

San Antonio Animal Hospital

A new kitten

What to expect during your first year!

Kittens need a series of vaccinations, just like human babies do. Until they've completed the series, they should not be exposed to any pets outside of their own home.

Kittens can be spayed / neutered at 4 months of age. This is also a great time to **microchip** your kitten.



Kitten Vaccination and De-Worming Schedule

8-11 weeks of age

Examination by veterinarian, RCP vaccine, intestinal parasite test, and de-worming
Bring a fresh stool sample to visit.

11-13 weeks of age

RCP vaccine, Felv/Fiv Test, Leukemia vaccine, and de-worming
(Administered by veterinary technician)

14-16 weeks of age

RCP vaccine, Leukemia vaccine, intestinal parasite test, Rabies vaccine, and de-worming, (administered by veterinarian)
Bring a fresh stool sample to visit.

NexGard Combo or Advantage Multi applied once a month will protect your cat from **heartworms**, fleas, ear mites and **intestinal parasites** that are potentially deadly to your cat.

Some of these parasites are transmittable to humans.

1 year after the final RCP, Leukemia, and Rabies vaccination is given, a booster is required. Thereafter, Rabies and RCP can be given every 3 years. Leukemia can be given every 2 years.

Help prevent over-population, spay or neuter your cat!

What diseases do these vaccinations protect my cat from?
See page 2.

What are you vaccinating your kitten against?

RCP Vaccine protects against:

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, a highly contagious respiratory disease characterized by sneezing, loss of appetite, fever, and eye inflammation.

Calicivirus, another serious feline respiratory infection. Cats may show signs of ulcers on the tongue.

Panleukopenia, (feline distemper) is extremely contagious. Symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Feline Leukemia Vaccine protects against:

Feline Leukemia Virus, a potentially fatal viral disease which can take several forms, including persistent infections, anorexia, and weight loss.

Rabies Vaccine protects against:

Rabies, a fatal contagious disease carried by wildlife which can be transmitted to cats, dogs, and humans. Vaccination is required by Florida state law.

Caring for your **Cat or Kitten**

Taking care of a cat or kitten is a big job! Find out what supplies you will need and what responsibilities you will have to take care of your new best friend.

Supplies Needed

- Balanced, brand name food. Not generic! Make sure it's for the right age. Dry food is better for your pet's teeth. Canned food is more similar to a natural diet for cats, so some of both is probably best.
- Food and water bowls. Ceramic and metal are best. Some pets are sensitive to plastic.
- Cat toys – make sure there aren't any small parts or string that can fall off and be swallowed
- A cat brush
- Cat toothpaste and toothbrush
- "Breakaway" collar and ID tag
- Microchip both indoor and outdoor cats
- Scratching post or scratching pad
- Litter box – one per cat, plus one extra
- Litter – scoopable litter is best. Don't use dusty or perfumed litter.
- Cat carrier
- Cat nail clippers
- Optional: Cat condo, cat leash and harness, cat bed, cat "plants"

Feeding Your Cat/Kitten

- Kittens (under 6 months): 3-4 times a day
- Over 6 months : Feed twice a day (amount depends on food type and how active your cat is)
- Training your cat to eat twice a day: When your kitten turns 6 months old, offer food to him/her twice a day only. Leave the food out for ½ hour only. Your cat will quickly learn to eat all of his/her food during the half hour.
- Avoid giving your pet too many treats since cats can become overweight as they age

Dangers! Never Feed Your Cat/Kitten:

- Alcoholic drinks
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Grapes and raisins
- Moldy or spoiled food
- Onions, garlic and chives
- Bones
- Tomato plants
- Unripe fruit
- Yeast dough
- Any houseplants – some are poisonous



Chores

Daily

- Clean litter box, feed (see above)
- Clean water/food bowls
- Change water
- Play with your cat
- Walk (optional)

Weekly

- Thoroughly clean the litter box using a mild soap and replace litter
- Brush teeth once

Two Times a Week

- Brush hair (gently)

Monthly

- Check to see if nails need to be trimmed

Yearly

- Have your parent or guardian take your cat to veterinarian for a check-up

Training

You can train your cat to walk on leash by using a leash or harness made for cats, by starting in a fenced-in yard and rewarding them for good behavior with treats. You can also train your cat to use a scratching post by placing catnip around the base of the post and rewarding your pet when he/she uses the scratching post. Cats love to scratch!

