

Congratulations on your new kitten!

Welcome and thank you for choosing the Animal Hospital of Sullivan County to care for your new kitten. This is the first step in practicing good health for your little buddy.

Your new kitten now depends on you for everything- food, water, exercise, training, good health and hygiene practices and above all lots of love and attention. Like you, the Animal Hospital of Sullivan County is committed to the well-being of your kitten and we hope this kitten pack will serve as a guide to the basic care of your little one's needs.

Here's to a happy and healthy life together!



Vaccinations and Veterinary Visits

Kittens are susceptible to many diseases. There are seven vaccines that your kitten should receive between six and 12 weeks of age. The veterinarians at the Animal Hospital of Sullivan County will administer these vaccines at three to four week intervals. It is important to complete the vaccination series as soon as possible so your kitten is safe to go out into the world to socialize with other people and other animals. Some of the vaccinations require booster shots to maintain effective levels of protection.

Vaccines that are routinely given:

1. **Feline Distemper**: Also called Panleukopenia, this is a highly contagious disease spread through the air, contact with infected animals, or contact with places where infected animals have been. Symptoms can include weight loss, severe depression, dehydration, loss of appetite, increased thirst, vomiting, and diarrhea.
2. Upper Respiratory Disease: **Calicivirus** and **rhinotracheitis** (Herpesvirus) are highly contagious viral infections displaying “flu-like” symptoms, including sneezing, depression, discharge from eyes and ears, fever, and ulcers in the mouth.
3. **Chlamydia**: Contagious bacterial infection displaying upper respiratory symptoms
4. **Feline Leukemia Virus**: A virus that causes immunosuppression, chronic anemia, leukemia, and solid tumors. Can be spread through contact with infected blood, saliva, or tears.
5. **Feline Immunodeficiency Virus**: An immunosuppressive virus transmitted through contact with infected blood or saliva (bite wounds).
6. **Rabies**: A virus that attacks the nervous system. Always fatal. Transmitted through bite wounds or when saliva of a rabid animal comes in contact with broken skin. This is a zoonotic disease.

Your kitten will need to see the doctor several times the first year. Please be responsible for scheduling these check-ups. We want to help your kitten grow up healthy.

Worms, fleas, and ticks

Protecting your kitten from worms, fleas and ticks is essential to its health. Nearly every kitten is born with intestinal parasites from its mother. These internal parasites pose a risk to both the kitten and the owner. Protecting your kitten and yourself is a lifelong commitment.

HEARTWORMS: Heartworms are deadly and one of the most common canine parasites. Although less common in cats, it only takes 1 or 2 worms in the cat to cause severe problems. They are transmitted from an infected pet to a non-infected cat through mosquitoes. It takes 6 months for the larva deposited under the skin by a mosquito to migrate and mature in the right side of the heart. Since mosquitoes get indoors, all cats are at risk. Symptoms may include vomiting, coughing, difficulty breathing, lethargy, weight loss, collapse or convulsions, even death.

HOOKWORMS: Hookworms can be transmitted when the kitten is in utero, nursing, through skin penetration and later in life as cats swallow hookworm eggs or larvae. They attach to the intestinal lining and leave bleeding internal wounds. Hookworms are a zoonotic parasite that can be transmitted to people, especially children. Symptoms include weight loss, weakness, haggard appearance, and dull unkempt fur.

ROUNDWORMS: Kittens can acquire roundworms in utero (some species), from nursing, or by eating infected animals such as rodents or snakes. Roundworms are a zoonotic parasite and can be transmitted to people, especially children. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, and stunted growth.

WHIPWORMS: Whipworms develop when a cat swallows whipworm eggs passed from an infected cat. Infection is rare. Symptoms include diarrhea, anemia and dehydration.

GIARDIA: Giardia is a one celled organism that lives in the small intestines of cats. A large number of cats can be asymptomatic while others develop diarrhea. It is contagious to other cats and people

COCCIDIA: Coccidiosis is caused by a one-celled organism that multiplies in the small intestines. It is most common in young kittens but has been found in adult cats as well. Coccidiosis can cause diarrhea. It is contagious to other cats.

FLEAS: Flea eggs that have fallen off a pet develop into worm-like larvae, which hide in carpeting, furniture, leaves and other dark places. Adult fleas can then easily attach themselves to the pet when the pet comes into contact with these locations. Symptoms may include itching, skin irritation and extreme discomfort. Fleas can transmit tapeworms and other diseases as well.

