



Kitten Welcome and Information Sheet

Thank you for entrusting your kitten's care to Penstone Veterinary Group

Vaccinations

We advise vaccination to protect your kitten against the following diseases, some of which can be fatal – Feline Calici and Rhinotracheitis Virus (cat flu), Feline Infectious Enteritis and Feline Leukaemia Virus.

Vaccination Regime:

Your kitten will need two vaccinations 3 - 4 weeks apart. The first is given at 8 - 9 weeks of age and the second at 12 weeks. Kittens should not be allowed outside until one week after the second vaccination. An annual booster is required to maintain immunity against these diseases.

Fleas



Fleas can cause significant distress to your cat by irritating the skin; they also transmit the flea tapeworm.

A few interesting flea facts

- a female flea can lay **5000 + eggs** in her lifetime
- any fleas you see on your cat are only **5% of the total flea population** in your house
- flea pupae in your carpet can wait **many months** for the right conditions to occur before hatching

An effective flea control regime needs to interrupt the lifecycle to remove fleas from the environment not just from the pet.

Program: Stops flea eggs hatching and is safe and effective. This is given by injection every 6 months by the vet or as a monthly liquid you put on the food.

Frontline Combo Spot-On: Kills fleas and ticks on the pet and inhibits flea larval growth in the environment.

Advocate and Stronghold Spot-On: These kill adult fleas as well as other external and internal parasites.

RIP Spray: A spray for treating fleas and flea eggs in the environment. One application lasts 12 months.

We will be happy to explain the options available and formulate an effective flea control program to suit your cat.

Penstone Pet Food



We have our own **hypoallergenic food range** which is formulated without wheat or wheat gluten. Available in kitten, adult, mature and weight control formulations, our food is a complete balanced diet providing all the nutrients essential for a long, healthy life. It has a crunchy texture to promote oral health and essential taurine for healthy eyes, heart and immune function. The adult food comes in a rich, highly palatable chicken or salmon flavour.

Our food is made with the finest raw ingredients by Europe's largest own label pet food manufacturer based in the UK and is available in 300g, 2kg and 7.5kg bag sizes at a very affordable price.

..... Ask for a **FREE** sample of kitten food at reception

Neutering



Castration of tom cats: We advise this is done to control unwelcome sexual behaviour, unsocial behaviour and to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Spaying of queens: We advise that queens are spayed to prevent unwanted kittens and to reduce the risk of developing mammary tumours later in life.

Queens are seasonally poly-oestrous which means they come into season continually during the main breeding period (usually spring to summer) unless they become pregnant or are spayed. A queen in season shows increased vocalisation and affection, rolls around on the floor and puts her back end up in the air.

Timing for Neutering:

Toms – from 6 months of age

Queens – from 6 months of age

Worming



TAPE WORM WITH DETACHING SEGMENTS

Virtually all kittens are born with intestinal roundworms so need to be wormed regularly. Roundworms can be passed on to humans and pose a potential health risk (see below).

One type of tapeworm is carried by fleas – segments can break off and be seen moving in the fur around your cat's bottom; when they dry out the segments look like grains of rice in the bedding.

We advise regular worming with Milbemax Flavour Tablets.

Worming Regime – give Milbemax tablets

Every 2 weeks until 3 months of age then

Every 4 weeks until 6 months of age then

Every 3 months for the rest of your kitten's life

Toxocara (Roundworm) is a human health hazard – Toxocara cati affects all cats and kittens and can cause ill-thrift, poor growth and other signs of disease in cats.

Infection of humans with Toxocara in the UK is a common infection, particularly in young children, and causes variable symptoms in response to the larvae migrating through the tissues.

Probably the most serious concern is blindness or serious vision loss which can occur when larvae are trapped in the eye. Over 100 people are affected in this way in the U.K. each year.

TRACER Microchip



To give you piece of mind we recommend permanent identification of your kitten with a TRACER microchip.

Implantation is a simple, inexpensive and quick procedure which involves injecting a tiny chip, (size of a rice grain) under the skin during a normal consultation.

Vets, RSPCA & rescue centres have scanners to enable quick repatriation should your pet be lost.

Dental Care



INFLAMED GUMS

Kittens lose their baby teeth around 4 – 6 months of age when their adult teeth erupt. If your kitten has any baby teeth that do not fall out after the adult teeth are through we advise these are removed when your cat is neutered at 6 months of age.

To help you keep your cat's teeth and mouth healthy for life we suggest the following dental care regime –

Tooth brushing: If you start routine tooth brushing at an early age your cat should soon get used to it. It is important to use toothpaste designed for cats. We stock various toothpastes and brushes suitable for cats e.g. Logic Oral Hygiene Gel and Virbac poultry or fish flavoured paste.

Dental Diets: In general, cats fed dry food have less dental disease than those fed on a wet diet.

Our own Penstone Pet Food Range contains maize which adds a crunchy and fibrous texture to the food and promotes oral health.

Oral Dental Treats: Chewing is beneficial in helping to reduce dental disease and the increased saliva production also plays a role in helping to rinse the mouth.

Regularly examine your cat's mouth: You should try to examine your cat's mouth regularly. Watch out for red gums, tartar build up, smelly breath, cavities, loose or damaged teeth, pus and swellings.

If you have any concerns you should book an appointment for a veterinary dental consultation.

Pet Insurance

Veterinary medicine has become more sophisticated over recent years and as a consequence the cost of treatment is rising. Costs for even non-serious conditions can run to several hundred or even thousands of pounds.

Penstone Veterinary Group recommends the principle of veterinary insurance to protect against the unexpected fees incurred following illness or accident.

Insuring your pet will enable you to take advantage of the best treatments available without the worry of what it is going to cost.