



One Love Animal Hospital

NEW KITTEN INFORMATION PACKET

Congratulations! You are about to embark on a fun and rewarding journey of raising a kitten! Whether you are experienced with cats or a first-time cat owner, this packet will supply you with the most current information and advice about how to raise your new friend. If you have any questions during or after your visit, please feel free to ask one of our doctors or nurses. We are here to help!

VACCINES

CORE VACCINES: These vaccines are strongly recommended for your feline friend.

- **FVRCP Vaccine (*Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR), Calici Virus, and Panleukopenia*):** Panleukopenia is a highly contagious virus that causes severe diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, and low white blood cell count. Since there is no cure for the disease, treatment involves supportive care that is costly and does not guarantee survival. Due to the seriousness of this disease and the rate of contagion, it is included in the “Core Vaccines” that are necessary for all cats. Calici Virus and Rhinotracheitis cause most upper respiratory infections, and are extremely contagious to other cats. Some chronic nasal and oral diseases can also be attributed to the infections. Typically, ***vaccination starts at 8 weeks of age and continues every 3-4 weeks for a series of 3 injections, followed by a booster one year later. Adults with previous vaccination need revaccination every 3 years.***
- **Rabies Vaccine:** Rabies virus can be transmitted to mammals including humans usually through bite wounds from an infected animal. Most commonly infected animals in the surrounding New York City area are raccoons and bats. ***New York State law requires vaccination of cats since it is one of the few deadly diseases pets can transmit to humans. If an unvaccinated pet bites or is bitten, serious consequences may occur including quarantine of your pet at your expense up to 6 months and/or euthanasia. Kittens will need this vaccine after 16 weeks of age, followed by a booster a year later. Adults with previous vaccination need revaccination every 3 years.***

NON-CORE VACCINES: Your veterinarian will assess your pet’s risk contracting one of these diseases and help you decide whether your pet is a candidate for receiving any of these vaccines.

- **FeLV Vaccine (*Feline Leukemia Virus*):** Cats who are exposed to cats with unknown disease and vaccine status are more at risk for contracting Feline Leukemia. The disease can occur by itself, or in combination with the feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), a deadly AIDS-like virus. Feline leukemia is transmitted through nasal secretions and saliva or bite wounds from infected cats and has no cure. Infected queens can transmit the disease to their offspring through the placenta prior to birth or through the milk during lactation. As a result, even newborn kittens can test positive for this disease. For other cats, close contact is required for effective transmission. Interestingly, cats over 1 year of age that have otherwise healthy immune systems seem to develop a natural resistance to the feline leukemia virus. ***Due to the virus’s method of transmission, vaccinating kittens for FeLV is not recommended. Indeed, the vaccine should only be given to cats leading an indoor/outdoor lifestyle, former stray cats that have recently be introduced into the home, or cats that are prone to escaping. Once given, yearly booster vaccines are needed to keep immunity at a proper level.***

FLEA & TICK PREVENTION

Fortunately, today we have very effective flea and tick preventatives that have a wide margin of safety and are easy to administer. ***According to your cat’s lifestyle, we recommend the use of monthly topical treatments such as Advantage, Frontline or Revolution.***

Flea collars, sprays, baths and flea-bombs are generally ineffective and employ harsh chemicals that are irritating and even toxic to your cats.

INTESTINAL PARASITES

Many kittens are born with intestinal parasites from an infected mother in utero, or via milk or feces ingestion. The only way to diagnose them is by microscopic examination of your kitten's feces for the eggs shed by the adult worms. In very large infestations, some adult worms can be observed in your kitten's bowel movements or after he vomits. Dewormers can be given orally but first we need to diagnose which parasites your kitten has. ***We recommend dropping off a fecal sample for analysis of parasites upon acquisition of your new kitten.***

SPAYING & NEUTERING

The old adage that “if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem” is particularly applicable to unwanted pregnancy in cats – and that includes purebred cats!

Spay Your Female Cats. Aside from the very real pet overpopulation problem, there are some valid health reasons for spaying female cats. Spaying your cat will not change her personality, and there is no benefit to letting a cat “have just one litter”. Additionally, it is a myth that spaying your cat will cause her to gain weight. There are numerous benefits to spaying your cat including:

- **Eliminates Chances of Pyometritis.** Pyometra is an infection of the uterus that is fatal if emergency surgery is not performed immediately. This is a life-threatening condition and creates a great financial expense to the owner.
- **Decreased Risk of Mammary Cancer.** Ideally, to give a female cat protection against mammary cancer, she should be spayed prior to her first heat. Each subsequent heat brings a greater chance of mammary cancer at a later time.
- **Eliminates Risk of Ovarian or Uterine Cancer.** Spaying a cat involves the removal of the uterus and ovaries. No organs: no cancer; simple as that.