TICKS: Ticks are virtually a problem everywhere. Besides being annoying pests, ticks may also transmit diseases like lyme, ehrlichia and rocky mountain spotted fever.

ZOONOSIS/PREVENTION

A zoonotic disease is a disease that can affect animals and humans. Rabies, roundworms, hookworms and giardia are an abbreviated list of diseases every pet owner should be aware of.

Protect yourself and your pets by not handling wild and stray animals and by having your cat vaccinated against rabies. A kitten or a cat receiving a rabies vaccine for the first time will receive a one year vaccine. Every vaccine thereafter will be good for 3 years. Reminders are sent out early so that the vaccine never lapses.

Protect yourself, your family and your kitten against roundworms, hookworms and giardia by having a stool examined several times the first year of his life and at least once yearly thereafter. It is also very important to practice strict sanitation in your household. Feces should be removed and disposed of daily. Food and water should be placed so that there is no contamination from feces. Wash your hands after handling feces and before eating or drinking.

RECOMMENDED VETERINARY PRODUCTS:

REVOLUTION: Revolution is a once monthly topical medication that is applied at the base of the neck your kitten or cat. It helps control fleas, ticks, hookworms, roundworms, heartworms, and even ear mites. It is safe to use on kittens as young as 6 weeks of age and on pregnant or nursing mothers.

A note on preventative medicine products sold through your veterinarian:

All medications bought through your veterinarian are 100% guaranteed and backed by the manufacturer. These medications include commonly used products like Revolution, Frontline, and Advantage. If these products are bought through anyone other than a licensed veterinarian the manufacturer will NOT stand behind their product.

DAY TO DAY CARE OF KITTENS



Bringing a new kitten home is a big exciting change in your life. You want to show the new member of your family to your friends, start showing him some tricks, and have fun interacting with each other. Just remember that a new environment is a big change for the kitten too, and that he needs time to adjust to it.

A Few Things Your Kitten Should Have:

- 1. Premium Foods**
- 2. Food and Water Bowls**
- 3. Collar; halter and leash (if planning on leash-training)**
- 4. ID Tag or AVID microchip**
- 5. Pet carrier or crate**
- 6. Stain remover and odor eliminator**
- 7. Repellents and/or chew stops**
- 8. Comb**
- 9. Therapeutic Chew Toys**
- 10. Ear cleansing solution**
- 11. Heartworm, Flea, and tick control products**
- 12. Dental Kit**
- 13. Schedule exam with veterinarian**
- 14. Loving, responsible, informed pet ownership**

Socializing Your Kitten

Cats have been a domesticated species for thousands of years, but each new kitten still needs to learn how to behave around humans.

Socializing your kitten helps him to become a happy, well adjusted member of our society. The first three to four months of a kitten's life are the most critical times for socialization, playing a large role in how the kitten will handle different situations throughout its life. Although your new cat can continue to learn good social skills as it gets older, it is easiest when it is a kitten to give it good experiences, expose it to different stimuli, and reduce it's fear of the unknown when it is still young.

A good way to socialize your kitten with both people and other pets is to play with it and handle it often. There are health risks involved in exposing young kittens to other cats and new environments, so it is best to discuss with your veterinarian what a good age is for starting these encounters. When exposing your kitten to new people, you may want to ask each person to give the kitten a little treat. Try to make sure your kitten has plenty of positive encounters with children, as they can seem like a completely different species to your kitten. Kittens that grow up unused to how children walk, act, and talk, may never feel comfortable around them.

Finally, be careful to avoid physical punishment. Swatting the kitten, shaking it, thumping it on the nose or rubbing the kitten's face in a mess is more likely to weaken the bond you are trying to form and teach it not to trust people than anything else. Pets that grow up scared of the human hand may become fear biters. In general, try to avoid forcing your kitten into a situation that will make it feel anxious during the first few months of life.

LEADERSHIP

Although a human household isn't quite the same as a cat family, dominant displays, postures, or attitudes toward the owners must be discouraged if you are to gain control of your kitten. Having good control of your kitten means you will have a cat which grows up to be a manageable and pleasant addition to your home, rather than one that is difficult to handle.

First, you need to be fair. Never use physical punishment. Be consistent with rewards and corrections; make sure everyone in the household observes the same set of rules. Be generous with praise; kittens respond better to lots of praise rather than lots of scolding.

