



RalstonVet

Every family member; every time

KITTEN ESSENTIALS

During each of your kitten's visits, our support team and doctors will discuss your family's lifestyle and health risks. We'll collaborate each time to create a personalized vaccine plan for your family's unique needs.

Pet Family Information

Ralston Vet's Kitten Vaccine Schedule

Age: 8 weeks old

Date:

Physical Exam

Viral Rhinotracheitis

Calicivirus

Panleukopenia

Fecal Exam

Age: 10-12 weeks old

Date:

Physical Exam

Viral Rhinotracheitis

Calicivirus

Panleukopenia

Feline Leukemia

Fecal Exam

Age: 14-16 weeks old

Date:

Physical Exam

Rabies

Viral Rhinotracheitis

Calicivirus

Panleukopenia

Feline Leukemia

Fecal Exam

Final Kitten Visit

Date:

Physical Exam

Rabies +/-

Viral Rhinotracheitis

Calicivirus

Panleukopenia

Feline Leukemia

Fecal Exam

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are crucial for preventing serious diseases in cats, even indoor ones that can be exposed to airborne viruses. They protect kittens from life-threatening illnesses and reduce treatment costs. Core vaccines begin at 8 weeks, with boosters every 3-4 weeks to build antibodies. After full vaccination, annual exams and boosters are needed to maintain health and protection throughout their lives.

Core Vaccines



Rabies Virus

Rabies virus causes a severe neurological condition and is a fatal disease. This virus can be transmitted to humans.



Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis

The virus that causes this upper respiratory infection is easily transmitted between cats. Vaccination is crucial if your pet will be around other cats. Symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, sneezing, and eye and nasal discharges. Kittens are especially vulnerable, and effective treatment is limited. Even if a cat recovers, it can remain a carrier for life.



Calicivirus

This virus is highly contagious and causes upper respiratory tract infection in cats. Symptoms include fever, ulcers and blisters on the tongue, and pneumonia. Treatment can be difficult, and even recovered cats can continue to infect others and experience chronic sneezing, runny eyes, and severe gum disease. Vaccination is tremendously important.



Panleukopenia

Feline distemper, caused by a highly resistant virus, is a potentially fatal disease. Vaccination is essential as infection rates can be as high as 90% to 100%. Symptoms include listlessness, diarrhea, vomiting, severe dehydration, fever, and death. The vaccine is highly effective in preventing the disease.

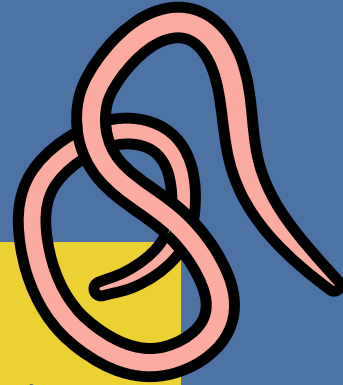
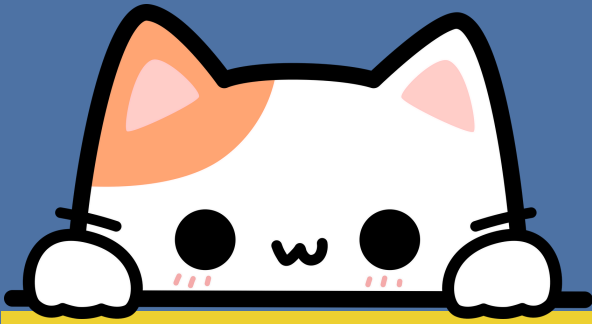


Feline Leukemia Virus

Feline Leukemia Virus can cause serious health problems for your cat, such as cancer and weakened immune system. Testing is available to determine if your cat has been infected, and vaccination is required if they are at risk of exposure.

We recommend keeping your cat's annual exams and vaccines on schedule once their kitten boosters are complete to support a long and happy life!

PARASITES



HEARTWORM

Both indoor and outdoor cats are vulnerable to heartworm infection, which is spread by mosquitoes. Year-round prevention is advised for all pets. Even a few adult worms can cause serious health issues in cats, leading to respiratory distress, organ failure, or death. Dogs may show no symptoms or exhibit mild to severe respiratory signs. Consult your veterinarian for the best prevention products, as there is no treatment for heartworm-infected cats.

