

## KITTEN CARE GUIDE

The addition of a kitten to your family is a very exciting time, however it can be a little frightening for your kitten. They will be very dependant on you for feeding, attention, love and care and may be missing the company of their mum, brothers and sisters. So that your kitten settles easily into their new home, you will need to provide a comforting environment.

### FEEDING

Young kittens should be fed 3 times a day to 16 weeks, then gradually cut down to 2 meals a day up to 6 months, then 1 meal a day. Nutrition is very important, ensure that you give your kitten a good start with a healthy diet. Modern day technology and research has ensured that your premium brands of dry food are putting in all the right ingredients to ensure maximum health for your pet. When following the correct feeding guidelines, you will find these foods only marginally dearer than the cheaper food alternatives and the health benefits will far outweigh this. We feed our kittens Hill Science Diet and highly recommend it. Our Pet Guarantee is based on the continued feeding of Hills Science Diet, as a change of diet at this stage of your kittens development, may result in a sick animal. Young kittens may find it easier to eat dry foods if they are soaked in water first - this should not be necessary once your kitten reaches 12 weeks of age. Milk is not necessary and may cause diarrhea - if you would like to give milk it is generally best to obtain a lactose free kitten formula. Fresh water needs to be available at all times.

### SLEEPING

The first few nights is likely to be very hard on your new kitten, he/she will have been sleeping with Brothers and Sisters and will be lonely initially. Be sure that you provide a cosy spot for your kitten to snuggle up in. Unless you want your cat to always sleep in your bed, don't weaken and let them join you. A bed/basket/ will make the transition to home life easier as your kitten recognises its own sleeping space.

### MEDICATION

There are numerous things you need to be aware of with your new kitten when it comes to health. All kittens must be microchipped, wormed and have their 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination before they are sold. Unfortunately vet expenses do not stop here and this must be considered when purchasing you kitten.

**VACCINATIONS** - Generally 3 vaccines are given at:

1st 6-8 wks    2nd 12-14 wks    3rd 16-18 wks

You will need to consult your veterinarian to establish a vaccination protocol for your kitten

**WORMING** - Kittens need a lot of worming as it is very easy for kitten to pick up worms. They have a weak immune system and can easily die from worm infestations. You should worm your kitten as follows:

up to 12 wks - Every 2 weeks (it is at this age that kitten are most vulnerable to worms)

from 12 wks - Every month, dependant on worming treatment you select.

**FLEAS** - are easier and cheaper to control than they are to rid. We advise that a preventative approach is taken before fleas become a problem as opposed to trying to resolve a flea problem once you have it. Frontline, Advantage, Advocate, Revolution are some of these products that may be used as preventatives but remember they all do other aspects of medication (ie. Ticks, worming, mites etc) so we recommend you speak to a staff member for more advice before purchase, as recommendations will be made depending on other treatments.

**TICKS** - These nasty little critters can kill a cat. Many products are useful for preventing ticks but nothing is 100% effective, so a regular check over of your kitten is advised. Frontline sprays are one of the most effective topical treatments, with the "Shoo Tag" to hang from your cats collar, becoming very popular.

#### **A Quick Summary of Flea & Tick Products:**

\***SPOT ON'S** - these are easily the most popular and by far the most effective of all flea control products. Less than 1 ml of liquid flea control is placed on the back of your cats neck, this will spread out through the oils in the coat and provide 1 months protection against fleas. There are plenty to choose from but all work very well, choose from Frontline, Advantage, and Revolution.

\***SPRAYS** - A spray can be very effective and easy to apply in short coated breeds, if you have chosen a long coated breed then flea sprays can be harder to use. Frontline produce a very effective flea & tick spray.

\***SHAMPOOS** - Shampoo's are great at killing the fleas on your cat at the time of being washed, but have no residual action, so need to be followed up by a flea or tick treatment when your is dry.

\***CAPSTAR** - Kills fleas instantly on your cat, will need to be re-administered whenever an infestation occurs

\***SHOO TAG** or **SKUDO TAG** - hang from collars and emit a range of ultrasonic sounds to repel fleas & ticks

\***DON'T IGNORE THE ENVIRONMENT** - 90% of fleas will be living in your house and in the yard, you must treat the environment if you have a flea problem. Fido's flea bombs are a very effective environmental flea control. If you don't have a flea problem then make sure you don't get one by keeping up with effective flea control all year round.

#### **TOILET TRAINING -**

Generally speaking your kitten at 8 weeks is already using a kitty litter tray. When you get your kitten home we suggest a contained area with the new litter tray, until your kitten has adjusted to its surroundings. In larger houses we recommend 2 litter trays. We highly recommend Litter Pearls or bio-degradable Oz Pet with a fully enclosed litter tray for optimal smell and track control.

#### **WHAT ELSE DO I NEED FOR MY KITTEN?**

\* **Collars and Harnesses** - A light-weight collar with a bell is best for your kitten so it gets accustomed to wearing a collar. Early training on a harness is good for controlled outdoor play as your kitten grows.

\* **Brushes and Combs** - Start brushing your kitten (especially long haired varieties) when it's young - make it a routine and it will always be easy. There are a huge variety of brushes and combs suitable for certain coats.

\* **Scratchers** - Provided early prevent your cat scratching lounges, rugs, curtains etc - otherwise it will be harder to break the habit later on, if transferring to a scratcher.

\* **Other** - A variety of toys keeps your cats mind alert and provides stimulation. Toys made especially for cats are a safer alternative, to household items that may harm your cat.

**DESEXING** - It is best to get your pet desexed at around 6 months of age. Your cat will be a better pet, be much better behaved and have fewer health problems in later life. It will also prevent male cats from spraying and female cats from calling, during the breeding season.

#### **COUNCIL REGISTRATION**

You will receive the microchipping paper with your purchase agreement. This needs to be taken to your local council so you can register your kitten with them. The fee is dependant on whether you plan to desex your cat- please see the great vet deal we have in place for a discount on desexing when your kitten is ready.

*Please don't hesitate to contact us at Pittwater Pets should you have any questions. We'd love to hear how your pup is going and would like to offer you our continued support. Pittwater Pets Management*