

KITTEN PACK WELCOME!

We're glad you're here!

Our goal is to provide a high standard of excellence while nurturing the human-animal bond.

We strive to work within client constraints and focus on providing exceptional, empathetic customer service.

We understand the special role your pet plays in your family, and we are dedicated to becoming your partner in maintaining your pet's health throughout their life.

*We're here for your pets for the duration of their life.
Don't hesitate to contact us with any question or concern.*

630-552-7804
crittercare@nva.com



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KITTENS

Introducing a kitten to its new home

ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR A NEW KITTEN

- Health records, including date of vaccinations and deworming.
- High-quality kitten food
- Food and water bowls that can be easily sanitized
- Kitty litter and a litter box
- Scratching post and toys
- Proper grooming tools

THE SECRET TO A HEALTHY START

Day one with your new kitten is very exciting, but you'll want to be careful that you don't overwhelm it. Let the kitten explore in the small room you have already set up. It is important to make sure your kitten doesn't get stressed, as this could set up a life-time of stress-related issues.

If you have other pets, allow them to sniff the kitten while you hold it, but be sure to keep the kitten safe at all times.

DIET

When kittens are young, it is very important to get them to eat the proper foods.

Cats lack the ability to create certain compounds and must get them directly from their diet. The important compounds cats need is found only in meat, so your kitten cannot be a vegetarian. It's also important that your kitten eat a diet that's labeled for "growth" or at least says "all stages of life."

Their diet should never be changed rapidly. A new diet may cause stomach upset, vomiting, and diarrhea, which can result in dehydration and other complications. Diet changes should be made over the course of 6-7 days to prevent digestive upset.

Day 1 & 2: $\frac{3}{4}$ old food + $\frac{1}{4}$ new food

Day 3 & 4: $\frac{1}{2}$ old food + $\frac{1}{2}$ new food

Day 5 & 6: $\frac{1}{4}$ old food + $\frac{3}{4}$ new food

Call us any time your kitten seems lethargic or refuses to eat for more than 12 hours.



WATER

Water is more important than food during the first few days in their new home. Kittens should **always** have free access to clean water.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Changes in environment can cause stress-related problems such as:

- Intestinal parasites that can cause diarrhea
- Upper respiratory infections
- Low blood sugar from reduced appetite
- Urinary tract infections (UTI)
- Dehydration
- Diarrhea

ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

Cats and kittens need to be in stimulating and comfortable surroundings, so be sure to provide plenty of toys, hiding spots, scratching posts, and elevated resting areas in your home. Also, don't forget the importance of one-on-one playtime with you!

LITTERBOX NEEDS

Provide at least one litter box per cat. In general, cats prefer open litter boxes in a clean, quiet environment and unscented, clumping litter. Cats are also finicky, so it's best not to switch up the brand and type of litter you use. Feces and urine clumps should be scooped out daily.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESS

Top tips for the perfect environment

Source: Elizabeth Colleran, DVM, DABVP and Kathryn Primm, DVM

SCRATCHING POSTS

Scratching is a normal behavior, and you should encourage it by creating places where you and your cat are both satisfied. Cats need to be able to stretch to full height when they scratch, so look for a scratching post that is taller than your cat's length when he's stretched out. Some cats like to scratch horizontally, too.

Stability is a really important factor. Make sure that the scratcher has a large and heavy enough base or is secured to the floor or wall, so it offers plenty of resistance.

The scratching surfaces need to be positioned in the most appealing places to scratch within the home. If the cat has already selected a location to scratch, move the scratching post to that location. Marking here may have some significance to your kitty, and you want to encourage your cat to scratch on the post—instead of your carpet or furniture. Notice your cat's regular routes through the house and place scratching posts there. Some cats like to scratch first thing in the morning, so a scratching post near the sleeping place will be welcome.

LITTERBOX TRAINING

The scoop on litter – Different cats prefer different types of litter. Fortunately, there are a lot of options available. Find out what your feline prefers by testing out different litter options. Place different types of litter in similar boxes and see which one your kitty gravitates toward.

Think outside the box – Make sure you pick a litterbox that is easy to clean, because a clean box is the key to maintaining good litter habits. Some boxes have tall sides, making it less likely to scatter litter with boisterous shoveling. However, keep in mind that your cat is going to be with you their entire life, so the high sides might make getting in and out of the box difficult as your cat ages.