FLEA & TICK

Fleas and ticks commonly carry many infectious diseases that can cause illness in your pet. It is recommended to use a flea and tick preventive year-round to protect your pet from transmission of these diseases. Your veterinarian or staff member can help you determine which product is best for your family.

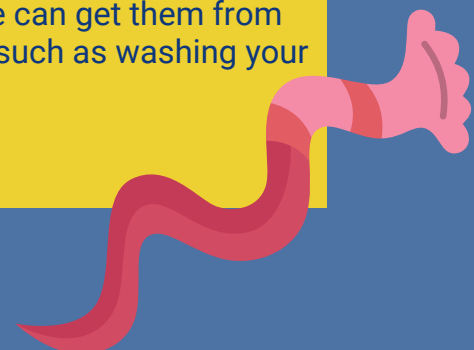


INTESTINAL

Hookworms and Roundworms are common intestinal parasites found in the stool. If not treated, your kitten can get very sick. These worms are easy to treat and prevent.

*Routine deworming as a kitten, along with yearly examination of a stool sample is recommended to evaluate if your kitten has these intestinal parasites. Due to intermittent shedding all parasites may not be detected on routine stool exams.

*Hookworms and Roundworms are zoonotic. This means people can get them from their pet. This is easily prevented by simple hygiene procedures such as washing your hands after you change the litter box





KITTEN TIPS

COMMON SURGERIES

Female Spay

- Spaying, a.k.a. fixing, is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. Spay procedures have several advantages: prevents pregnancy, eliminates heat cycles, lowers cancer risk, and possible behavioral changes. Spay procedures are typically recommended at 5 months and older.

Male Neuter

- Neutering, a.k.a. fixing, is the surgical removal of the testicles. Neuter procedures reduce your cat's cancer risk and may help with behavior such as: aggression, hyperactivity, marking, and roaming. Neuter procedures are often recommended at 5- 6 months of age.

ORAL HYGIENE

- Oral hygiene affects your pets' overall health, infection and bacteria entering the blood stream can compromise the immune system and vital organ function such as heart and kidneys.
- Monitoring the condition of your cat's teeth and gums, not only keeps track of their comfort and eating but also their oral hygiene.
- We recommend starting a teeth cleaning routine once your new kitten is comfortable in your home.
 - Start by getting your kitten used to you looking in their mouth and rubbing your finger on their gums.
 - Then hold the kitten's mouth and start rubbing gently on the outside surfaces and the front teeth. This is a massaging action that may even feel good to your teething kitten.
 - Permanent teeth should start arriving around 3-6 months, and you can graduate to a soft bristle brush.
 - Human toothpaste should not be used.

BEHAVIOR

Stimulating play is essential for kittens, providing climbing perches that meet their activity needs and preventing undesired perching habits. Key play behaviors like stalking and pouncing contribute to muscular development, and toys like lightweight balls and paper wads can redirect these instincts from family members. Supervision is important to prevent swallowing small objects.

Scratching is a normal behavior that benefits cats by stretching muscles, leaving scent marks, and grooming nails. To manage scratching, direct it towards acceptable items and trim nails weekly. Artificial nail caps can also be used monthly to prevent unwanted scratching.



NEW HOME INTRODUCTION

Kittens are curious and should start in one room for exploration management. Gradually expand their access after a few days. The best socialization period is 2 to 12 weeks, where positive interactions shape behavior. Use pheromone products like Feliway to aid transitions and kitten-proof your home by removing hazards while providing safe chew items and toys.



LITTER BOX BASICS

Kittens may be easier for house training than dogs, as they instinctively use litter boxes. Problems arise when the box is dirty, inaccessible, or unattractive, causing kittens to seek alternative spots. To avoid issues, it's important to scoop daily and clean regularly. In multi-cat households, provide one extra box per cat and place it near the kitten's living area. Some kittens may need confinement with a litter box to develop habits.