



**Animal
Adoption**



**Veterinary
Center**



718-544-PETS (7387) www.LowCostVet.org

Taking Care of Your New Kitten

Vaccine and spay/neuter schedule

The current core vaccines recommended are FVRCP and rabies. It is recommended that a kitten be spayed or neutered at 5 months of age. It is particularly important to spay female cats since it significantly reduces their risk of developing mammary tumors which are an aggressive form of cancer in cats and prevent expensive Pyometra surgery later in life.

Proper Supervision of Kittens

Cats cannot judge distance well, and therefore they are prone to fall out of windows and balconies. Contrary to popular myth cats rarely can survive falls. Window guards are a MUST for cat owning households. NY City law also requires an ID tag to be on a cat at all times, even indoor cats.

Diet

While your kitten is growing, a bowl of food may be left out for snacking since he will appear to have a bottomless appetite. Make an effort to introduce your cat to both dry and canned food in equal portions; dry food is helpful to reduce tartar build-up; canned food is useful for keeping weight in check since it is a high protein, low carb meal and for adding moisture to the diet. If you have a male cat, it is particularly important to have increased moisture in the diet since male cats are at risk for urethral obstructions. When feeding dry food, use a measuring cup to dole out a set portion each day. The “bottomless bowl of dry food” that is constantly refilled when it gets low quickly leads to an obese cat and medical complications.

Interacting with your kitten

Your new kitten can be trained to get accustomed to any new habits as long as they are introduced on a regular basis and in a non-stressful setting. Whenever your kitten is at rest and calm, make an effort to touch parts of his body that you may need access to later such as his nails and ears. This will make it that much easier for you to one day be to clip his nails and administer ear medications if an infection occurs.

Your new kitten will also go through a teething process just like human babies. While it can be tempting to allow him to chew your fingers and hands when playing, this activity should be discouraged since it will quickly become painful as his teeth grow longer and sharper. When your kitten starts chewing on your hands, either intervene with a toy or stop play time immediately. These actions must be consistent to teach your cat that biting will not be allowed.

Litterbox

An undesirable litterbox can quickly lead to inappropriate urination & defecation issues. Choose an area of your apartment that is low traffic. Avoid scented or crystal based litters since strong odors are displeasing for most cats. Litter should be scooped daily and fully changed once every week.

