



Groupe Vétérinaire MONVET Inc.

**KITTEN GUIDE**



# VACCINATING YOUR CAT

## CORE VACCINES

### Panleucopenia

- Fecal-oral transmission of feline parvovirus.
- Affects the immune and digestive systems.
- Condition is often fatal.
- Generally requires hospitalization.
- The virus may survive up to one year in the environment.

### Infectious Rhinotracheitis

- Transmission by air.
- Affects the upper respiratory system (sneezing, runny nose, congestion +/- cough) and the eyes (conjunctivitis +/- corneal ulcers).
- The animal remains a carrier for life.
- Recurrence of symptoms in periods of stress.

### Calicivirus

- Transmission by air.
- Infection of the upper respiratory system (sneezing +/- cough) and eyes (conjunctivitis), ulcers in the mouth and/or on the nose, and joint infection.
- Some forms are more aggressive and may be fatal.
- Persistent infection after recovery and excretion of the virus during long periods of time.
- Virus stable in the environment and resistant to several disinfectants.

*First three vaccines administered at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age.  
The last vaccine of the three must be administered at 16 weeks of age or more.  
For an older cat, a first set of 2 vaccines should be given at a 1 month interval.  
Annual boosters to follow. Routine vaccination for indoor and outdoor cats.*

## FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS (FELV)

- Transmission by contact with any bodily secretion.
- Weakens the immune system.
- Causes cancerous tumors.
- Fatal if the virus penetrates the blood cells.

*Initial vaccination given at a minimum of three months of age. Second vaccination given one month later. Annual boosters to follow.*

## RABIES

- Affects the nervous system.
- May be asymptomatic for several months.
- Zoonosis (transmissible to humans).
- No available treatment.
- Fatal.

*Initial vaccination given at a minimum of three months of age. Second vaccination given one year later. Booster is given every 3 years.*

## FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (FIV)

- Transmission from saliva through a bite.
- Weakens the immune system.
- Causes cancerous tumours.
- Fatal after several years following infection.
- Vaccination not available.

### Leukemia and FIV screening

For a kitten: The test should be done during the first physical exam.

For an adult: The test should be done first at the time of adoption and repeated three months later once the incubation period has passed.

*The screening and vaccination (Felv only) are recommended for outdoor cats or indoor cats cohabitating with other cats.*

## VACCINATION RECORD

VACCINE	<input type="checkbox"/> weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> weeks	1 year old	2 years old	3 years old	4 years old	5 years old	6 years old	7 years old	8 years old	9 years old	10 years old	11 years old	12 years old	13 years old	14 years old
DATE (MM-DD-YY)																		
RHINOTRACHEITIS																		
CALICIVIRUS																		
PANLEUKOPENIA																		
LEUKEMIA																		
RABIES																		
Veterinarian's initials																		
Permit number																		

## STERILISATION

DATE (MM-DD-YY)
SURGICAL INTERVENTION
<input type="checkbox"/> Castration <input type="checkbox"/> Ovariohysterectomy

## SCREENING

DATE (MM-DD-YY)	LEUKEMIA (FeLV)	FIV

## MICROCHIP

IMPLANTATION DATE (MM-DD-YY)
MICROCHIP NUMBER

## DEWORMING

DATE (MM-DD-YY)	FECAL ANALYSIS	TREATMENT



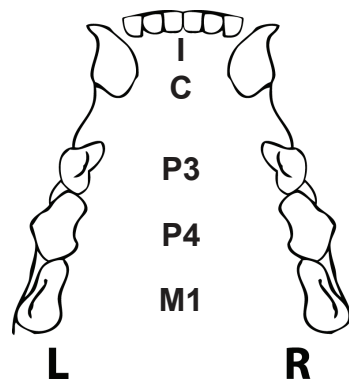
# HEALTH BOOKLET



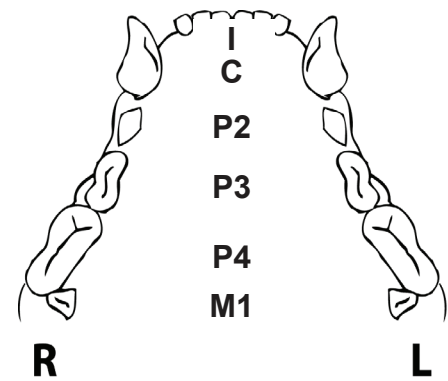
## HOW OLD IS YOUR CAT REALLY?

