

FACT SHEET

Kitten Checklist

For a new kitten to have along and healthy life we recommend following the Pittwater Healthcare Plan.

Vaccinations

Kittens have vaccinations at **6, 12 and 16 weeks**. These protect against the fatal *feline enteritis* and the chronic debilitating "flu" viruses (*calicivirus* and *herpesvirus*). Other vaccinations are available to give protection against Feline Leukaemia (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) but we do not routinely recommend these. Yearly vaccinations are needed to continue protection against these viruses. At Pittwater Animal Hospital your cat will receive a full health examination and preventative health review at these yearly appointments. As a cat owner, you can feel confident that your cat has been recommended the safest, most effective preventative health plan as well as be thoroughly examined to detect and discuss any new health

Tick control

The Northern Beaches of Sydney are a high risk tick paralysis area. Thousands of dogs and cats have died in this area from being poisoned by paralysis ticks. Cats that go outside especially into bushy areas are most at risk. These cats should be protected with a long-acting tick collar or with an application of insecticidal spray (every 3 weeks). It is crucial that your cat is dosed according to manufacturers instructions with timing being especially important. We will advise you of the best products and correct doses to use and, if purchased at Pittwater Animal Hospital, we will send you an **sms reminder** when medication is due. Even inside cats have been known to get tick paralysis, for example, when ticks are brought in on clothing. Read our tick brochure or visit our website www.pittwateranimalhospital.com.au to familiarise yourself with the signs of tick paralysis.

Flea Control

Good all year-round flea control is very important for you cat. **It is also important that all cats and dogs in the household are treated (even if they don't appear to have a flea problem)** to avoid itchy, irritated cats. If the prevention is stopped in the wintertime, the small flea population left will seed your house and yard with flea eggs ready to hatch the following summer. **Products can lose their effectiveness over time so, at Pittwater Animal Hospital, we tailor our recommendations to what is working well in our local area.** This can be given to your cat by your vet nurse or veterinarian.

Intestinal Worms

Not all animals in this area are treated for intestinal worms effectively. Your animals may be exposed to infected droppings so kittens need to be wormed regularly (see the kitten check list) and adult cats need to be wormed every 4-6 months. This can conveniently be done at the same time as the flea/tick preventative.

Feeding

Kittens are usually fed three times daily until 12 weeks, then twice daily. Small kittens may only need a couple of tablespoons of food as a meal. Larger kittens could have up to a 1/3 of a cup. Good quality complete dry diets are recommended. Veterinary brands are of the highest quality to keep your kitten at it's optimum health.

It is important that your adult cat is not over fed. Obesity is a particular problem with cats. **Obese cats often develop diabetes, constipation, urinary tract disease and arthritis**, all of which are less likely if they are a normal weight. Our very experienced veterinarians and nurses can give you specific advice about feeding regimes and the quantity of food your kitten requires.

Desexing

At Pittwater Animal Hospital we know it is very important that your pet is not only desexed but that this is a low stress, safe procedure with good pain management. This means your cat has a happy and safe experience for this major surgery.

What makes Pittwater Animal Hospital different?

- All cats have a full health check prior to the anaesthetic
- All cats are offered a pre-anaesthetic blood check
- A sedative and pain relief medication is given on hospital admission
- All cats have an in-dwelling catheter placed and are administered fluids when anaesthetised. This is the safest possible anaesthetic.
- All our vets have over 10 years surgical experience
- Our nurses are well trained and have regular in-house training sessions on anaesthetic monitoring (ECG / BP / HR / Oxygenation)
- Cats are given additional pain relief when waking up from the anaesthetic
- Patients are carefully monitored for several hours after the surgery
- Follow up pain relief medication is sent home with your pet at no extra charge (unless a long acting injection has been given) to ensure your pet goes home comfortable and pain free

Council Registration and Microchipping

Most kittens will have microchip identification in place before you get them. This has been inserted by injection just under the skin over your kitten's shoulders. The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and can often be felt under the skin. A scanner placed within 10cm of the chip will read the unique number on the chip that is linked to you in the New South Wales companion animal database. Our nurses can check the database so that details can be updated. If for some reason your kitten does not have a microchip, we can insert one at the first visit.

Once your kitten is six months old and is hopefully desexed, it must be registered with your local council for a small one off fee. You can now register your pet online at www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au

Pet Insurance

At Pittwater Animal Hospital, we strongly recommend pet insurance. Any potentially ongoing health problems will often be revealed in the first year of your cat's life. Once documented in an uninsured cat, these become pre-existing conditions and will, therefore, not be covered by pet insurance. Claiming for pet insurance is now more convenient as it can now be mostly done on-line. It is worthwhile to conduct your own research into the various pet insurance options available before making a decision.

Good Health Care

Regular check-ups EVERY year, with or without a vaccine, are essential for maintaining excellent health. **We look forward to seeing you and your cat EVERY year for many years to come!**

'Thank You' Voucher

If you are happy with our services, please recommend us to your friends. Ask them to tell us who they were referred by and we will send YOU a \$20 voucher to use at Pittwater Animal Hospital.

