

This brochure is designed to help you make informed decisions about your pet's health. Regular visits to the veterinarian play an important part in ensuring that your pet has a long and healthy life. Animal Clinic East looks forward to teaming up with you in this venture.

A good place to start is with...

A YEARLY PREVENTIVE CARE EXAM

A thorough physical examination will ensure your new pet is healthy. This is also an important opportunity to answer your questions and address your concerns. During the first visit, the doctor will discuss vaccination selections for your cat. Our goal is to protect your new cat from serious infectious diseases with appropriate vaccinations given only as often as necessary.

VACCINES

RCP+C

This vaccine provides protection against 3 viral diseases and one bacterial disease. All kittens should receive this vaccination at 8, 12 and 16 weeks old, with a booster in one year and every 3 years thereafter. This vaccine helps to provide immunity against the following diseases:

•**Rhinotracheitis (*feline herpes*)** is a viral disease that causes corneal ulcers, bronchitis, and pneumonia.

•**Calicivirus** is a respiratory virus that can cause nasal discharge, sneezing, eye discharge, oral ulcers and occasionally pneumonia.

•**Panleukopenia or “feline distemper”** is a deadly viral disease that attacks nearly all systems of the body. It poses serious risk to unvaccinated kittens.

•**Chlamydia** is a bacterial disease that causes conjunctivitis and upper respiratory infection. This is not the same Chlamydia involved in human disease.

Rabies

Washington State requires all cats to be vaccinated against rabies. This deadly disease is frequently diagnosed in wild animals and can be contracted by unvaccinated pets. Even indoor cats are at risk due to the fact that bats are the rabies reservoir in our geographic area. The most recent human exposure to rabies in our area occurred from a rabid bat found in a house. Kittens should be given their first rabies vaccination at about 16 weeks old. The vaccination series consists of 2 vaccinations given one year apart followed by boosters given every three years. A well-vaccinated pet population offers the best protection to humans from wild animals with rabies.

Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

Feline Leukemia (FeLV) can cause incurable leukemia, anemia, and various cancers in cats. *Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)* destroys the cat's immune system. Cats contract these viruses through direct contact with other infected cats. Both of these viruses are very insidious in that they can replicate in the cat for months to years before causing severe illness. Therefore, an apparently “healthy” stray cat could be a serious threat to any cat that spends time outside. Testing of kittens not coming from a shelter is recommended. All kittens should receive the FeLV vaccination at 12 and 16 weeks old, again one year later, and then every two years after. Boosters of this vaccination are dependent upon a cat's lifestyle and will be determined by the doctor in consultation with the owner. Unfortunately, there is currently no effective vaccine for FIV.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Spaying and Neutering

Millions of healthy animals are euthanized each year due to overpopulation. We can do our part by making certain that our pets do not contribute to those millions. Additionally, pets enjoy many

health benefits from these procedures. Neutered male cats are less likely to roam and get into fights. Spayed female cats will not display “heat” behavior or attract stray male cats into your yard. The doctor will recommend the best age for your cat to undergo surgery. General anesthesia is used and patients are hospitalized for one night following surgery.

Dental Care

Along with tooth loss, many severe health problems can result from tartar, gingivitis, and tooth root infections. Also, there is a strong correlation between longevity of pets and their dental health. Cats have all of their permanent teeth in place by 6 months old. Team up with your veterinarian to keep those teeth permanent for the life of your pet. When tartar is already present, ultrasonic cleaning and dental evaluation under general anesthesia should be performed by your veterinarian. To prevent tartar and odor before and after dentistry, at-home brushing can be very rewarding. Talk to our staff today about how you can get started.

Intestinal Parasites

Several types of worms including tapeworms can be present in your cat's digestive system. They may cause weight loss, anemia, and diarrhea. Most kittens are born with roundworms or acquire them from their mother's milk soon after birth. Kittens with fleas are at risk for tapeworms. All kittens should be de-wormed repeatedly during their first months of life to eliminate these parasites. The doctor will recommend the best treatment strategy for your kittens.