### DENTAL CHART

CAT AGE	HUMAN AGE
6 months	18
1	19
2	24
3	28
4	32
5	36
6	40
7	44
8	48
9	52
10	56
11	60
12	64
13	68
14	72
15	76
16	80
17	84
18	88
19	94
20	100
21	110



**MANDIBULAR**  
(lower)



**MAXILLARY**  
(upper)

DATE OF DENTISTRY (MM-DD-YY)	DENTAL X-RAYS (YES/NO)	EXTRACTIONS	COMMENTS

### BLOOD TYPE / TRANSFUSION

BLOOD TYPING	DATE (MM-DD-YY)	REACTION (YES/NO)
DATE (MM-DD-YY)		
BLOOD TYPE		



## HEALTH BOOKLET

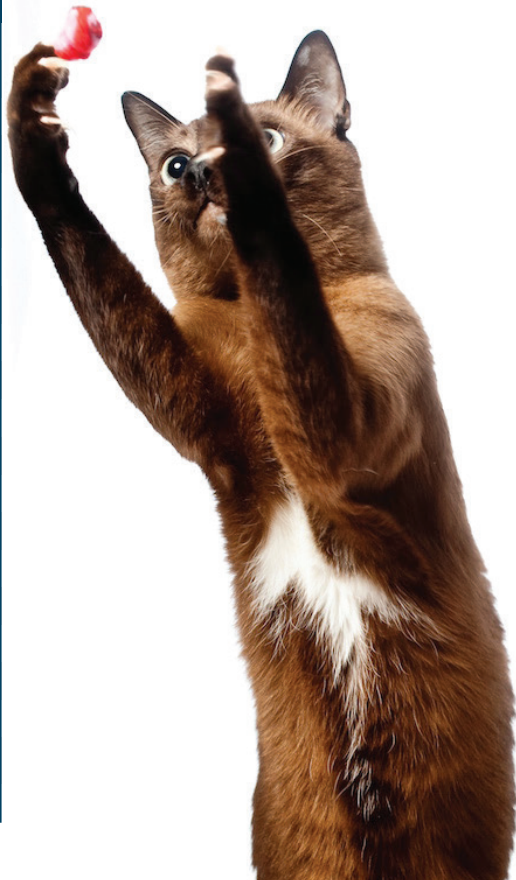
## MEDICAL HISTORY

[illegible]

## TESTS/RESULTS

[illegible]

## WEIGHT CHART

[illegible]

## WHY DEWORM YOUR CAT?

A large number of animals are born with parasites that they get from their mother.

Parasites weaken animals.

The majority of animals with parasites show no symptoms.

Several parasites are transmissible to humans (zoonosis).



## WHEN AND HOW TO DEWORM?

In order to rid your animal of parasites and prevent new infections, a combination of different products should be used and the treatments administered and repeated at specific times during the year.

### DEWORMING SCHEDULE

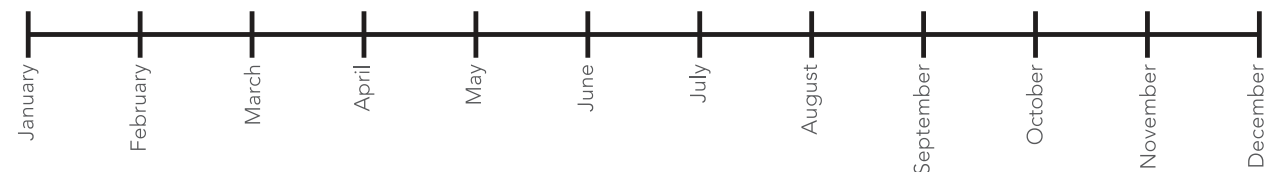
#### HEARTWORM



#### FLEAS



#### INTESTINAL PARASITES If the cat goes outdoors or is in contact with animals that go outdoors.



For intestinal parasites, an initial deworming is recommended at the age of 4 weeks with fenbendazole.

From 8 weeks of age, a monthly deworming is recommended up until the age of 6 months.

For cats that go outside, a monthly deworming is recommended every year between the months of April and November. For those who hunt, a second medication should be given monthly as well during the hunting period.

Your veterinarian will be able to help you with the choice of anti-parasitic medication that best suits the lifestyle of your cat.

### STERILIZATION

It is recommended to perform this procedure between 3 and 6 months of age, before your pet enters puberty. If you wish to have him declawed as well, both procedures can be done at the same time.

#### ADVANTAGES

- Controls the overpopulation of cats and limits the number of cats that are abandoned or euthanized.
- Reduces the incidence of certain behavioral problems (marking territory, fighting, running away).
- Prevents certain illnesses such as pyometra (infection of the uterus) and mammary tumors (when done before the first heat).

