



# MacCormick Veterinary Services

Small Animal Hospital

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## Kittens: Important things you should know

- 1- Most kittens have intestinal parasites (worms) and should be dewormed throughout their first six months and then regularly depending on their lifestyle.
- 2- Flea, tick, ear mite and heartworm treatment/prevention is recommended. As ticks are active when temperatures are above 0 degrees Celsius, a good tick preventative product should be used all 12 months of the year in this area. Ask us about which product would be best. These products often also prevent fleas and heartworm.
- 3- Vaccines are given to kittens ideally at 8, 12, and 16 weeks of age. After these an annual exam and vaccines are recommended.
- 4-FIV/Feline Leukemia testing is recommended. Both viruses affect the immune system and positive cats must be kept indoors and isolated to prevent transmission to other cats.
- 5- Spaying/neutering your pet is recommended at 6 months of age. Preanesthetic blood work is recommended to evaluate liver and kidney function before surgery.
- 6- Microchip insertion helps identify your pet if he or she is lost or stolen. This can be done during an appointment or at the time of your pet's spay and neuter, when they are sedated.
- 7- Daily oral care is recommended to prevent tartar build up. Brushing daily with an enzymatic toothpaste formulated for cats is the best way to care for your cat's teeth.
- 8-Good quality food is worth the investment for your cat. Kittens should be on a development or kitten food until they are 10-12 months of age. Urinary health is dependent on good quality food and access to water at all times – this is especially important for male cats!
- 9-Make sure your litterbox is cleaned regularly and is easily accessible. The ideal number of litterboxes is the number of cats in the household plus one (i.e. 1 cat = 2 boxes, etc.)
- 10-Obesity impacts every body system. Talk to us about the latest revolutionary diets to control and manage weight gain.

We believe that medical insurance for your pet is an important part of caring for them. It can help you budget for unexpected illnesses and injuries that you otherwise may not be able to afford. There are many companies and options for coverage available, so we recommend that you carefully research which option is best for you.