

Kitten Pack

- *a supplement, concise, and summarized version* -

Getting a new kitten is exciting but can also feel overwhelming when you think about all the information to keep in mind: vaccines, dewormers, tick and flea control, house training, etc. The list goes on. This summarized version lists the contents of the kitten pack in order of importance.

Remember, as always, our staff is welcoming any questions you may have!

Sincerely,

Everyone at Mill Brook Animal Clinic

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Vaccinations.

There are mainly three vaccines cats get. Two are core vaccines that all cats should have regardless of lifestyle, and one is a non-core vaccine aimed more at cats socializing with other cats.

Vaccine	Diseases covered	When is it given
FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia)	Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis Calicivirus Panleukopenia Virus	Beginning as early as six weeks of age, then every 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age. Kittens over 16 weeks and adults starting the series: Two doses, 3 to 4 weeks apart. A booster injection is given one year following the last dose of the initial series, then no more frequently than every three years after that.
<u>Rabies</u>	Rabies is caused by the rabies virus. It is a 100% lethal disease that can affect any mammal, including humans.	One dose is given at or after 12 weeks of age and is good for one year. After this, a booster is given every one or three years, depending on your preference.
FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus)	FeLV infection.	Given in conjunction with or right after the FVRCP course. Extremely important for outdoor cats. Indoor cats should also get an initial series but generally do not get this vaccine repeated. Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart, followed by annual boosters.

To conclude:

- You *must* vaccinate your cat against Rabies.
- You *should* vaccinate against FVRCP.
- You *can* vaccinate against FeLV, especially if your cat ventures outdoors or socializes with other cats.





We are more than happy to discuss any questions you may have!

Internal Parasites

Kittens should be dewormed routinely, as well as have their stools tested regularly, even as adults. Kittens can inherit worms from their mother, pick up worms in the environment, or even be infected through biting and swallowing fleas. There are also other parasites that are not worms, such as Giardia. The main worms seen in kittens are roundworms. Roundworms can be transmitted through the milk when nursing, and the life cycle of the worm is anywhere from 4-8 weeks, so regular deworming is highly recommended.

External Parasites

The ectoparasites consist of fleas, mites, ticks, and lice. Cats that venture outside the home should always be on tick and flea protection.

Some of the common invasive organisms you can easily protect your pet against			
	<p>Fleas</p> <p>This is the most common skin parasite of the cat and because fleas live primarily in the environment, treatment can be challenging. Monthly preventatives is strongly recommended if your cat ever ventures outdoors.</p>		
			

Monthly preventatives

One great monthly preventative for your cat is Revolution Plus. It provides:

- **Heartworm prevention**
- Intestinal worm prevention
- Flea and tick prevention.

FIV/FelV testing

We encourage all kittens to have FIV/FelV testing with their pre-spay/neuter labwork. This is to ensure we know the status of your pet and to accommodate any special considerations.

[More information on FIV.](#)

[More information on FeLV.](#)

Indoor Cats

We strongly recommend visiting the [Indoor Cat Initiative website](#) by the Ohio State University Veterinary School. This is an invaluable resource on how to maximize your cat's indoor life experience.

Dental Health

Cats are unique because over 50% of their dental disease can be hidden from the naked eye. There are mainly [four kinds of dental disease](#) cats get:

- Resorptive disease (FORL/TORL) - which is more often invisible to the naked eye
- Periodontal disease (see below)
- Stomatitis (less common inflammatory condition of the mouth)
- Malignancy - cancer

All cats get plaque build-up on their teeth - there is no exception. Plaque on its own is not very dangerous to the otherwise healthy cat, provided it is a low-grade amount. Along with plaque comes gingivitis, the inflammatory response to the bacteria and organic materials the plaque contains. Gingivitis leads to periodontitis, tooth loss, and possible bone infection. Dental disease is arguably the most commonly diagnosed illness in dogs and cats.

Why worry about the dental disease - isn't it "normal"?

Oral and dental diseases such as heavy plaque, gingivitis, periodontitis, and stomatitis put your cat at increased risk of heart infection (endocarditis), bone infection, kidney problems, liver problems, anorexia, and other conditions. Additionally, chronic pain from oral pathology can exert stressors on your cat, leading to other complications.

Dental disease is extremely painful, and cats are masters at hiding this pain from their owners.

What dental products are safe?

Brushing your cat's teeth at home can significantly impact your cat's health and well-being. There are several home care options, and picking one may seem daunting, given the options found in pet stores and online. We recommend products approved by the [Veterinary Oral Health Council](#). Their list is complete and suggests the best products to help maintain good oral health in your cat.

How to brush my cat's teeth

The earlier you start, the easier it is. Kittens will learn that brushing is a short affair and can often be a nice socialization moment. Our technicians are happy to demonstrate tooth brushing and introduce products we have available.

These videos demonstrate brushing techniques:

- [How to Brush Your Cat's Teeth](#)

At Mill Brook Animal Clinic, we have the recommended toothbrushes and cat-safe toothpaste seen in these clips as well as healthy dental chews which may also be used.

Financial Aid Initiatives

It is advisable to consider the following options:

Pet Insurance (IT IS WORTH IT!)

Pet insurance is a policy purchased by the owner of a pet that will lessen the overall costs if expensive medical bills are incurred by that pet. The key to pet insurance is to enroll early in life to limit the likelihood of any pre-existing exclusions on the policy. There is a variety of pet insurance options out there and it is worthwhile looking at the options carefully before selecting. Feel free to ask our support staff any questions you may have about pet insurance.

Clinical signs warranting your pet be seen by a veterinarian

Should your kitten/cat experience any of the following signs, please contact a veterinarian:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting • Diarrhea • Unintended weight loss • Appetite change • Lethargy, hyperactivity or restlessness • Limping • Sudden inability to move back legs • Showing any sign of pain when touched • Appearing disoriented • Seizures / fits • Any loss of consciousness • Coughing • Hair loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labored or difficult breathing • Any blue, purple or pale hue to tongue or gums • Sudden collapse • Excessive drooling • Straining to urinate • Crying or discomfort when urinating • Change in urination (smell, frequency, location, color, amount) • Bloated abdomen • Excessive sneezing • Nose bleeds or other bleeds • Any bruising • Unusual odor including bad breath • Runny eyes or nose • Squinting
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