Second, make the kitten aware that you are important in its life. Feed it on a specific schedule.

Third, don't allow the kitten to take control. Don't allow it to constantly ask for attention; don't give into demands unless it is doing something you want it to ask for.

You should be the one to initiate positive actions. The kitten should get affection, treats, and attention when initiated by you, not when the kitten demands.

FELINE HOUSETRAINING

There are several steps you need to take care of to properly houstrain your kitten.



- 1. Litter (substrate). Choose an appropriate litter material. Studies show that more cats prefer clumping litter and you may find it easier to keep clean. However, any other commercial litter material may be just as or even more appealing to your particular kitten. Clumping litter may lead to tracking litter outside the box, and kittens that eat litter should not be given clumping litter. If your kitten isn't using the litter you have chosen, try other types.**
- 2. Litter-box. Choose an appropriate litter-box. The box should be big enough for an adult cat can stretch and scratch in it. Some kittens prefer a litter-box with some privacy, so a hooded box may be preferable. Some kittens may find the self-cleaning litter-box appealing while others may find it frightening. If your kitten is not regularly using the litter-box, try different types. A larger box may be more appealing, such as an under-bed storage container or even a child swimming pool if you have multiple cats. Some prefer a deeper box while others prefer a shallower one.**
- 3. Location. You may have a particular location where you prefer to locate the box, but this must also be acceptable to the kitten. It should be easily accessible to the pet, especially when it wakes from a nap, or after eating or playing. If the kitten is not using the litter-box consistently, consider moving to a different location that might be more appealing.**

Spraying: Some cats, especially intact males that have reached puberty, and females in estrus (heat) may begin to mark their territory by spraying urine on vertical objects and surfaces. Neutering will stop spraying in most but not all cats. If this is the case, seek advice to determine why your cat is continuing to spray.

If your kitten does not use the litter-box, seek veterinary advice to help correct the problem. The first step is to determine whether the kitten is house-soiling with urine, stools, or both, as well as the surfaces and locations used. Medical problems may cause these signs should be considered, since painful elimination, more frequent elimination, or loss of control may drive the kitten away from its box. If no medical cause is found, a behavioral problem may be the cause.

It is sometimes useful to remove the odor thoroughly from flooring and carpets, change the function to an area where the kitten plays, eats or uses a scratching post. You may block access to that area or make the area unpleasant with a motion detector alarm or a sheet of upside-down vinyl carpet runner with the nubs pointing up. If there is more than one cat in the household, additional litter-boxes can be successful.

MOUTHING, NIPPING, AND BITING

Bite inhibition: Mild attempts at deterring the kitten and physically discouraging the kitten can actually serve to increase the intensity of play and biting. Give an immediate, loud 'ouch' whenever the kitten applies too much pressure and stop playing with it. Once the kitten settles down, you can change to a different form of play.

Avoid tug of war if the pet becomes aggressive, too excited, or out of control. If the kitten is constantly demanding attention or gets overexcited during play, it may be under-stimulated. Try additional or longer periods of play, training, and exercise as further outlets for the excess energy. Also provide other outlets for chewing to preempt the kitten's play biting.

If the kitten cannot be quickly calmed, confine it away from the target until it settles, then bring it back to play in an acceptable manner.



PROPER NUTRITION FOR CATS

What should I feed my cat?

We recommend feeding a dry diet over a wet diet to help maintain optimal dental health. There should always be a source of fresh water available at all times.

Your kitten should be fed a diet that is formulated specifically for kittens. As your kitten grows and gets older, you will need to change their diet according to their life stage.

This is because as they age, their bodies require different nutrients and minerals.

How much should I feed my cat?

We do not recommend feeding your cat free choice. This means leaving food out for your cat at all times. This can lead to obesity. Package feeding guidelines are only a starting point for your cat. The amount fed should be adjusted to produce an optimal body condition. This means the ribs should not be seen but easily felt and your cat should have a waist. The abdominal fat pad should be minimal. For optimal body condition scoring, see the body score sheet found in this packet. Your veterinarian will evaluate your cat's body condition and weight at the time of their yearly wellness exam.

How frequently should I feed my cat?

