



# ADOLESCENT CAT CARE

**VET SERVICES**  
HAWKE'S BAY

## ADOLESCENT CAT CARE

Now that your kitten is an adolescent (between 5-18 months old), we need to start thinking about the early stages of adult hood.

### FEEDING

At around 9-12 months of age we should start looking at changing what we have been feeding. You want to look for a premium adult cat food to feed which is within your budget. Iams, Black Hawk, Purina, Royal Canin, Hills and Whiskas are great choices.

Biscuits are better for cats, and good quality biscuits help to prevent tartar build up on their teeth. As cats age teeth problems can occur, so by feeding well formulated biscuits you can help prevent or prolong the onset of dental disease. Talk to your veterinarian about the best food you can feed. Also make sure you have fresh water available at all times.

### VACCINATIONS

During this life stage your cat will be due for another vaccination when he or she is about 15 months of age. (one year after his/her final kitten vaccinations)

Your vet would have discussed with you when you came in for kitten vaccinations the annual plan best suited for you and your cat. We will be in contact with you close to the time the vaccinations are due and we can make an appointment.

### WORMING

Worming is still very important and will be for the entire life of your cat.

When you come in for your annual health check and vaccination your vet will discuss your next year's worming programme. Don't forget we can set you up on our programme and send these to you when they are due.

### FLEA TREATMENT

For the best control of fleas you need to treat your cat on a regular basis. Depending on what product you use as to how often you require to do it. Ask your vet about which product is best for you to use. And don't forget we can set you up on our programme and send these to you when they are due as well.

### DESEXING

If you have not de-sexed your cat yet, you should really consider it now. The longer you leave it after this the higher your chances of pregnancies in females and urine spraying in the house for males.

## **MICROCHIPPING**

If you haven't microchipped your cat, we strongly recommend you do. If your cat goes missing or is injured and then brought into the SPCA or a vet clinic, they will scan it and be able to trace the cat back to you. With no microchip there is a risk that you could never be contacted. Uploading the information onto the New Zealand Animal Register is recommended. Ask your vet today.

## **ENVIRONMENT ENRICHMENTS**

Adolescent cats are extremely busy. Be sure to supply your cat with a selection of toys around the house to occupy them. Scratching post are also a great idea to keep those claws off your furniture!

## **TRAVEL**

As our cats age, they become wary about traveling in cars and cages. We want you and your cat to have the most enjoyable time you can when visiting the vet clinic. There is a product called FELIWAY spray which is a hormone spray. This aids in relaxing your cat. It works very well for traveling if you spray 2-3 pumps into the cage half an hour before needing to leave. We use it in the clinic to help keep cats calm and have an enjoyable time while they are with us. Traveling hints: Always use Feliway spray. Always cover the cage with a towel. Keep your car as quiet as possible- turn off loud music, close windows etc.

## **CAT FIGHTS**

Cats are very territorial creatures. The most common medical problem we see in cats is cat bite wounds. Cats carry a lot of bacteria in their mouth, so when they fight the germs are transferred to the wound and more often than not an abscess form. Cat bites can be mistaken for broken legs, as the area swells up, and the cat will be extremely sore and lame. Anesthesia is usually required to lance the abscess, and antibiotics are required.

During your kitten visit your vet would have explained to you the dangers of FIV in cats. Cat fighting is the number one way the virus is transmitted, so if you haven't vaccinated for FIV, we recommend your cat be tested and then vaccinated.

**Please don't hesitate to phone your clinic if you have any concerns about your cat.**