

Kitten Health Care Protocol

6-8 Weeks Old

- Comprehensive physical examination
- Feline Leukemia and Aids screening test (FeLV/FIV test)
- Fecal examination for intestinal parasites
- FVRCP First vaccine
- Review kitten pack – Lots of information!!

9-11 Weeks Old

- FVRCP booster
- Feline Leukemia first vaccine
- Address any questions

12-14 Weeks Old

- FVRCP booster
- Feline Leukemia booster
- Address any questions

15-18 Weeks Old

- FVRCP final booster (if indicated)
- Rabies vaccine
- Fecal examination
- Address any questions

*Canned food is recommended as part of your cat's regular diet. The added water is beneficial for the urinary system. Canned food is also lower in calories compared to dry, which may help to prevent obesity.

*www.petsforlife.org, www.petplace.com, and our website (www.amc-la.com) are excellent sources of information on training, behavior, and medical problems.

*Spaying or neutering is typically performed 1-2 weeks after final vaccines are given.

*If declawing is desired, it is done at the same time as spay or neuter.

Feline Leukemia and Feline “AIDS” Testing

- What is a FeLV (Feline Leukemia) and “AIDS” (FIV or Feline Immunodeficiency) test?
 - This is a blood test used to detect exposure to or infection of these viruses. Commonly referred to as a “combo” test, it requires three drops of blood and takes approximately 10 minutes to perform. The test works similarly to a home pregnancy test.

- All cats and kittens adopted out of the humane society or Animal Services have been tested with negative results.

- What are these diseases?
 - Cats infected with either or both of these diseases may be asymptomatic for months to years while they infect other cats. Transmission occurs through mutual grooming, sharing of water or food bowls and litter boxes (mostly FeLV) and bite wounds (FeLV and FIV.)

- Infected cats may show a wide range of symptoms. There is no cure for either disease. FeLV is typically more serious as it can cause cancer in addition to weakening the immune system and can greatly shorten life span.

- Which cats should be tested?
 - Any cat or kitten that has never been tested, even kittens that have never been outdoors because one of their parents may have been positive.

- New cats or kittens should be tested before introduction to other pet cats.

- Cats in existing households should be tested if their status is unknown.

- Any sick cat should be tested because these viruses are associated with many illnesses.

- What about the results?
 - The technician or doctor will review the results with you during your visit. In the event of a positive result, the doctor will review recommendations for your pet and your family.

Animal Medical Center of Lehigh Acres

This handout developed using American Association of Feline Practitioners Academy of Feline Medicine Recommendations for Feline Retrovirus Testing 2002.