As discussed before, we do not recommend free choice feeding because this can lead to obesity. We suggest meal-restricted feeding because it is more precise in delivering the required amount of food without overfeeding or underfeeding your cat. Frequency depends on your cat. Active cats may require more food than a cat that is prone to gain weight. This is why you need to adjust accordingly. Most cats will do well on twice daily feeding.

Should I be giving vitamin supplements?

Vitamin supplements are usually recommended when feeding a home-made diet. We do not recommend a home-made diet because it is usually harder to maintain a well-balanced diet. It is better for your cat to feed them a well-balanced diet meant for their specific life stage. As your cat gets older, we recommend Missing Link and Cosequin for joint support. Talk to your veterinarian before starting supplements to make sure you don't over-supplement.

BODY CONDITION CHART: WHERE DOES YOUR CAT FIT?

TOO THIN	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Ribs visible on shorthaired cats; no palpable fat; severe abdominal tuck; lumbar vertebrae and wings of ilia easily palpated.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Ribs easily visible on shorthaired cats; lumbar vertebrae obvious with minimal muscle mass; pronounced abdominal tuck; no palpable fat.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering; lumbar vertebrae obvious; obvious waist behind ribs; minimal abdominal fat.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Ribs palpable with minimal fat covering; noticeable waist behind ribs; slight abdominal tuck; abdominal fat pad absent.	
IDEAL	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Well-proportioned; observe waist behind ribs; ribs palpable with slight fat covering; abdominal fat pad minimal.	
TOO HEAVY	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering; waist and abdominal fat pad distinguishable but not obvious; abdominal tuck absent.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Ribs not easily palpated with moderate fat covering; waist poorly discernible; obvious rounding of abdomen; moderate abdominal fat pad.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Ribs not palpable with excess fat covering; waist absent; obvious rounding of abdomen with prominent abdominal fat pad; fat deposits present over lumbar area.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover; heavy fat deposits over lumbar area, face and limbs; distention of abdomen with no waist; extensive abdominal fat deposits.	

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DENTAL DISEASE

Over 85% of all dogs beyond the age of three and 80% of cats beyond the age of five years are affected by some form of dental disease. Manifestations of dental disease include:

- 1- Dental plaque and tartar on the teeth**
- 2- Gingivitis (inflammation of the gums)**
- 3- Periodontal disease (progressive destruction of the gum and bony tissue)**
- 4- Abscesses (pockets of infection associated with the teeth)**
- 5- Cavities or cavity-like erosions (in cats)**

In addition, pets with dental disease may develop bad breath, bleeding from the mouth, and nasal discharge. These problems are usually interrelated and may result in life-threatening heart, kidney, and liver disease if left untreated.

Initially, dental prophylaxis (cleaning) is recommended in the treatment of a pet with dental disease. This involves the use of hand and ultrasonic or roto-pro scalers and polishing. In addition, pets with dental disease may require gum procedures, root canals, fillings, and extractions. It is necessary to anesthetize the pet in order to perform the cleaning. Pets may also require pre-operative testing (blood work, EKG, chest x-rays) prior to the use of an anesthetic.

Once the cleaning and any additional treatment needed has been performed, the progression of dental disease may be slowed by feeding hard foods and by brushing the pet's teeth. We recommend daily dental care in one form or another for optimum dental health. You may rotate between dental chews, tooth brushing, and oral rinses in addition to special dental diets such as Hill's t/d as part of a daily dental program. You can purchase CET toothpaste, CET oral rinse, Hextra dental chews, and BreathaLyser to help fight bad breath through your veterinary office.

How to brush your pet's teeth:

- 1- Keep sessions limited to one minute each at the same time and place daily.**
- 2- Start by getting your pet used to having something placed in the mouth. Place your finger (unless your pet is a biter), dipped in lukewarm water, inside the cheek along the outer surfaces of the teeth. Follow with praise and reward.**
- 3- Once your pet has accepted this procedure, progress to a dampened gauze wrapped around your finger. Follow with praise and continue daily until your pet accepts this routine.**
- 4- Moisten a pet CET toothbrush or an Oral-B 20 soft children's toothbrush with toothpaste or a tooth-cleaning product appropriate for pets. Gently brush the teeth, concentrating on the area where tooth meets gum, using short, gentle strokes over the external surfaces (especially the molars in the back). Praise your pet during and after each session.**
- 5- Have a veterinary dental exam done on your pet every 6 months to help assure dental health and possibly even prolong the life of your pet.**

SHOULD I SPAY/NEUTER MY CAT?