What your kitten likes as a kitten may be a lifelong preference, so think ahead. Your cat should be able to comfortably enter and exit the box and have room to



completely turn around (while scratching) inside, so be sure that your box choice can accommodate your kitten's expected adult size.

Out of sight, out of mind – Cats know they are vulnerable when they eliminate, so offer them a safe, quiet place to eliminate. In order to avoid litter box aversions later on, make sure nothing scary or bad happens when your kitten is in the box.

In addition, your cat shouldn't be forced to share a box with other cats in the house. Set up at least one litter box per cat, so there's no conflict over box use.

Say no to yelling 'no' – Never yell at your kitten or rub their nose in an accident if they miss the box. Your kitty cannot sort out their fear of your rough handling from what you are trying to convey, which could cause the kitten to fear you. If you see your kitty start to posture for elimination outside the box, quickly scoop them up, place them gently in the box, and give them some privacy.

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KITTY CO-MINGLING

Introducing a new cat into an already developed social group

Source: Sarah Heath, BVSc, DECAWBM, CCAB, MRCVS

NORMAL FELINE BEHAVIOR

Introducing cats to each other abruptly can be very stressful if the cats are not socially compatible. While physical confrontation may not be seen, passive signs of social tension, such as social and physical withdrawal, are likely to occur. Cats that are expected to live close to cats with which they are not socially compatible can suffer from chronic stress, and this can have physical health implications as well as behavioral ones.

Cats typically avoid unnecessary social interactions wherever possible. When they do spend time with other cats, it is usually with those they are related to or have lived with since they were kittens. Two unrelated and unfamiliar cats arriving into a household will have no basis for a relationship and nothing in their normal behavioral repertoire to prepare them for a sudden introduction.

It is likely that the cats would be in physical proximity to each other and may be expected to share essential resources, such as food stations or litter boxes. This is not compatible with natural feline behavior, which leads them to establish separate, core territories and to avoid sharing resources with anyone outside of their social group.

THE INTRODUCTION MAY TAKE TIME

The first thing to consider is whether it is appropriate to introduce the cats. Owners will often think that they are getting a companion for the existing cat, but this is not the case. The resident cat has no reason to consider the newcomer part of its social group, and, while there is the potential for cats to develop friendships over time, it should never be assumed that this will happen.

Anyone taking on a new cat should realize that the newcomer will be a single cat within the already existing household, like another tenant moving into a multiple occupancy house. The cats may tolerate each other's presence if they are introduced gradually and their need for separate core, territories is respected.

Cats become socially mature between 2 and 3 years of age. After this, they are less likely to be accepting of a newcomer.



It should always be assumed that the newcomer is a new, separate social group. Make sure that its arrival does not put any strain on the resources used by the resident cat. Totally separate feeding, toileting, resting, and drinking stations need to be provided.

It is recommended that you prevent any visual contact between the cats for a few days and, in some cases, a couple of weeks in order for the resident to have the chance to adjust to the presence of a new feline scent within the household before actually encountering the new arrival. The use of the feline appeasing pheromone (Feliway MultiCat—Ceva) may be beneficial to increase the sense of personal security for both of the cats, but it is not going to alter their perception of the other cat.

It is important not to use food to encourage the cats to come closer. Cats are solitary feeders, and eating in the presence of another cat is potentially stressful. The aim of introduction is for the cats to live in peaceful tolerance of one another, rather than to become friends.

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VACCINATIONS

Why they matter

Vaccinations play an important part in keeping your pet healthy. Animals can be exposed to dangerous illnesses in their lives, but a standard course of vaccinations can prevent transmission.

CAN VACCINES CAUSE THE DISEASE?

Vaccinations do not cause the disease. The vaccine stimulates your pet's immune system to mount a response against the vaccine, thereby causing it to produce antibodies capable of protecting your pet against the disease. Antibodies fight disease by killing the disease-causing virus or bacteria within the body.

WHY DO I NEED TO REVACCINATE?

Antibody levels produced by a vaccination diminish over time. Revaccinating stimulates the immune system to "remember" the specific disease organism and manufacture more antibodies to continue to protect your pet.

DO VACCINATIONS GUARANTEE DISEASE PREVENTION?

The most important factor in disease prevention is your pet's individual immune system. Like people, animals have varying abilities to respond to vaccines and illnesses. The very young and the very old have diminished ability to respond. In such cases, it is critical for your pet to be revaccinated at the required interval. Furthermore, if your pet is exposed to a disease shortly before or after being vaccinated against it, it may not have sufficient time to develop the immunity and protection from the vaccination before it becomes sick.