Brushing Your Cat's Teeth

It is not easy, but cats are healthier if you brush their teeth. Use cat toothpaste and brush. Start when they are kittens, so they get used to it.

Spaying and Neutering

- Female cats should be spayed and male cats neutered by six months old. This reduces bad behavior and some diseases later in life.

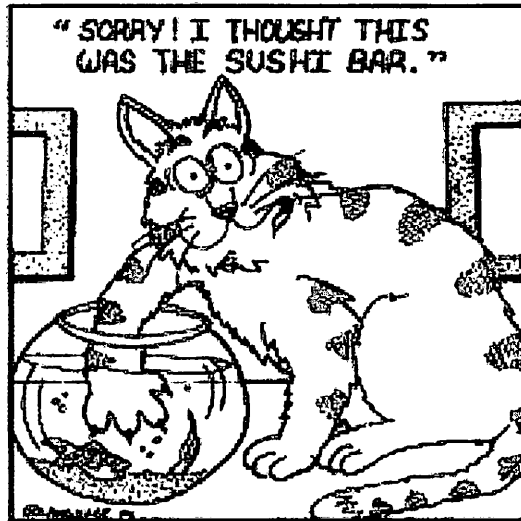
Finding the Right Veterinarian

- When you get your pet, have your parent or guardian take it to a veterinarian for a check-up
- Your pet should see a veterinarian at least once a year and when you think it might be sick

Information on taking caring of your cat or kitten provided by Link Welborn, DVM DABVP, of Temple Terrace Animal & Bird Hospital in Tampa, Florida.



Kitten- Proofing Your House



Curious kittens are capable of leaping onto high surfaces or squeezing into the smallest of spaces. To protect your kitten in his new environment, and to safeguard your belongings, kitten-proof your house!

Kitchens/Bathrooms: Use childproof latches to keep little paws from prying open cabinets. Keep medications, cleaners, chemical and laundry supplies on high shelves. Keep trash cans covered or inside a latched cabinet. Check for and block any small spaces, nooks or holes inside cabinetry or behind washer/dryer units. Make sure they haven't jumped into the dryer before you turn it on. Keep foods out of reach (even if the food isn't harmful, the wrapper could be). Keep the toilet lid closed to prevent drowning.

Living/Family Room: Place dangling wires from lamps, VCRs, televisions, stereos and phones out of reach. Keep kids toys put away. Put away knick-knacks until your kitten has the coordination not to knock them over. Check all those places where your vacuum cleaner doesn't fit, but your kitten does, for dangerous items like string. Move house plants, which can be poisonous, out of reach, including hanging plants that can be jumped onto from nearby surfaces. Make sure all heating/air vents have a cover. Put away all sewing and craft notions, especially thread.

Garage: Move all chemicals to high shelves or behind secure doors. Clean up all antifreeze from the floor and driveway, as one taste can be lethal to a kitten. Bang on your car hood to ensure that your kitten (or any neighborhood cats) has not hidden in the engine for warmth. Keep fishhooks and other sharp objects and tools out of reach.

Bedrooms: Keep laundry and shoes behind closed doors (drawstrings and buttons can cause major problems). Keep any medications, lotions, or cosmetics off accessible surfaces like the bedside table. Move electrical and phone wires out of reach of chewing. Be careful that you don't close your kitten in closets or dresser drawers.

Be sure to watch for paws, noses, and tails when you shut doors behind you or scoot chairs.

(Information provided by the American Humane Association)



Poisonous Plants

The list of potentially dangerous plants is very long, but here is a select list of the most common plants that can be toxic to your pet.

