

KITTEN CARE

Kittens usually open their eyes between 7 and 10 days and will become more active from this age onwards.

At 3 to 4 weeks the kittens should begin to be weaned. This is the transition from milk to a solid diet and should be made gradually so to avoid stomach upsets.

It is first necessary for the kitten to lap and this can be achieved by smearing milk around their mouths so they get used to licking, then introduce them to a saucer of milk. Once lapping has been achieved then gravy or mince can be substituted which is then replaced by a commercially prepared kitten food mixed with gravy to soften it at first. During this period the kittens should still be allowed access to the mothers milk but their need for this diminishes as their hunger is satisfied increasingly by the more solid food. Clean water should be available at all times.

From weaning until around 14 weeks of age the kitten should be fed 4 or 5 meals a day which is gradually cut down so by 6 months of age only 1 or 2 meals are fed daily.

Kittens should be wormed every fortnight from 4 to 12 weeks of age and continued regularly after this. This can be given in tablet or liquid form.

At 8 weeks of age the kitten should be presented at the surgery for a check up and its first vaccination against flu and enteritis. At 12 weeks of age the second vaccination against flu and enteritis is given and if the veterinary surgeon thinks appropriate an appointment for a leukaemia vaccination will be made.

Contact with other cats should be kept to a minimum until the final vaccination has been given.

Yearly boosters are needed to keep immunization up to date.

It is necessary to regularly check your kitten for fleas and also the ears for mites and wax.