Neuter Your Male Cat. This is the most proactive step. Neutering is a relatively simple surgery with a quick recovery period. Besides preventing unwanted pregnancies, neutering a male will help mitigate certain problem behavior found in unneutered males, and it will help prevent certain medical conditions too. It will not take away his personality or his “manhood.” The only thing he will miss is fighting and running away from home!

- **Neutered cats are less likely to spray strong urine.**
- **Neutered cats will lose the urge to fight.**
- **Neutered cats will be less likely to try to escape.**
- **Neutered cats will be less likely to contract diseases such as FeLV and FIV.**
- **Neutered cats will not be subjected to testicular cancer.**
- **Neutered cats will not likely develop “stud tail,” caused by overactive glands in the tail.**
- **Neutered cats have a decreased risk of mammary cancer.**
- **Neutered cats are less allergenic.**

Basically, you have every reason to neuter your male cat. He will be a much more pleasant companion, and will ultimately be happier and healthier.

MICROCHIPPING

Even the most experienced and diligent pet owner is at risk for losing their cat. While collars and tags are important and certainly beneficial when worn by your pet, they subject to breaking, fading, becoming scratched, and even falling off. If this occurs, there is no way to determine to whom your cat belongs. Microchipping is a permanent means of identification, and the best possible way of bringing your lost or stolen friend back to you. A microchip is a rice-grain sized electronic chip enclosed in a glass case that is injected under the skin of your cat using a hypodermic needle. If your cat is ever lost and brought to a veterinary hospital or shelter, one of the first procedures performed is to scan for a microchip. Though no one wants to suffer the heartbreak of losing a pet, microchipping helps to create a happy reunion.

PREVENT ACCIDENTAL POISONINGS

Have you taken inventory of your medicine cabinets lately? Are you properly storing lawn and garden pesticide containers? When you tidy up around the house, do you put food, liquor, and tobacco products safely out of harm's way? These precautions are second nature to households with children, but homes with animals must be just as secure.

Aspirin and other pain relievers are in almost every home, and these poisonings can be severe. When aspirin is prescribed for animals, the dosage must be strictly followed. Too much aspirin can lead to anemia and bleeding stomach ulcers. Ibuprofen and naproxen will cause painful gastrointestinal problems. One 200mg ibuprofen tablet is toxic to a small dog.

Never give acetaminophen (Tylenol™) to a cat or dog. The drug affects cat's oxygen carriage in the blood and it produces severe depression and produces abdominal pain in dogs. If not quickly eliminated from the body, just two extra-strength tablets in 24 hours will mostly likely kill a small pet. Clinical signs in cats develop within one to two hours and include excessive salivation, paw and facial swelling, depression, and ash-grey gums. In dogs, watch for anorexia, vomiting, depression, and abdominal pain. High doses are usually fatal.

Neurological poisons can also be present in lawn and garden pesticides, insecticidal aerosols, dips and shampoo products. Signs of toxicity include apprehension, excessive salivation, urination, defecation, vomiting and diarrhea, tremors, seizures, hyper-excitability or depression and pinpoint pupils. If an animal has absorbed enough of any enough of any neurological toxin, sudden death may be the only sign.

Coumarins/Coumadins, most recognizable as D-Con, a rat and mouse poison, affect the ability of the blood to clot. Mice that consume the poisoned grain essentially bleed to death. Your pets will be affected the same way, and the severity of the symptoms often depends on the amount ingested. Cats that eat poisoned mice can also become ill if the levels of poison are high enough. If you find an empty box of rat poison bring your pet into the veterinarian immediately. Tell them about the recent exposure so they can implement the proper monitoring protocols. Additionally, if you see labored breathing, anorexia, nosebleeds, bloody urine or feces and pinpoint hemorrhages on the gums, take your pet to the veterinarian immediately.

Garbage, though often not regarded as poisonous, contains toxins that are produced by bacteria fermenting the garbage. Rapid and severe signs include vomiting, blood diarrhea, painful abdominal distention, shivering, shock, and collapse.

How should pets be protected from these poisons? Some very simple rules to follow are:

- **Properly dispose of and store all pesticide containers up and out of sight of your pets. Make sure the lids are tight and the containers are undamaged.**
- **Use cords or locking lids for garbage cans. Put them in a heavy frame to prevent knock-down.**
- **Keep pets off lawns sprayed with chemicals. Consult with the lawn care company for proper information on drying time and compounds used. Wash pets' feet with mild soap and water if exposed.**
- **Keep your pets out of vegetable and flower gardens.**
- **Encase compost piles or use commercially made containers.**
- **Never assume that a human drug is applicable to an animal unless a *veterinarian* instructs you to use it.**

What is poisonous?

Here is a quick reference guide to the more common house and garden plants and foods that are toxic to most all animals and children. If you have these plants or foods, you need not dispose of them—just keep them away from pets and children. (*Substances are especially dangerous and can be fatal.)

If you suspect your animal may have ingested any of the substances on this list or if your pet shows any abnormal behavior (vomiting, diarrhea, staggering, etc), you should contact your veterinarian immediately. Take a sample of the suspected toxin and its packaging with you to the veterinarian.