WHY DO KITTENS NEED BOOSTERS EVERY 3-4 WEEKS?

During nursing, kittens and puppies absorb antibodies from the mother's milk. These antibodies protect pets against disease until their own immune system is able to do so. Kittens and puppies need vaccinations to stimulate the development of their own immune system once the protective level of antibodies from their mother has diminished. Kittens and puppies need a series of vaccinations (boosters) because of the changes to their immune systems that happen as they grow.



CORE CAT AND KITTEN VACCINES

It is a myth that cats who live indoors do not need to be vaccinated against infectious diseases. While living an indoor lifestyle is certainly safer overall than living outdoors, important infectious diseases can find indoor cats.

- **FVRCP** – Protects your cat from Panleukopenia, a deadly viral disease that affects the GI tract and weakens the immune system. It also protects against Herpes Virus and Calicivirus, two very common respiratory viruses in cats. These are hardy viruses that can be brought into the home on inanimate objects like clothes or shoes. Because transmission does not require direct contact with another cat, indoor-only cats can be exposed and become ill if they are not appropriately vaccinated.
- **FELV** – The FELV vaccine protects your cat from Feline Leukemia Virus.
- **Rabies** – Rabies is a deadly disease that can be transferred from animals to humans via bodily fluids.

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SPAYING & NEUTERING

Help your pet live a longer, healthier life

Source: Best Friends.org

We recommend spaying and neutering most cats between 4-6 months of age.

Spaying or neutering is one of the greatest gifts you can provide your pet and your family. These routine medical procedures may prevent medical and behavioral problems from developing, allowing your cat to lead a longer, healthier, and happier life.

Spaying or neutering your cat prevents unwanted births, which helps reduce overpopulation in shelters. Millions of unwanted felines end up in shelters or on the streets each year. Only a lucky few are adopted; the rest are euthanized or die from trauma, exposure, starvation, or disease.

In most male cats, neutering reduces roaming, urine spraying, and fights with neighborhood cats. Spaying eliminates the howling of female cats in heat which also decreases the chances of unwanted visits from stray male counterparts.

Female cats aren't like dogs that go into heat just twice a year, they can go into heat every 2-3 weeks, depending on the time of year.

Will my cat's personality change after being fixed?

Other than the previously mentioned behavior changes, spaying or neutering your cat is unlikely to change its basic personality, though male cats may become more docile following neutering. Cats' playfulness and general levels of activity, excitement, and vocalization do not typically change following spaying or neutering.

Will my cat gain weight after surgery?

Both neutered males and spayed females have a tendency to gain weight due to a decrease in roaming and other sexual behavior. However, weight gain can be prevented through proper dietary management and exercise. Physically, male cats neutered prior to puberty do not develop the large head and thick skin of intact males.

When should I spay/neuter my cat?

Early-age spaying and neutering may prevent problem behaviors before they occur. If it hasn't already been done, spaying or neutering should be considered for



any pet with a behavior problem, regardless of age. For certain behaviors, surgery may reduce or eliminate the problem, even in older cats.



Did you know...

A pair of unaltered cats and their litters could produce **420,000 cats in just seven years?**

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DENTAL DISEASE

Our pets may not smile, but they still need dental care

What starts with a little tartar buildup and bad breath, if left untreated, can progress to tooth loss because of periodontal disease.

Additionally, the bacteria associated with the disease can travel to other parts of the body and cause damage there. Daily brushing, regular dental cleanings, and special rinses and foods are your best line of defense against periodontal disease.

DENTAL DISEASE – WHAT IS IT?

Dental (Periodontal) disease happens when inflammation of the gums (called gingivitis) conspires with inflammation of the bone and tooth support structures (called periodontitis) to undermine a tooth's support system. This is the most common cause of tooth loss.

As many as 70% of cats have some sort of dental disease by the time they are three. Here's how it happens:

The process starts when bacteria form plaque on the teeth. Within days, minerals in the saliva bond with plaque to form tartar, a hard substance that adheres to the teeth. The bacteria then work their way under the gums to cause gingivitis, which is an inflammation of the gums. Once under the gums, bacteria destroy the tissue around the tooth, leading to tooth loss.

Bacteria associated with dental disease can travel in the bloodstream to infect the heart, kidneys, and liver, causing widespread effects.

