Congratulations on your new kitten! Introducing a new family member into your home is always fun and exciting. Please take a few minutes to have a read through this information to see what your next few months will entail for your new pet at our veterinary clinic.

**Vaccinations**

Here is a list of vaccinations we will consider for your new kitten. We may alter these vaccinations depending on any previous vaccinations administered by other veterinarians, and depending whether your kitten will be indoors or venture outside.

1. Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia (FVRCP)

This vaccination starts around 8 weeks of age, by injection, and continues until 16 weeks of age. Most kittens will receive 3 injections total, given 1 month apart. FVRCP will be repeated 1 year later, then every 3 years ongoing.

1. Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

FeLV is transmitted through close, social contact with other cats, including infectious saliva, blood, urine and feces, therefore this vaccination is only given to cats that venture outdoors. This vaccination is given at 12 weeks and 16 weeks, then repeated annually until your pet reaches 8 years of age.

1. Rabies Virus

This vaccination is given once by injection, repeated 1 year later, then every 3 years ongoing. Rabies is special because it is so deadly and it can spread to humans. When we vaccinate our pets, we are also protecting the whole family. Owners may wish to vaccinate their cats if there is a risk of contact with bats, including patios and balconies, and is recommended if they go outdoors.

On occasion we will see a kitten that has received a FVRCP vaccination by the breeder or shelter at 6 weeks of age. These kittens will need to receive a FVRCP vaccination at 9, 12, and 16 weeks of age. Also, if your kitten is first examined at an older age, there may be fewer doses required. We can explain this further at your appointment if this applies to you and your kitten.

**Deworming**

Kittens are given a deworming tablet every 2 weeks until they reach 4 months of age, then monthly until 6 months of age. After 6 months we may recommend deworming every month if your cat ventures outdoors. The medication we most often use is called Milbemax, which covers most of the gastrointestinal parasites your kitten may encounter. Kittens may contract parasites from their mother, so it is important to treat for parasites even if your kitten stays indoors.

**Flea medication**

Flea medication is recommended year-round for outdoor cats. Indoor cats generally do not require flea treatment. We have topical flea prevention for cats that is applied either monthly (Revolution) or every 3 months (Bravecto).

**Insurance**

There are several different insurance companies accessible to pets in North Vancouver. While we cannot recommend an individual company, we do offer a 1 month free insurance trial through Trupanion pet insurance. Each insurance company offers a free online quote which may help in your decision making.

**Spaying/Neutering**

“Spay” refers to the sterilization of females by removing the uterus and ovaries (ovariohysterectomy). “Neuter” is the term we use for castration of males. Both are done under general anesthesia in the course of a one-day stay in our surgical facility. We find that our patients bounce back amazingly fast – usually hard to tell apart from normal at home by the next morning (but you will still have to keep relatively quiet and out of trouble for about 10 days). We will recommend having your cat spayed or neutered at 6 months of age. Cats must be spayed or neutered before they can go outdoors to reduce the ever-increasing stray cat population.

**Diet**

Feeding your kitten a good quality kitten diet is crucial for optimal growth and wellbeing. Kittens should generally be fed THREE TIMES daily, or ad lib, to ensure they are meeting their caloric needs, and to avoid drops in blood sugar levels throughout the day. There are numerous pet food companies in Canada and the task of choosing a diet can be overwhelming. Things to consider are:

1. Whether the diet is from a veterinary clinic, pet food store or a grocery store, as grocery store pet food tends to be of lower quality.

2. Pet store diets that have been analyzed to meet the minimum requirements needed for puppy growth will have a label that reads AAFCO Approved. Look for this when you are purchasing new pet food.

Vaccination Schedule

8 weeks of age:

1. FVRCP vaccine

2. Deworming (2 doses, 2 weeks apart)

3. +- Flea medication

12 weeks of age:

1. FVRCP vaccine

2. +- FeLV vaccine

3. Deworming (2 doses, 2 weeks apart)

4. +- Flea medication

16 weeks of age:

1. FVRCP vaccine

2. +- FeLV vaccine

3. Deworming (2 doses, 2 months apart)

4. +- Flea medication

5. +- Rabies vaccine