Unless you plan to use your pet for breeding, we recommend that your cat be neutered at about 5-6 months of age. There are several health benefits to neutering your cat and the risks of the surgery are minimal, especially when done at a young age.

Females: Spaying (the surgery is called an ‘ovariohysterectomy’) your cat involves an abdominal surgery where the ovaries and the uterus are removed. There is no scientific evidence that your cat will in any way benefit from having a ‘heat cycle’ or a litter before spaying. A female used for breeding should be spayed after her last litter has been weaned. Some of the benefits of spaying a female cat are:

- Eliminates unwanted heats and the inconvenience of attracting stray cats to your property
- Done prior to the first heat, spaying greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer that is so common in older, intact females
- Protects your cat against the risk of ovarian and uterine cancer and uterine infection (pyometra)
- Helps control the pet population crisis by preventing unwanted pregnancies

Males: Castration of a cat is a surgical procedure in which the testicles are removed. Neutering a male at 5-6 months of age will help prevent many annoying behavioral problems and reduce his risk of many medical complications later in life. Some of the benefits include:

- Eliminates annoying sexual habits such as spraying to mark his territory both indoors and out
- Eliminates desire to roam in search of females. If allowed to run loose, he may fight with other males, be injured by autos, or get lost. If confined, he may become hyperactive or aggressive
- Reduces the chance of developing prostate disease. Also reduces perianal cancer and eliminates testicular cancer. All of these are problems of older, unaltered males.

A final note on neutering: Neutering your pet will not cause it to become fat or lazy. This is due to overfeeding and lack of exercise. Neutering will not cause a personality change except to help prevent unwanted dominance aggression in some males. Surgical risk, though small, is always present. Surgery is performed under anesthesia and post-surgical pain is minimal.

KEEP YOUR PET SAFE

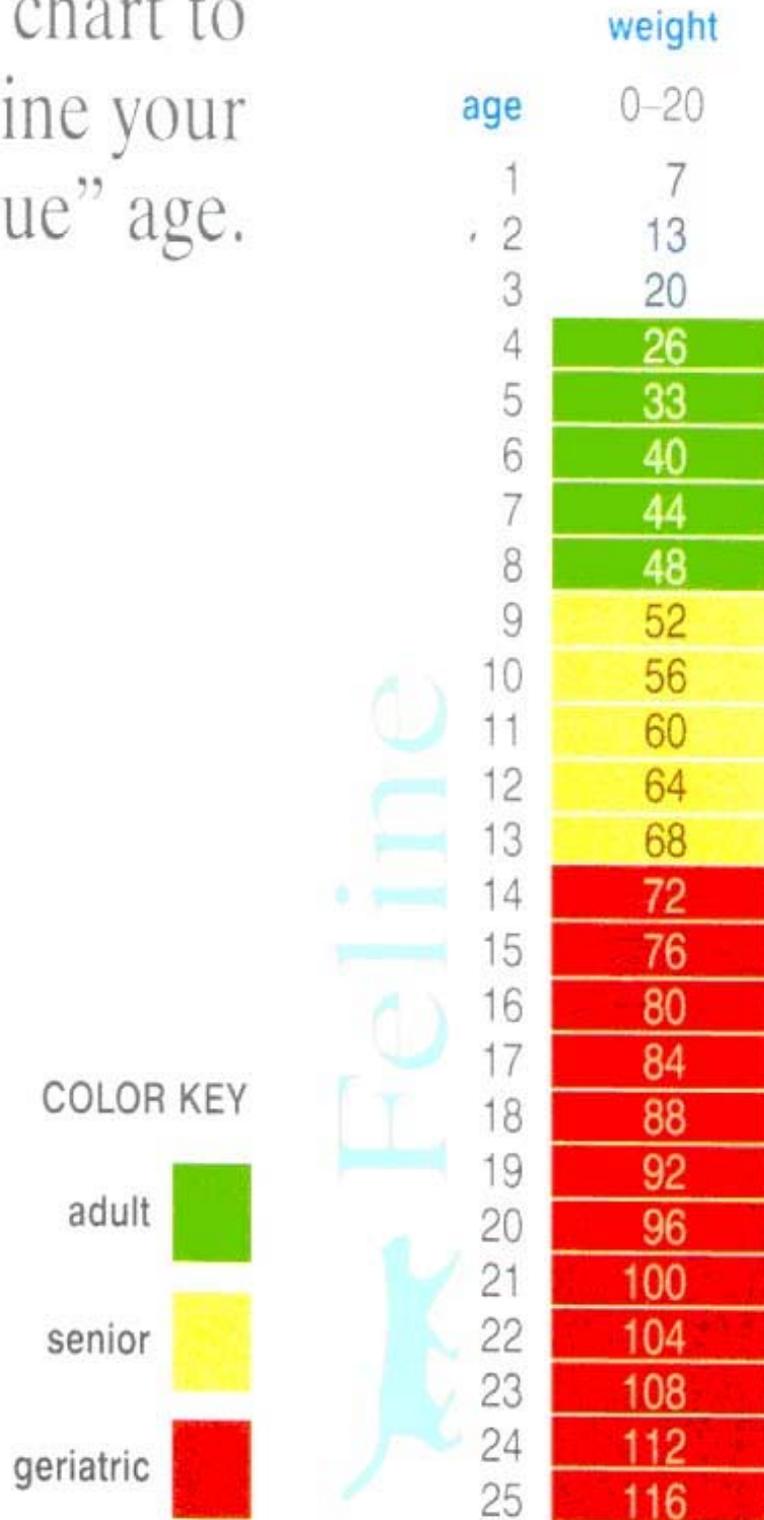
Remember these rules:

