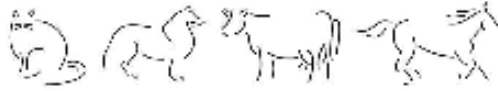


# CLIFFE



VETERINARY GROUP

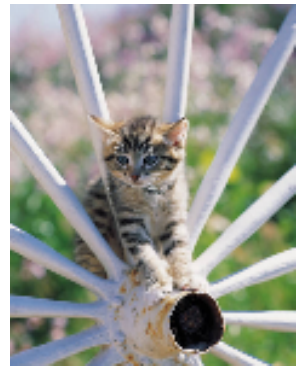
Radstock House, 21 Cliffe High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2AH  
01273 473232

## New Kitten Check List

**Vaccination protocol** - We recommend you regularly vaccinate your cat to protect it against the major serious feline diseases. This involves a **primary course at 9 and 12 weeks of age**, followed by a yearly (12 monthly) booster.

### Worming

- The problems associated with a heavy worm burden can be very serious in younger animals, including vomiting, diarrhoea, seizures and even death, so we do recommend worming kittens regularly.
- We have given a first **free Drontal** worming treatment to your kitten today. This needs to be continued:
  - every 2 weeks until they are 12 weeks old
  - then monthly until they are 6 months old
  - then every 3 to 4 months for rest of their life.
- Cats are more likely to pick up certain worms, such as tapeworms, if they are great hunters. If your kitten turns out to be a prolific hunter, then sometimes it is wise to worm more often, even every month.
- Cats can also carry another disease called toxoplasmosis which occasionally can cause abortion in pregnant women. Ensure you clean out any litter trays wearing gloves, clean up the garden and wash your hands regularly after handling your cat to reduce any risks if you are pregnant.



### Flea treatment

- Fleas are a year round problem. Our central heating which keeps us comfortable over winter also allows flea eggs to develop into adults and re-infest our pets.
- We do, therefore, advise year round prevention with a spot-on application. This offers much longer term, more effective prevention than other forms of treatment.
- We have applied your kitten's first **free Advantage spot-on** treatment today also.

## Microchips

- Microchips are the ideal way to permanently identify our animals against loss, straying or theft. They are also compulsory for the pet passport scheme. There are no long term side effects and no long term costs.
- We advise **microchipping either at the second vaccination**, or at neutering.

## Neutering

- We always advise neutering of male and female kittens. We firmly believe that the medical and behavioural benefits far outweigh any potential side effects or risks. Please ask us if you have any questions or queries regarding neutering and we will be happy to discuss the pros and cons.
- We advise:
  - **castrating males at 6 months of age.**
  - **spaying females at 6 months of age.**

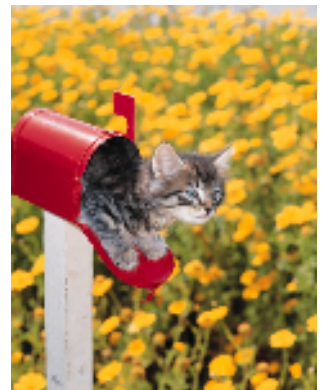
## Food

- Kittens cannot manage to digest and absorb all of the food and nutrition they need in one meal. They need at least **3-4 smaller meals** a day for the first 4-6 months of their life to ensure they grow at a good rate and can absorb all the materials they need from their food. If you are feeding them *ad lib*, refresh their bowls 3-4 times a day as they are more likely to eat fresh food.

- We strongly advise **complete kitten foods** as they have been carefully formulated to have the best possible balance of carbohydrates and proteins and all the minerals and vitamins a growing kitten needs. Most kittens will need to stay on a kitten diet for at least 6-8 months.

- **Dry food** is much better in the long term for cats' teeth as they have to use the teeth more to crunch through the hard biscuits. Some wet food is also quite acceptable, but if possible try to ensure that dry food accounts for over 50% of the intake.

- Cats meowing or rubbing up against you is generally a sociable, friendly aspect of behaviour. But we should not assume that this means they want, or need, more food, and we should avoid rewarding our pets with food in response to this normal affectionate behaviour!



## Dental protection

- The best way to ensure your kitten keeps its beautiful clean teeth and sociable breath is to brush them, ideally everyday, or every other day. We can advise you on special cat toothbrushes and toothpastes. In reality this is often difficult to achieve with cats, we know, but there are other options...

- Second best are dental chews and **dental diets** (from 12 months of age). They really do help to keep teeth cleaner.

## **Insurance**

- Unfortunately many pets have regular visits to see us for more than just their yearly check up. Unfortunately illnesses and accidents do happen, and full investigations and the best treatment options may lead to large bills.

- To allow us to give your kitten, or cat, the best possible chance we do advise pet insurance to remove the inevitable worries about decisions concerning costs and payment of fees.

- There are literally hundreds of pet insurance companies around – do read the small print, and consider that some diseases are lifelong and require lifelong treatment, before you select your policy.

## **Mock examinations**

- To make our and your lives easier it is a good idea to get your kitten used to being handled, restrained and examined. Should you need to administer any ear or eye medication in the future a little preparation now will make it an awful lot easier in the future!

## **9 Month juvenile check**

- When your kitten reaches 9 months of age you should receive a card from us inviting you back for a **free juvenile health check** with one of our nurses to ensure you are happy with all the routine health care and preventative medicines you can use to help keep your kitten fit and well throughout its life.

**We look forward to seeing you again soon.**



[Small Animal Department](#)

[Lewes 01273 473232](#) [Woodingdean 01273 302609](#) [Ringmer 01273 814590](#)