



Vaccinations

Kittens require vaccinations at 9 and 12 weeks old. Vaccines are vital to protect our kittens from fatal viral diseases. The vaccines we use are very safe and we have never encountered any problems with them.

Vaccination is a whole topic in itself and you can find more information on our website.

Microchipping

It is very sensible to microchip your kitten, so that if he/she gets lost you can be reunited. We often do this at their second vaccine or when they are under anaesthetic for neutering.

Worming

Worming is required at 8, 10 and 12 weeks old. Then at 4, 5 and 6 months old. As your kitten grows up he/she will grow at an unpredictable rate so we recommend weighing them at each of these milestones (there is no extra cost for this, it provides a good opportunity to get them into the practice and get used to it, good chance for our staff to play with them too!).

Once your kitten is 6 months old he/she is classed as an adult and will need worming every three to six months thereafter.

Flea Treatments

Flea treatment is required once a month. Again, as the weight varies so will the dose and we will help you with this.

Kelperland Pet Club

If your pet joins our club they will receive all their vaccinations, wormers and flea medication at a **significantly reduced cost**, plus that cost is spread out monthly rather than being payable in lump sums - for more information visit www.berkshire-vet.co.uk/pet-club

Neutering

We highly recommend neutering your cat unless you are considering breeding. Neutered male cats are more placid, get into less fights with other cats and do less spraying in the house. Female cats are amazingly fertile and unwanted kittens are a real possibility unless you have her neutered.

Both sexes can be neutered from six months old. You leave them with us in the morning and collect them that evening. The procedure is performed under a general anaesthetic but is well tolerated and they recovery very quickly.

Letting Your Kitten Outside

There are no hard and fast rules about this but many people wait until their kitten has been neutered and has a microchip before letting them out. It is wise to go out with them for the first few weeks, do it just before feeding time so you can feed him/her when you back in, as a reward and also a reminder of where home is!

Nails

Lots of kittens have very sharp nails. Often there is not actually anything for us to be able to trim back but of course we're always happy to have a look! The best bet is to get some cat scratching posts to encourage them to have some fun and file their nails back the same time.

Feeding

If your kitten is happy on dry food then it is best to keep him/her on dry food for ever. Although this never looks particularly appetising to us humans, a good dry, complete food gives your cat all he/she needs but crucially is so much better for her teeth than wet food in the long run.

If he/she won't eat dry on its own then we recommend using as little wet as possible mixed in to make it more palatable.

Insurance

We certainly recommend pet insurance. The capabilities of vets are now much higher but with this comes increased costs too. If you get an insurance policy set up whilst your kitten is young it will run and run in the background and you won't think about it until the day it is needed.

We find that owner's stress levels are much less when their pet is ill if they have pet insurance, it means that there is one less thing to worry about. Occasionally pets in our care have very serious problems that can only be treated by a specialist, in these occasions the bill can easily get up to between £2-4,000, so insurance becomes extremely important!

As with all insurance these days there is a large choice online! You need to sit down and consider very carefully what you need.

Unfortunately the cheaper policies are cheap for a reason and often come with a catch, you need to read the small print. We recommend ensuring that your policy limit per condition is £6,000 – this means you're well covered if a specialist is required.

Consider if you want a "lifelong" policy or not, this means that if your pet got an ongoing condition, e.g. diabetes, that needs lifelong treatment they would be covered forever. Lots of policies only cover for one year, which is fine for lots of things (e.g. a broken leg) but won't be for other problems.

You need to do your research and find a policy that is right for you.



Requesting An Appointment

Simply visit our website www.berkshire-vet.co.uk to conveniently request an appointment.

It takes two minutes to provide us with a few details and a member of our team will be in touch to confirm a day and time.



Register Your Pet Online

Get a head start, whether it's before coming to our practice for the first time or you have a new addition to the family, by registering your pet via our website.

Or of course you can ring us to register and arrange appointments. You are also more than welcome to just pop in and organise things in person!