### DECLAWING

You have decided to have your cat declawed. Know that pain control is at the top of our list of concerns when it comes to declawing or any other surgery. This is why we use anesthetic and analgesic protocols that put as much emphasis on preventing pain, even before it manifests, as on its control during and following surgery. Furthermore, we administer different types of medication (anti-inflammatory, morphine derivatives, anesthetic blocs for the digits) which target several routes of pain perception in order to inhibit pain on several fronts.

You do not wish to have your cat declawed but you fear that he may hurt someone or that he will sharpen his claws on your furniture or curtains? Did you know that there exists alternatives to declawing? Here are a few:

- Get a scratching post and place catnip at the base to encourage your cat to sharpen his claws on it.
- Congratulate him with the use of treats, petting or kind words after he has used it.
- Spray calming pheromones on areas where you do not want him to sharpen his claws.
- Regularly trim his claws to keep them short at all times.
- Apply plastic claw covers on top of his own claws.

Whether you decide to have your cat declawed now or first try the alternatives, simply remember that young kittens, because they are light, support declawing better than adults.

### SURGICAL LASER

For several years now, we have preferred the use of surgical laser to execute certain types of surgeries. This technique provides numerous advantages compared to the use of a scalpel. The laser:

- Reduces post-surgical pain.
- Reduces bleeding during and after the surgery.
- Reduces post-operative swelling (inflammation).
- Reduces the risk of surgical wound infections.
- Eliminates the risk of paralysis associated with the use of the tourniquet when declawing is done with a scalpel.

### ANESTHETIC SAFETY

#### PRE-OPERATIVE BLOOD TEST

- Verifies the state of the organs responsible for the elimination of anesthetic drugs.
- Helps to detect the presence of certain concomitant diseases often clinically unapparent which can increase the anesthetic risk.

#### INTRAVENOUS CATHETER

- Ensures venous access before, during and after the surgery, allowing for the administration of intravenous medication and fluids. This is important in case of a drop in blood pressure or cardio-respiratory failure.

#### INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS

- Helps maintain a normal blood pressure in order to ensure adequate perfusion to the major organs (heart, kidneys, liver and brain) during anesthesia.
- Contributes to the faster elimination of anesthetic drugs.

# BASIC CARE FOR YOUR NEW KITTEN

## THE MOUTH

- A good oral hygiene is part of your healthy daily habits and it should be for your cat as well. To be efficient, the brushing of cats' teeth, as with humans, should be done every day using a small finger brush, a baby toothbrush or a toothbrush for animals with a toothpaste especially formulated for them (non-toxic when swallowed and contains plaque fighting enzymes that continue working in between brushings).
- There also exists prescription diets formulated to clean the teeth with each bite.
- Antiseptic products can be applied directly to the gums or added to drinking water to help control the amount of bacteria in the mouth and bad breath.



## THE EARS

- It is important to check the interior of your cats' ears often and clean them regularly. In general, a cleaning done at least once a month is acceptable for ears that seem clean. However, if there are secretions, the frequency of cleanings should be increased to once a week or once every two weeks.
- To proceed with cleaning, start by grasping the ear, then pour enough cleansing solution into the ear canal to fill it up completely. Next, massage the ear for 45-60 seconds, then let him shake his head. Finally, remove as much secretions as possible using your finger and a tissue/cotton ball.
- Avoid using cotton swabs (Q-tips®) in the ear canal to prevent injuries and to avoid pushing the secretions deeper.
- If the secretions are accompanied by redness, swelling or a bad odor, you should consult your veterinarian.



## THE EYES

- It may be normal to observe transparent or rust colored secretions in the corner of your cat's eyes. In most cases, removing it with eye cleaning wipes for animals is sufficient.
- It is important to watch for the appearance of redness, swelling, yellowish or greenish secretions, rubbing or eyelids that remain closed. In this case as well, it is preferable to consult your veterinarian.



## BASIC CARE FOR YOUR NEW KITTEN

### BATHING

- Since cats naturally groom themselves, it is not recommended to bathe them unless advised by a veterinarian.
- If you absolutely must wash your cat, use a shampoo made for animals, as gentle as possible, and above all rinse his fur really well. You can ask your veterinarian which shampoo is most appropriate for your pet.

### THE CLAWS

- If you wish to preserve the appearance of your furniture, you must keep your cat's claws as short as possible by cutting them regularly, preferably once a month.
- Start cutting the claws of your kitten when he is young in order for him to get used to it as soon as possible. At first, cut one claw every day and offer him a reward each time.
- Once he has realized trimming his claws is a pleasant manipulation, progressively increase the number of claws that you cut and the time interval between each cut.
- Provide him with a place where he can sharpen his claws. Ideally, a scratching post or pad should be placed in a busy spot, close to a window. A bit of catnip at the base should entice him to use it.

