

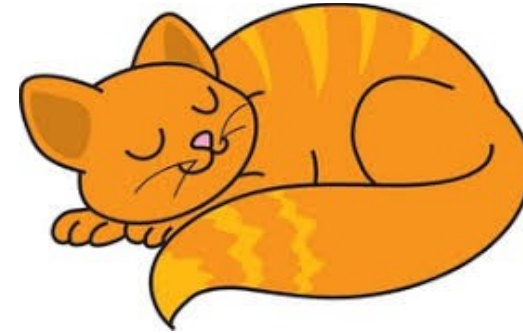
# New Kitten Tips

New kittens can be a lot of work but they are definitely worth it! Training is an ongoing process and your kitten will have to learn how to behave gradually, just like a human child. Many cats will retain kittenish behaviors well into adulthood, so be patient and consistent! Follow these helpful hints to avoid behavior problems down the road.

- Litter Training: Many kittens will naturally gravitate to the litter box, but placing your kitten in the box after eating can help encourage him or her to eliminate there. Keep the box scooped regularly since many cats will avoid a dirty litter pan. Make sure the box is short enough that their little legs can make it in! Get your kitten spayed or neutered around six months of age to avoid the development of marking behaviors.
- Scratching: This is a natural behavior that all cats engage in. Place scratching pads and posts around your home and encourage them to use those instead of your rugs and couches. If they continue to go for your furniture you can discourage them by spraying them with plain water from a spray bottle. For persistent scratchers we offer nail cap applications in fun colors to protect your home.
- Playing: Kittens and cats love to play with toys! To keep them from playing with inappropriate objects make sure they have plenty of their own toys available. Keep thread, yarn, rubber bands, strings, and other very small objects out of reach as they can result in the need for emergency surgery if eaten.
- Jumping: Cats love high places so providing them with a tall cat tower to sit in may be just the thing to discourage them from jumping on counters and climbing curtains. If you do catch them up there you can deter them by spraying them with plain water from a spray bottle.
- Feeding: Keep your kitten at a healthy weight by feeding measured-out portions twice daily rather than leaving food down all the time. Obesity can lead to heart problems, diabetes, and arthritis, just like in humans. Keep an eye on their weight for a long, healthy life!

# Kitten Vaccine Schedule

Quad Cities Animal Hospital  
480 Highway 20  
Tuscumbia, AL 35674  
256-389-1355



Congratulations on getting a new best friend! We recommend all kittens be vaccinated every 4 weeks beginning at about 8 weeks of age for the best protection against contagious disease while their immune systems are still developing. Adult cats should receive annual boosters as well.

- Around 8 weeks kittens will get 1 combo vaccine for Rhinotracheitis, Panleukopenia, and Chlamydia.
- Around 12 weeks kittens will get 1 combo vaccine for Rhinotracheitis, Panleukopenia, and Chlamydia, and 1 vaccine for Feline Leukemia.
- Around 16 weeks kittens will get 1 combo vaccine for Rhinotracheitis, Panleukopenia, and Chlamydia, 1 vaccine for Feline Leukemia, and 1 vaccine for Rabies. Kittens will be started on heartworm prevention at this time.

We want to work with you to keep your new kitten healthy and happy. These vaccines are safe and effective. Your kitten will receive an exam with his or her first visit and be dewormed with each set of boosters. Feel free to call us with any questions you may have!

# Flea & Tick Prevention



Fleas and ticks have hounded animals and humans alike for thousands of years, carrying serious diseases such as bubonic plague, Lyme disease, and parasites. To keep you and your pets as healthy as possible we recommend keeping up with flea and tick prevention year round.

Fleas live on pets, livestock, wildlife, and in the grass. They not only cause itchiness but actually suck your pet's blood! A heavy infestation can cause anemia or serious infections in dogs and cats. Fleas can also carry tapeworms, mycoplasma, and other diseases. Keeping your pet free of fleas is the best way to avoid diseases and parasites.

Ticks are abundant in wooded and grassy areas and, as with fleas, a heavy infestation can cause anemia and other illnesses such as ehrlichiosis. Some of these diseases can also be passed to you and your family by ticks your pet may bring into your house.

These diseases can be expensive to treat and have long lasting consequences for your pet's health. Check out our selection of prescription flea and tick products that we stock year-round for your convenience. Ask about rebates and special pricing for large purchases. Prevention is the best medicine!

# Heartworm Prevention



Heartworm Disease is a potentially deadly condition carried by mosquitoes. Tiny heartworm larvae are injected into your pet by infected mosquitoes. These grow up to be adult worms that clog the heart and cause damage. Heartworms cannot be seen with the naked eye and symptoms may not appear in dogs and cats until the disease is very advanced.

Dogs that live or spend lots of time outdoors are at the most risk, however indoor dogs can be infected as well. Even small dogs that never go outdoors should stay on prevention.

Cats can become infected with heartworms as well. Unfortunately there is no effective treatment for cats that have Heartworm Disease, so prevention is the only option to ensure your pet's health.

The best medicine is always prevention! For the same cost as a single heartworm treatment you can purchase about 7-10 years of prevention. We recommend keeping all dogs and cats on prevention year round. Puppies and kittens should be started on prevention before 6 months of age. Adult dogs can be tested quickly during their routine checkup and put on prevention at any age. Check out our selection of quality heartworm products and feel free to ask us any questions you have!