Alfalfa	Amaryllis	Angel's Trumpet
Arrowgrass –(can be fatal)	Azalea	Bird of Paradise
Bittersweet –(Berries can be fatal)	Black Locust	Bleeding Heart
Buttercup	Calla Lily	Castor Bean –(can be fatal)
Cherry Tree –(cyanide poisoning)	Chinaberry	Chokecherry
Chrysanthemum	Clover	Coriara
Creeping Charlie	Crown of Thorns	Daffodil
Delphinium	Dieffenbachia –(can be fatal)	Easter Lily –(can be fatal)
Elderberry –(cyanide poisoning)	Elephant Ears	Fern
Foxglove	Hemlock –(can be fatal)	Hemp
Holly	Hyacinth	Hydrangea
Ivy	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Jasmine
Jimsonweed –(can be fatal)	Larkspur	Lily-of-the-Valley –(can be fatal)
Locoweed –(can be fatal)	Lupine	Milkweed
Mint	Mistletoe –(can be fatal)	Moonweed –(causes convulsions)
Mushrooms & Toadstools–(can be fatal)	Nettles	Nightshade
Oleander –(can be fatal)	Peach Tree –(cyanide poisoning)	Philodendron –(can be fatal)
Poinsettia –(can be fatal)	Pokeweed	Rhododendron
Rhubarb –(convulsions & death)	Sago Palm –(can be fatal)	Skunk Cabbage
Spinach	St Johnswort	Thorn Apple
Tomato Vine	Tulip	Umbrella Plant – (can be fatal)
Yew		

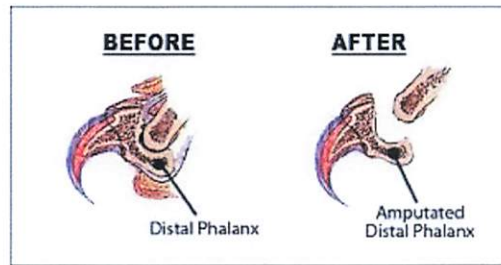
Symptoms may vary from one animal to another. Some animals may not exhibit any symptoms and others may have excessive drooling, vomiting, or diarrhea. Other symptoms include irritation and swelling of the mouth and skin. In severe cases respiratory distress, heart tremors, kidney and liver problems may occur. Extreme cases may cause a coma or even death.

It is important as a pet owner to note that most animals will vomit after chewing on a plant. You should contact your Veterinarian only if the vomiting persists, or if other symptoms appear. For safety reasons it is best to keep all plants out of areas your pet has access to. Be sure to keep your Vet's phone number nearby in case of an emergency.



Facts about Feline Declawing

- Declawing is a serious medical procedure that involves amputating the entire last knuckle of the toe, including the ligaments and tendons. It is the equivalent of amputating the last knuckle at the end of each human finger.



- Scratching is a normal feline behavior; it is a means for cats to mark their territory both visually and with scent, and is used for claw conditioning ("husk" removal) and stretching activity.
- There are potential long term physical and behavioral impacts of declawing, including:
 - Chronic pain, lameness, bone spurs, necrosis and nerve damage
 - Aversion to using the litter box (due to pain in the cat's paws after the surgical procedure)
 - Personality Changes including becoming more fearful or aggressive. Because they cannot mark with their claws or defend themselves in their normal manner, this can sometimes result in inappropriate urination or biting.
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- There are many safe and easy alternatives to declawing, which include:
 - Regular nail trimming by owners, groomers, or veterinary professionals
 - Providing plenty of appropriate scratching implements (scratching posts, cardboard boxes, etc) in multiple locations around the house
 - Temporary plastic nail caps (Soft Paws or other similar brands) can be applied to prevent injury or damage to property. These are very easily applied either at home or in your veterinarians office
 - FELISCRATCH is a synthetic pheromone product that encourages cats to scratch their appropriate scratching posts using scent and visual markers