- 1- Your pet should wear a collar and complete identification tag including your pet's name, your name, address, and telephone number**
- 2- Your pet should be either microchipped or tattooed. This is permanent and discourages theft**
- 3- If you take your animal out, remember to use a leash**
- 4- When riding with your pet in the car, remember to keep the windows rolled up high enough so he/she cannot jump out**
- 5- During busy times such as holidays and parties, be extra careful. Lots of people and activity in the house can cause your pet to become overexcited and bolt through an open door. It is best to keep your pet confined to a quiet room of the house during these times**
- 6- Remember to keep current photographs of your pet (we suggest yearly)**

If your pet is lost:

- 1- Check the neighborhood first. Pets often don't stray too far from home. Use your photograph to check if anyone has seen your pet**
- 2- Let everyone know your pet is missing- veterinary hospitals, neighborhood children, newspaper delivery person, mail carrier, neighbors, joggers, etc.**
- 3- Visit your local animal shelter to see if your pet has been brought there**
- 4- Use your photograph and photocopy it. Include your pet's name and information on color, breed, sex, your name, and telephone number. Place flyers in high traffic areas such as supermarkets, drug stores, dry cleaners, veterinary hospitals, and other area merchants.**

Use this chart to determine your pet's "true" age.



MEDICAL CARE FOR YOUR CAT THROUGH THE YEARS



Cats age at a faster rate than people so it is important to stay on top of their medical care so that they can live a longer, better quality of life.

As you noticed from the age chart on the previous page cats are classified as adults, seniors, and geriatrics.

Adult animals should have an annual wellness exam which is a complete physical exam from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail.

They need to have an annual stool sample examined for intestinal parasites. An adult cat needs to be on heartworm preventative and flea and tick preventative.

Senior and geriatric animals need to be examined biannually. Our pets' bodies age 3 years for every 6 calendar months. This can make a significant difference in early diagnosis of disease in older animals. In addition to the wellness exam and tests done on an adult cat seniors and geriatrics need senior and geriatric workups to catch disease in its early stages so that early medical care can be instituted to keep that high quality of life we want for your companion. Ideally the wellness exam and the senior/geriatric workup would be spaced 6 months apart so that your veterinarian can monitor any major body changes that would affect quality of life.

The following are diseases that are common for senior and geriatric cats.

Dental disease includes periodontal disease, gingivitis, and possibly cancer. Signs you may notice are bad breath, redness or swelling of the gums, or even a mass in the mouth. If not treated, this can lead to heart disease, tooth loss, kidney and liver disorders, systemic infection, and in the case of cancer, it may spread to other parts of the body.

Liver disease can be inflammatory, degenerative, or cancerous. At home you may notice a decrease in appetite, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, or increased thirst and urination. This may lead to low albumin, impaired lipid metabolism, anemia, bleeding disorders, and liver failure.

Kidney disease includes kidney failure, stones, infection, or insufficiency. Your pet may experience increased thirst and urination, decreased appetite, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, and back pain. Kidney disease may progress to kidney failure, heart disease, electrolyte disturbances, fluid balance disturbances, and death.