SIGNS OF DENTAL DISEASE

The signs of periodontal disease include:

- Bad breath (halitosis)
- Redness or bleeding along the gum line
- Drooling, which may be tinged with blood
- Difficulty chewing or messy eating
- Pawing at the mouth
- Loss of appetite
- Loose or missing teeth
- Facial swelling
- Nasal discharge
- Gum recession



Since most periodontal disease occurs under the gums, the only way to truly assess the degree of periodontal disease is to perform an examination under anesthesia. Once the pet is anesthetized, a dental probe is used to measure loss of attachment around each tooth.

PREVENTION

Luckily, this is one disease that can be managed with plenty of preventative approaches. Here are a few:

- Daily brushing can help remove plaque before it turns into tartar. **DO NOT USE human toothpastes because most contain substances that pets shouldn't swallow in significant quantities.**
- Mouth rinse solutions that target plaque bacteria
- Dental diets and/or treats can also help keep plaque and tartar to a minimum.
- Routine prophylactic dentistry is recommended for all pets. This procedure is perhaps the most significant mode of prevention, as it allows veterinarians to thoroughly examine each individual tooth and prevent further deterioration.

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PARASITES!

Is my kitten bugged?

Source: Kathryn Primm, DVM

MOST KITTENS HAVE PARASITES INSIDE AND OUT

Everyone groups all of the intestinal parasites under the term “worms” and worms are certainly a big part of the problem. There are other parasites too that are not technically “worms”. The most important thing for pet owners to know about parasites is you usually cannot see them with the naked eye and they can cause big trouble before you even realize they are there. Parasites have evolved to be everywhere, and most cats have worms at some point in their lives, usually as kittens.

WON'T I BE ABLE TO TELL IF MY KITTEN HAS WORMS?

Intestinal worms, like roundworms, can cause signs such as weight loss, an unkempt hair coat, and a potbellied appearance but can be present even if your cat seems unaffected. It is a common misconception that a person can see worms in the stool if they look. In fact, your veterinarian has special testing protocols to find the worms. Occasionally, pet owners will see certain types of worms, but many of the worms only “appear” in the stool after you administer a de-wormer.

Worms and parasites contaminate the area where your pet hangs out and serve as a source of re-infection for your pets and other animals. Worms have evolved to be very effective at infecting animals and it requires an active effort on the part of you and your veterinary team to head off these intestinal invaders.

CAN'T I JUST PICK UP A DEWORMER IN THE STORE?

There are certainly “over the counter” deworming options, but it is wiser to let your veterinary team find out for sure which type of parasites you need to treat. Only prescription medications can kill certain types of worms, and if there are other parasites that are not technically worms (like coccidia or Toxoplasma species), a completely different type of medication may be required. Only your veterinary team can find out exactly which parasites infest your individual kitten and target them specifically. No one wants their kitten to die from



a treatable problem or to get medication that is inappropriate or not needed, and certainly no one wants humans in the home to be affected.

WHAT ABOUT FLEAS?

Fleas can make pets miserable. Flea saliva is an extremely irritating substance and flea bites cause profound itching for pets and people alike. Fleas are another thing that you will not see until the infestation is truly severe. Fleas love to get indoors where they can live year-round. Their goal is to have a blood meal, so that they can lay eggs. You will only see fleas on your kitten for a small part of their life cycle. That means that for every flea you see with your eyes, there are countless more in the environment. If you see a flea, alert your veterinary team.

Your veterinarian is well-versed in kitten infections and infestations and can recommend safe and effective products to help your kitten remain bug-free.

For more information on fleas, see page 10.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT TICKS!

Myths vs. facts

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Catster.com

Cats and dogs are particularly popular hosts for ticks, and because the nasty little buggers are renowned for spreading disease to people, you need the facts on the risks and what you can do to prevent your kitty from getting ticks.

CATS AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Although cats can and do get bitten by deer ticks, the species notorious for carrying Lyme disease, cats don't seem to become ill from it nearly as often as dogs and people do.

Deer ticks can carry anaplasmosis (aka Ehrlichia) and tularemia. Various species of dog ticks can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, to which cats may be susceptible, and the big baddie, cytauxzoonosis ("Bobcat fever"), which is a very severe and often fatal illness.

Even if your cat is "indoor only", be sure to use monthly flea and tick prevention.

MYTH #1 - The best way to remove a tick is with a lit match, fingernail polish, or petroleum jelly.

