

2501 Village Lane, Cambria CA 93428 // 805.927.7000 www.cambriaanimalmedicalcenter.com

KITTEN COMPREHENSIVE CARE PACKAGE

During your cat's first four months of life, we recommend veterinary check-ups every 3 to 4 weeks for routine physical examinations, vaccinations, and dewormings. These visits are also designed to provide you with an opportunity to discuss your questions or concerns about your new pet with our veterinarians and staff. You will meet with Dr. Suzy or Dr. Meusel at each visit and one of our staff members will call you the following day to answer any additional questions that you may have. Although we tailor our care to each individual kitten's needs, below is a list of what you can expect at each visit:

First Kitten Examination (6-8 weeks of age):

Comprehensive physical examination – 30 minutes FVRCP combination vaccination – kitten series Deworming medication administered Fecal examination performed Flea medication – Revolution Appointment scheduled for:

Second Kitten Examination (10-12 weeks of age):

Comprehensive physical examination – 15 minutes FVRCP/Feline Leukemia combination vaccination – kitten series Feline Leukemia/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus blood test Deworming medication administered Flea prevention – Revolution Appointment scheduled for:

Third Kitten Examination (14-16 weeks of age):

Comprehensive Physical Examination – 15 minutes FVRCP/Feline Leukemia combination vaccination – annual vaccine Feline Rabies Purevax vaccine – annual vaccine Deworming medication administered Flea prevention – Revolution Appointment scheduled for:

Vaccinations:

Your kitten will receive a series of vaccinations between 8 and 16 weeks of age. During this time, your kitten's immune system is building the strength to fight disease. Although there are many contagious diseases that can be harmful or fatal to your kitten, most of these are preventable through vaccination. The following vaccines are recommended for your pet:

<u>FVRCP</u> – This stands for Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia. In order to be effective, this vaccine should be given every 3 to 4 weeks beginning at about 6 to 8 weeks of age and continuing until your kitten is about 16 weeks of age.

- Viral Rhinotracheitis causes sneezing, nasal discharge, and ocular discharge.
- Calicivirus is a virus that causes sneezing, nasal discharge, and oral ulcers.
- Panleukopenia is a virus that causes severe, life threatening diarrhea.

<u>**Rabies**</u> – Rabies is a fatal viral infection. The virus is shed in saliva and is commonly transmitted from bite wounds by an infected animal. This vaccine is given once during kittenhood between 12-16 weeks of age.

<u>Feline Leukemia</u> – This is a virus that causes immune suppression and sometimes cancer. It is passed by close physical contact with infected cats. Therefore this vaccination is recommended for cats that roam outdoors but is not necessary for cats that live indoors only. This vaccine should be given twice 3 to 4 weeks apart and is usually given at approximately 12 and 16 weeks of age.

After the kitten vaccine series is completed, all vaccines will be boostered again in one year. Following that, Rabies vaccine is boostered yearly while FVRCP and Feline Leukemia vaccines are boostered every one to three years, depending on your cat's lifestyle and risk factors. We will discuss the optimal vaccination interval for your cat with you, and together we will decide how best to keep your cat healthy.

At Cambria Animal Medical Center, we have selected the vaccines that we feel are the safest for your pet. We use a feline-specific Rabies vaccine manufactured by Merial called Purevax which is free of adjuvant/additives that can cause reactions in some cats. Additionally, our FVRCP and Feline Leukemia vaccines are low-volume vaccines, which not only means fewer needle sticks for your pet, but a more comfortable injection with 50-75% less volume than traditional vaccines.

Flea Prevention:

Fleas can make your kitten miserable. It only takes one flea bite to cause an allergic reaction and itching, and some pets even develop skin infections as a result of flea allergies. Common signs of flea infestation include licking and biting at the base of the tail and the belly, and scratching around the neck and ears. If you see these signs, it is likely that your kitten is suffering from flea bites, even if you never find a flea! In addition, your cat can acquire tapeworms by ingestion of fleas during self grooming. For these reasons, we strongly recommend that you use a monthly flea control product to protect your kitten. There are several options for flea prevention in your cat, including topical medications (such as Revolution and Vectra) and oral medications (such as Comfortis).

Fecal examination (for intestinal parasites):

A kitten or cat may be infected with an intestinal parasite without showing any symptoms. Therefore, we recommend that all kittens have a fecal examination performed to ensure they are not carriers of any parasites, such as tapeworms, roundworms, *Coccidia*, and *Giardia*. Additionally, we recommend that cats that spend any time outdoors have yearly fecal examinations. This is especially important for households with children, as some intestinal parasites are zoonotic (able to infect humans) and children are often at greatest risk.

Spaying or neutering:

We will discuss with you the best time to spay or neuter your young cat; most often, these surgeries are scheduled when your kitten is between 5 and 6 months of age. These surgical procedures are performed on an out-patient basis, meaning your pet will stay with us for the day but will be able to go home with you in the afternoon. During these anesthetic procedures, we use state of the art equipment to monitor your pet's vital signs and to ensure their safety.

It is behaviorally beneficial to spay or neuter your pet early in life. For example, neutering male cats before they reach sexual maturity may prevent the development of many unwanted behaviors. The benefits of neutering your male cat include the following:

- Reducing urine marking behavior
- Eliminating mounting and aggressive behaviors
- Reducing roaming behavior

The benefits of spaying your female cat include the following:

- Eliminating unwanted heats
- Eliminating vocalization that occurs during heats
- Reducing the risk of mammary cancer
- Eliminating the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer
- Eliminating the risk of pregnancy
- Eliminating the risk of pyometra, a life-threatening uterine infection

Microchips:

A microchip is a device that is used to identify your pet if he or she is lost. The microchip, about the size of a grain of rice, is implanted under your pet's skin between the shoulder blades. Veterinary clinics and shelters scan for microchips on all stray pets. If your pet has a microchip, his or her individual identification number is used to reunite you with your pet. A microchip is also required for international travel. We can microchip your pet at any time; however, many pet owners choose to have the microchip implanted at the time of the spay or neuter surgery.

> Please do not hesitate to call us at 805.927.7000 if you have any questions or concerns about your kitten. Our friendly and knowledgeable veterinarians and staff members are always available to answer your questions. We look forward to getting to know the newest member of your family!



Visit #1 Date:	DVM:	OPT:

Staff Initials	
	Comprehensive Examination (30 minute)
	FVRCP vaccine
	Dewormer: Strongid or Profender
	Flea control: Revolution
	Nail trim demonstration
	Discuss microchip implantation today or at time of OVH/castration.
	Discuss feeding/BCS, exercise, socialization/introduction to other pets in household,
	appropriate scratching, litterbox habits, indoor/outdoor choices, timing of
	OVH/castration.
	Schedule next appointment in 3-4 weeks.

Visit #2 Date:	DVM:	OPT:

Staff Initials	
	Brief Examination (15 minute)
	FeLV/FIV in-house SNAP test
	FVRCP / FeLV combination vaccine
	Dewormer: Strongid or Profender
	Submit fecal sample T808
	Flea control: Revolution, Vectra, or Comfortis
	Revisit above topics and choose flea control.
	Schedule next appointment in 3-4 weeks.

Visit #3 Date:	DVM: OPT:
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Staff Initials	
	Brief Examination (15 minute)
	Rabies vaccine – annual
	FVRCP / FeLV combination vaccine annual
	Dewormer: Strongid or Profender
	Flea control: Revolution, Vectra, or Comfortis
	Revisit above topics and choose flea control.
	Present treatment plan for OVH/castration, schedule pre-op labwork and surgery.