



Kitten Care

Congratulations the purchase of your new kitten! Caring for your kitten can be fun, and at times frustrating, worrying and tiring. We hope that this advice sheet may answer some of your questions or concerns. If not, then please contact us at Vermont Value Vet (9873 1113).

Vaccinations

All kittens require a course of injections to protect them against respiratory disease and feline enteritis. These vaccinations are normally given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age, with an annual booster each year for life. Vermont Value Vet offers either an F3 or F4 vaccination. Your veterinarian will help you to determine the best choice for your new kitten.

There is also a vaccination against the disease Feline AIDS. This vaccine is not routinely included in normal vaccination protocols. Feline AIDS is a nasty disease that has a relatively high prevalence in Australia. We are encouraging all our clients to consider vaccinating their cats against this disease.

The vaccinations take approximately 7-10 days to stimulate a protective immune response, and some kittens may be sleepy for 24 hours after the vaccination.



Intestinal worming

Intestinal worming should be performed every 2 weeks until your kitten is 12 weeks old with a quality all wormer tablet like Milbemax. From 12 weeks of age through to 6 months of age your kitten should be wormed monthly. After that you can worm your kitten every 3 months, just like you would with an adult cat.

Fleas

Fleas affect kittens just like they do adult cats and kittens should be protected from fleas as soon as possible. Fleas are a very important source of intestinal worms, and flea control is required to help prevent intestinal worms. There are excellent monthly topical treatments available which are very effective and completely safe for your kitten. We recommend you treat your kitten every month with Frontline Plus

Desexing

We advise the desexing of kittens from 4 – 6 months of age to minimise the risk of unwanted pregnancies and uterine infections in female cats and aggression, inappropriate urination and malodorous urine in male cats. Desexing is very important for the lifelong health of your kitten.

At Vermont Value Vet we routinely give ALL our surgery patients an injection of pain relief and routinely send surgery patients home with 3 days worth of pain relief. It is our policy to try and ensure our patients have the least amount of discomfort possible.

Dietary requirements

Kittens have unique dietary requirements, different to adult cats. We strongly recommend that you feed a complete and balanced kitten diet. Premium kitten foods such as Hills Science diets or Eukanuba Kitten always state on the package that they are complete and balanced.

A simple guideline to follow is to feed your kitten three times a day until 12 weeks of age then twice daily until 12 months of age. Unlike dogs, cats tend not to overeat and are more likely to graze on and off all day.

If you wish to provide your kitten with bones we suggest RAW chicken necks or wings at this young age. NEVER feed your kitten a cooked bone as they can splinter and cause major problems in their mouth and tummy.

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VERMONT VALUE VET VETERINARY HOSPITAL

"Affordable premium pet health care"

Registration

Registration of your kitten is vitally important. Registration can be arranged by contacting your local council.

Whitehorse Council 9262 6333

Maroondah Council 1300 882233

We advise that you fit your cat with a collar and tag.

If your kitten does happen to wander the chance of recovery is much better for kittens registered and identified with a collar and tag.

Microchipping

Microchipping is now mandatory for all owned cats in Victoria. You must microchip your kitten in order to register with the local council. Microchipping provides lifetime proof of identification, is protection against theft and is crucial in reuniting you with your kitten if your kitten becomes lost. We register all microchips with [Central Animal Records](#)

Grooming

For those kittens with longer coats clipping is recommended to maintain the coat condition. Vermont Value Vet has its own Groomer. Melanie is available three days each week by appointment. Melanie is experienced in all cats' styles and cuts. Booking is essential, and we recommend you call Melanie to discuss to best clip for your pup.

Boarding

There are times when you may not be able to have your kitten with you, and you require safe, secure and friendly professional care for your pet.

We are pleased to recommend the following boarding facilities, and advise you to plan a visit to familiarise yourself and your kitten before their stay.

PET AMIGOS	(03) 9720 0484	www.petamigos.com.au
HOMESTEAD	(03) 9722 1202	www.homesteadkennels.com.au
WELLINGTON PARK	(03) 9752 7273	www.wellingtonpark.com.au
CATNIP CATTERY	(03) 9753 2933	www.catnipcattery.com.au
CATTAGE CATTERY	(03) 9435 1531	www.cattagekennel.com.au

Inside or out?

We are often asked whether it is best to keep cats indoors, or allow them access to the outdoors. Remember cats are nocturnal and therefore more likely to roam, fight, kill wildlife and get hit by cars at night. The new state legislation laws require cats to be kept inside overnight.

Cats can be kept inside all day without any problems, and can be taught to use both the litter tray and the toilet. (Yes – the toilet!)

One successful compromise is to build a cat run which allows your cat access outdoors with complete safety.

Remember – there is no guaranteed safe time to allow your cat unsupervised access to the outdoors. Cars, traffic, dogs and other cats all pose safety concerns for your pet, and your cat may be a concern to local wildlife.

Please contact us at Vermont Value Vet (9873 1113) if you have any questions or need further information for you kitten.

Vermont Value Vet

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Kitten Care - Page 2 of 2

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