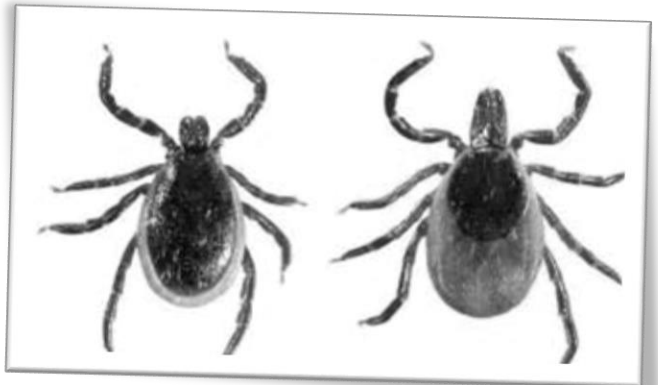
FACT: None of these methods cause the tick to "back out", and all of them may actually result in the tick depositing more disease-carrying saliva into the wound, increasing the risk of infection. The best way to remove a tick is to grasp it as close to the skin as possible with tweezers and pull the tick's body out with a steady motion. Wear rubber gloves and clean the skin with soap and water after removal. Dispose of the tick by placing it in alcohol or flushing it down the toilet.

MYTH #2 - Ticks aren't a problem in the winter when it's too cold outside.

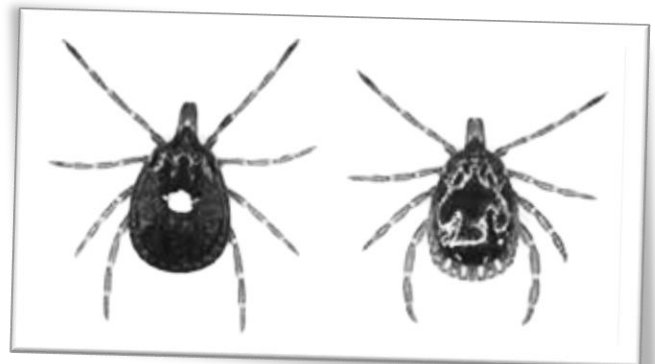
FACT: In most areas of the country, high season for ticks runs from April to November. Experts recommend the use of preventives year-round, however, as infection can occur at any time of the year. *In the winter, for example, some tick species move indoors and are in closer contact with pets and people, while others make a type of antifreeze to survive during the winter months.*



American Dog Tick



Black Legged Tick (Deer Tick)



Lone Star Tick

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KEEP YOUR HOME FLEA-FREE

95% of fleas in your home are not on your pet

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Even the cleanest home can be the target of a flea infestation. Infestations usually start because the fleas were picked up outside of the home and brought inside unknowingly by your pet and humans.

Your cat may be a strictly indoor cat, however, it is still at risk for a flea infestation. The chance is obviously lower, but there's no such thing as zero risk.

ARE FLEA PREVENTIONS NECESSARY?

When you never see a flea on your cat or dog, you might think a flea preventive just isn't necessary. But flea preventives do just that—prevent fleas. These products should be used before a flea infestation is seen so that it stays that way. Unfortunately, a flea problem can manifest before a single flea is even seen on a pet.

In the case of cats – who are notorious for their fastidious grooming – you might never see evidence of fleas. However, this doesn't change the statistics. **A single adult flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day, so it's easy to see how fast an infestation can start.** Once an infestation is present, each pet must be treated along with the home and yard. It's so much easier to prevent fleas than dealing with their consequences!

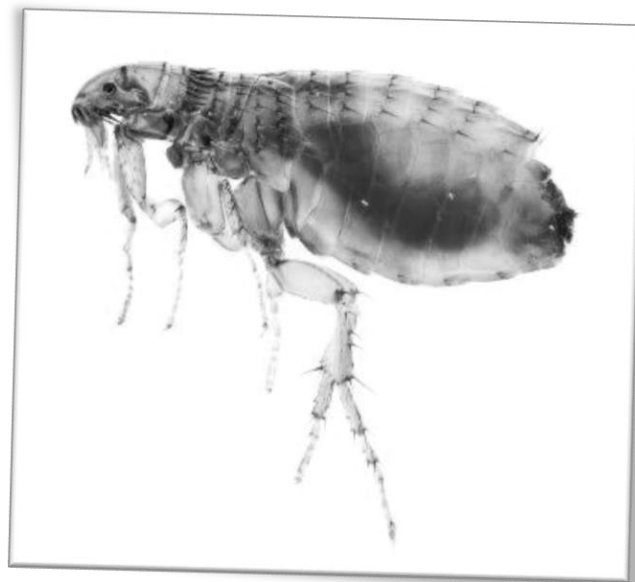
WHERE DO THESE PESKY BUGGERS HIDE?