### WATER

Your cat should have access to fresh water at all times. Here are some tricks to help encourage water consumption:

- Use a water fountain.
- Change the water and wash the bowl every day.
- Offer him spring water instead of tap water.
- Add ice-cubes to the water to keep it cold longer.
- Offer him canned food.

For further information on the subject of water for your pet, please visit our website at [www.monvet.com](http://www.monvet.com).

### HOUSE TRAINING

Cats instinctively know how to use the litter, therefore they don't need to be trained to do so. Here are some recommendations to follow in order to avoid your cat doing his business outside of the box.

- Put one more litter than the number of cats in the house.
- Place the litters in different rooms, far from electrical outlets and avoid busy, noisy areas.
- Remove the urine and stool from the litters every day and clean the boxes at least once a month with a gentle soap and disinfect them with bleach.
- Use a box without a cover and clumping litter that is dust-free and odorless.





# BASIC CARE FOR YOUR NEW KITTEN

## NUTRITION

- To ensure your cat is getting the correct amount of food every day, do not hesitate to consult one of our animal health technicians. They can calculate his energetic needs according to his level of activity and his stage in life.
- Offer him kitten food until the age of 6-8 months, then switch to adult food.
- It is preferable to introduce a new type of food progressively in order to avoid gastro-intestinal disturbances. Offer him the two kinds of food in different bowls. During the first 2-3 days, give him 75% of the old food and 25% of the new. For the next following 2-3 days, give him 50% of the old food and 50% of the new, and so on.
- Choose stainless steel, ceramic or glass bowls, instead of plastic bowls, since these materials are hypoallergenic and do not retain bacteria.
- To help maintain a good level of hydration, offer your pet canned food.



## INTERACTIVE FEEDERS

Interactive feeders for cats were created with the main goals of entertaining, encouraging mental and physical activity, and simulating predator activity.

Here are some additional benefits provided to cats by interactive feeders:

- They prevent the development of hyperglycemia (increase in blood sugar levels).
- They stimulate digestion and reduce the risk of developing certain gastro-intestinal problems.
- They help develop the intellectual capacity of the animal.
- They help stimulate the intellect of animals with reduced motor skills.

For further information on the subject of interactive feeders available for pets, please visit our website at [www.monvet.com](http://www.monvet.com).

## THE MICROCHIP

You have surely noticed at some point the photo of an animal posted on a telephone pole being desperately searched for by its owner. In order to reduce the risk of this becoming your situation, we strongly recommend that you have your cat microchipped. This tiny electronic chip, which is injected underneath the skin, contains all the details necessary for identifying and contacting you. This way, if he runs away, he will quickly be identified and returned home.



# BASIC CARE FOR YOUR NEW KITTEN

## ENVIRONMENT ENRICHMENT FOR YOUR INDOOR CAT

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Since cats are born predators who, in the wild, spend a great deal of their time hunting, climbing, hiding and observing without being seen and because indoor cats are often deprived of the possibility of practicing these activities, they are often bored and subject to developing behavioral problems and obesity. It is therefore important that their environment be enriched in a way that reproduces, to some extent, the natural conditions found outside of the home.

Here are some examples of environmental enrichment methods for indoor cats:

- Get a cat tree on which he can climb, hide and withdraw from people and other pets.
- Keep house plants behind which he can hide.
- Install shelves that he can climb on.
- Respect his need for solitude and interactions with humans and other animals.
- Avoid using strongly scented products that may mask the familiar smells of his territory.
- Allow him to sharpen his claws in designated areas.
- Present him with interactive feeders.

For further information concerning the environmental enrichment of indoor cats, please visit our website at [www.monvet.com](http://www.monvet.com).

## MEDICAL INSURANCE

Did you know that private medical insurance exists for pets? By subscribing to a health insurance plan, not only do you insure the health of your animal but you insure your peace of mind as well. When the time comes for the need of health care which can be very costly, you will be able to provide it without worrying about the dent it will make in your budget.

If you are interested in acquiring health insurance for your pet, here is a list of five companies that offer personalized plans:

- Petsecure: [www.petsecure.com](http://www.petsecure.com)
- Desjardins: [www.petdesjardins.com](http://www.petdesjardins.com)
- Pet + Us : [www.petsplusus.com](http://www.petsplusus.com)
- HBC: [www.petinsurancehbc.com](http://www.petinsurancehbc.com)
- Petcare: [www.petcareinsurance.com](http://www.petcareinsurance.com)





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*Certain services are not available for all animal species nor in all our locations.*

**WORK TOGETHER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING.**



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