

## Stine Veterinary Hospital

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New Pet Owner,

We would like to welcome your new kitten, to our practice and pass along some advice that will help make his or her arrival a happy experience for the entire family.

Normally, a new kitten receives lots of attention from all members of the family. This attention does help it "socialize" during the period of its transition from its mother and littermates to its new home and family. At this time it is important to avoid punishment and frightening situations as much as possible. If young children are handling the kitten, they should be made well aware that the kitten is fragile and can be easily frightened or hurt.

A clean, fresh litter box should be provided at all times. Once the kitten has used it, it will normally have little trouble in developing good housetraining habits. Keeping the litter box clean and conveniently located will usually prevent housesoiling problems from developing.

Vaccinations and dewormings are an essential part of keeping your kitten healthy, and timing of these procedures can be critical to providing protection. We advise a kitten vaccination series that, when completed, will protect your kitten against four common and very serious diseases. Testing your kitten for roundworms and other harmful parasites is also recommended, and a stool specimen should be brought in at vaccination time to check if worm treatment is needed.

Feeding your new kitten a balanced diet is very important. Remember that cats are definitely not "small dogs"! In general, they have higher protein and B-vitamin requirements than dogs and can be more finicky eaters. Also, the kitten's requirements are about double that of the adult cat if size differences are considered. A kitten growth diet, fed exclusively, is the best way to meet these needs. A multiple vitamin may be supplemented if desired, but avoid feeding table scraps or treats since this may encourage the kitten to become picky.

At about four to six months of age a rabies vaccination is recommended. Also, at this time, seriously consider having your kitten spayed or neutered. We strongly recommend these operations in all pet dogs and cats since the pets are more contented and less of a problem to their owner and others. And you'll be doing your part to help control our pet overpopulation problem. Generally, either spaying or neutering is best performed at about six months of age.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you, and urge you to call us if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Roger Paulson DVM