Heart and lung disease includes cardiac disease, pneumonia, bronchitis, and emphysema. Signs include decreased stamina, coughing, difficulty breathing, weight loss, or a pot belly. Heart and lung disease can lead to problems with other organs and eventual death.

Joints may be affected by arthritis, hip dysplasia, and back disease. You may note lameness, reluctance to walk or exercise, decreased appetite due to discomfort and pain. If left untreated, these problems can progress to cause reduced mobility of your pet and possible neurologic deficits.

The endocrine system can be affected by diseases such as diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, hypoadrenocorticism, or hyperadrenocorticism. Signs include noticeable weight change, increased appetite without weight gain, vomiting, increase in drinking habits, excessive urination, and a change in activity of the pet. Endocrine imbalances can lead to heart and kidney failure as well as secondary metabolic diseases.

Ocular diseases include cataracts, dry eye, and glaucoma. The eye may become gray or bluish at the center, your pet may rub it's eyes, press the head against objects, have swelling, redness, irritation, or tearing of the eyes. Eye disease may cause difficulty seeing, lead to ulceration of the cornea, blindness, and possibly loss of the eye if left untreated.

Gastrointestinal disease includes inflammatory bowel disease, pancreatitis, colitis, and cancer. The signs most noticed are vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, and fluid gain. If left untreated this may lead to further weight loss and the disease will potentially debilitate the animal to the point of death.

Cancer may affect the skin, spleen, liver, and many other organs. You may notice a bleeding lump, irritated skin, swollen lymph nodes, vomiting, or diarrhea. Cancer can lead to organ failure or death.

The staff at the Animal Hospital of Sullivan County recommends the following at least annually:

1-Basic cat senior workup:

- Comprehensive physical exam
- Comprehensive blood chemistry and complete blood count
- Thyroid testing
- Urinalysis

2-Comprehensive cat senior workup:

- Comprehensive physical exam
- Comprehensive blood chemistry and complete blood count
- Thyroid testing
- Urinalysis
- Blood pressure
- Intraocular pressure/ Schirmer Tear Test
- EKG

3-Basic cat geriatric workup:

- Comprehensive physical exam
- Comprehensive blood chemistry and complete blood count
- Thyroid testing
- Urinalysis
- Blood pressure
- Intraocular pressure/Schirmer Tear Test
- EKG

4-Comprehensive cat geriatric workup:

- Comprehensive physical exam
- Comprehensive blood chemistry and complete blood count
- Thyroid testing
- Urinalysis
- Blood pressure
- Intraocular pressure/Schirmer Tear Test
- EKG
- Whole body x-rays/ Ultrasound

PET INSURANCE OPTIONS

Due to the rising cost of veterinary care, the following is a list of pet insurance companies listed on the web.

- 1- Veterinary Pet insurance: www.petinsurance.com
1-800-USA-PETS (800-872-7387)
- 2- Health Insurance for Pet Alternative: www.petassure.com
- 3- Free Pet Health Insurance Quotes: www.pethealthinsurance.com
- 4- Pet Health Insurance: www.petshealth.com
- 5- PetCare Pet Insurance Programs: www.petcareinsurance.com
- 6- Welcome to Pet Plan: www.petplan.com
- 7- Sheltercare Pet Insurance Programs: www.sheltercare.com
- 8- Free Pet Health Insurance Quotes: www.free-pet-health-insurance-quotes.com
- 9- Pet Insurance Finder: www.petinsurancefinder.com

Another helpful website sponsored by AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association): www.healthypet.com

A PET'S PRAYER

By: Beth Norman Hauls

Treat me kindly, my beloved master, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between the blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me do.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music.

When it is cold and wet, please take me inside, for I am now a domesticated animal, no longer used to bitter elements. And I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth. Though had you no home, I would rather follow you through ice and snow than rest upon the softest pillow in the warmest home in all the land, for you are my god and I am your devoted worshipper.

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for although I should not reproach you were it dry, I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food, that I may stay well to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing, and able to protect you with my life should your life be in danger.

And, beloved master, should the great Master see fit to deprive me of my health or sight, do not turn me away from you. Rather, hold me gently in your arms as skilled hands grant me merciful bounty of eternal rest- and I will leave you knowing with the last breath I drew, my fate was ever safest in your hands.