



THE BARRACKS  
VET SURGERY  
MOSMAN

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## YOUR NEW KITTEN

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Congratulations on acquiring your newest family member and welcome to The Barracks Vet Surgery. We hope the following information assists you in raising a happy and healthy cat.

### **Nutrition**

The type of food chosen for your kitten is vital to their development. A premium quality food serves as complete nutrition and will give your kitten the best possible start in life. A premium diet should be maintained throughout their adulthood as it will help prevent adult diseases and problems such as obesity, dental disease, diabetes, heart and kidney disease. We recommend Royal Canin and Hills Science Diet. Remember to gradually introduce new food types to prevent stomach upsets.

### **Vaccinations**

An F3 vaccination protects kittens against highly contagious and infectious diseases such as Feline Enteritis and 2 forms of respiratory disease (cat flu) caused by feline herpes and/or feline calicivirus. Once a kitten is weaned they no longer have antibody protection from their mother's milk and therefore require a course of vaccinations. These should be given at the following ages:

- 6 – 8 weeks of age
- 10 – 12 weeks of age
- 14 – 16 weeks of age

Following these, booster vaccinations are required once a year which will provide ongoing protection for your cat, however vaccination protocols are constantly being updated.

### **Microchipping**

By law, animals must be microchipped and registered under the New South Wales Animal Act. A microchip acts as a permanent tracking device should your cat ever get lost as it enables permanent identification. Implantation occurs between your cat's shoulder blades and a copy of the given details will be given to you and recorded on a database. Give these details to Council when you register your cat. Remember to update your contact details if you ever change address or mobile number.

## Desexing

We recommend that you have your kitten desexed prior to them coming on heat between 5 - 6 months of age. Desexing will assist in avoiding the development of undesirable behaviour and most importantly reduce the risk of particular health problems occurring during their adult life. It also makes Council registration cheaper.

## Worming

Intestinal parasites such as Roundworm, Whipworm, Hookworm and Tapeworm are a common problem in kittens. Kittens can be exposed to these parasites through their environment, their mother's milk or even before they are born. We recommend using *Advocate* or *Revolution* once a month for the duration of your cat's life. This treats intestinal worms, heartworm, fleas, ear mites and lungworm and should be applied on the skin at the back of the neck. Alternatively an all wormer tablet such as *Milbemax* can be given every 3 months.

## Fleas

These external parasites can make life miserable for your cat, creating a vicious circle of biting and scratching. *Advocate* and *Revolution*, both effective monthly topspot treatments are excellent all rounders as they not only treat against fleas but also heartworm, intestinal worms, lung worm and ear mites. They should be applied once a month to the back of the cat's neck all year round. *Comfortis*, a monthly flea killing oral tablet, is now registered for use in cats and can be used in conjunction with existing products.

## Ticks

Paralysis ticks can be fatal. They are found along the east coast of Australia, affecting thousands of dogs and cats every year, and are most prevalent during the warmer months between September and March. Symptoms of tick poisoning may include:

- Loss of co-ordination or wobbly hind legs
- Change in meow pitch or loss of voice
- Retching, coughing or vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Difficult or rapid breathing

We recommend the *Frontline Plus* top spot. It is the only effective tick killer made for cats and should be applied to the back of your kitten's neck every 2 weeks during the warmer months (March- Sept inc) to help protect your kitten from tick poisoning. When used monthly during the cooler months (Oct – Feb inc) *Frontline* acts as a flea killer only and year round should be combined with a 3 monthly *Milbemax* tablet to treat intestinal and heartworms.

## Pet Insurance

Modern veterinary care is on par with treatment available to humans but unfortunately there is no government subsidy available to help us look after our pets. The Barracks Vet Surgery recommends pet insurance from a young age.