Cardiovascular Toxins

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| • Avocado (leaves, seeds, stem, fruit, skin) in birds and pocket pets | • Japanese pieris | • Yew |
| • Azalea (entire rhododendron family) | • Kalanchoe | |
| • Autumn crocus (<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>) | • Lil-of-the-valley | |
| • Bleeding heart | • Milkweed | |
| • Castor bean | • Mistletoe berries | |
| • Foxglove (<i>Digitalis</i>) | • Mountain Laurel | |
| | • Oleander | |
| • Hyacinth bulbs | • Rosary Pea | |
| • Hydrangea | • Tobacco Products | |

Gastrointestinal Toxins

- Avocado (leaves, seeds, stem, fruit, skin) in dogs
- Amaryllis bulb
- Azalea (entire rhododendron family)
- Autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*)
- Bird of Paradise
- Bittersweet Boxwood
- Buckeye Bulbs (most kinds)
- Buttercup (*Ranunculus*)
- Caladium
- Cannabis (Marijuana)
- Castor beans
- Chocolate
- Chrysanthemum (a natural source of pyrethrins)
- Clematis Crocus bulb
- Croton (*Codiaeum* species)
- Cyclamen Bulb
- Dumb Cane (*Dieffenbachia*)
- Eggplant
- Elephant's ear
- English Ivy (All *Hedera* species of ivy)
- Hyacinth bulbs
- Holly berries
- Iris corms
- Lily (bulbs of most species)
- Macadamia nuts
- Mistletoe berries
- Moldy foods
- Narcissus, daffodil (*Narcissus*)
- Onions
- Pencil cactus/plant potato
- Rosary Pea
- Spurge (*Euphorbia* species)
- Tomatoes (leaves and stem)

Respiratory Toxins

- Chinese sacred or heavenly bamboo
- English Ivy

Toxins that Affect the Blood

- Onions
- Garlic

Neurological Toxins

- Alcohol (all beverages, ethanol, methanol, isopropyl)
- Amaryllis bulb
- Azalea (entire rhododendron family)
- Bleeding heart
- Buckeye caffeine castor bean
- Chocolate
- Choke cherry, unripe berries
- Chrysanthemum (natural source of pyrethrins)
- Crocus bulb, delphinium, larkspur, monkshood
- Eggplant
- Jimson weed
- Lupine species
- Macadamia nuts
- Marijuana (Cannabis)
- Morning glory
- Moldy foods
- Tobacco products
- Potato (leaves and stem)
- Tomatoes (leaves and stem)

Kidney/Organ Failure Toxins

- Amanita mushrooms
- Anthurium
- Asiatic lily
- Begonia
- Calla lily
- Castor beans
- Day lily
- Elephant's ear
- Easter lily
- Grapes/raisins
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Lantana
- Oak
- Rhubarb leaves
- Schefflera
- Shamrock
- Star-gazer Lily

Poisonous Plants

- Aloe Vera (Medicine Plant)
- Apple Leaf Croton
- Baby's Breath
- Branching Ivy
- Carnation
- Chinaberry Tree (all parts & fruit)
- Cineraria
- Corn Plant
- Cyclamen
- Dracaena
- Elaine
- Fiddle-leaf Fig
- German Ivy
- Hahn's Self-Branching
- Hurricane Plant
- Indian Rubber Plant
- Kalanchoe (Panda Bear Plant)
- Marble Queen
- Mother-in-Law's Tongue
- Nightshade
- Peace Lily
- Plum (wilting leaves & seeds)
- Pothos
- Red Princess
- Schefflera
- Swiss Cheese Plant
- Variegated Rubber Plant
- Amaryllis
- Autumn Crocus
- Bird of Paradise
- Buddhist Pine
- Castor Bean
- Christmas Cactus
- Clematis
- Croton
- Daffodil
- Dumb Cane (all types)
- Elephant Ears
- Florida Beauty
- Glacier Ivy
- Hibiscus
- Hyacinth
- Japanese Show Lily
- Lily of the Valley
- Miniature Croton
- Narcissus
- Oleander
- Peach (wilting leaves & pits)
- Poinsetta
- Precatory Bean
- Ribbon Plant
- Silver Pothos
- Tiger Lily
- Wandering Jew
- Yew
- Apple (Seeds)
- Avocado (fruit & pit)
- Bittersweet
- Caladium
- Cherry (seeds & wilting leaves)
- Christmas Rose
- Cordatum
- Cuban Laurel
- Day Lily
- Dieffenbachia
- English Ivy
- Foxglove
- Golden Pothos
- Holly
- Indian Laurel
- Jade Plant
- Madagascar Dragon Tree
- Mistletoe
- Nephthytis
- Onion
- Philodendron (all types)
- Poison Ivy
- Red Emerald
- Sago Palm
- Sweetheart Ivy
- Tomato Plant (green fruit, stem & leaves)
- Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow