalence of roundworms in kittens, we typically recommend deworming all kittens even if the intestinal parasite screen is negative.

### Spaying/Neutering

**We recommend sterilization for our patient's health and behavioral reasons, as well as population control.** This surgery is typically done at 6 months and older. Please discuss this procedure as the best time for your individual cat with the veterinarian.

### Microchip

We strongly recommend this safe, permanent means of identification for your cat. We inject a tiny transponder under the skin and register your cat for life. You must keep the registry informed if your phone number or address changes. If your cat is lost and is taken to a shelter, he or she will automatically be scanned for a microchip, and you will be notified of their whereabouts.