Flea eggs – Flea eggs are found in carpets, bedding, floorboards, and soil.

Flea larvae and pupae – Inside, flea larvae and pupae are found in places where pets spend a lot of time, such as pet bedding, in carpets, on upholstered furniture, on bed covers, and in other areas where pets hang out.

Outside, flea larvae and pupae live in moist, shaded soil beneath shrubs, as well as the soil between the joints of concrete walks and porches.

Adult fleas – The adult fleas living on your pet make up about 5% of the fleas in your living environment. The rest are scattered throughout your home.



SIGNS OF FLEA INFESTATION

- Flea feces (pepper-like specks), flea eggs (light-colored specks), and/or fleas (tiny, dark brown insects) in your pet's coat, or on its bedding
- Itchy, scratchy skin and/or your pet biting at its fur
- Patchy hair loss
- Lethargy – especially in severe flea cases

FLEA REMOVAL TIPS

Inside the house

Vacuum and steam clean carpets – paying special attention to places where pets spend a lot of time.

Outside the house

Mow, rake, and remove organic debris from flowerbeds and under bushes.

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HEARTWORMS

A serious and potentially fatal disease

Source: American Heartworm Society

WHAT IS HEARTWORM DISEASE?

Heartworms are foot-long worms that live in the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels of affected pets. They cause severe lung disease, heart failure, and damage to other organs in the body. This is called heartworm disease.

Cats - The cat is an atypical host for heartworms, and most worms in cats do not survive to the adult stage. Heartworm disease often goes undiagnosed in cats and it's important to understand that even immature worms cause real damage in the form of heartworm associated respiratory disease (HARD). Moreover, the medication used to treat heartworm infections in dogs cannot be used in cats, so **prevention is the only means of protecting cats from the effects of heartworm disease.**

WHAT CAUSES HEARTWORM DISEASE?

When a **MOSQUITO** bites and takes a blood meal from a heartworm-infected animal, it picks up immature worms. Then, when the infected mosquito bites your pet, the infective larvae are deposited onto the surface of the skin and enter your pet's bloodstream through the mosquito's bite wound. Once inside your pet, it takes approximately 6 months for the larvae to mature into adult heartworms. Once mature, heartworms can live for 5 to 7 years in dogs and up to 2 or 3 years in cats. Because of the longevity of these worms, each mosquito season can lead to an increasing number of worms in an infected pet.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF HEARTWORM DISEASE IN CATS?

Symptoms may include coughing, asthma-like attacks, periodic vomiting, lack of appetite, or weight loss. Occasionally, an affected cat may have difficulty walking, experience fainting or seizures, or suffer from fluid accumulation in the abdomen. Unfortunately, the first sign in some cases is sudden collapse of the cat, or sudden death.

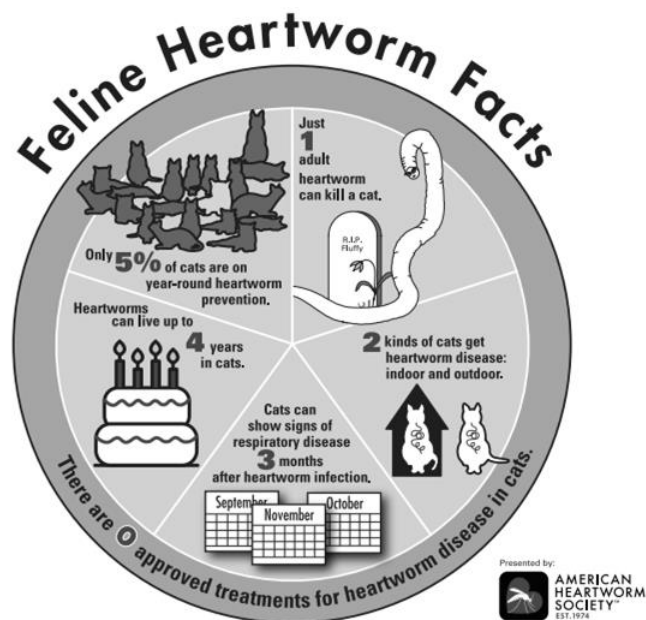
THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTATIVES

Prevention is an important part of providing essential care. Consider this:

- Heartworm disease is in every state in the U.S.
- There is no cure for heartworm disease in cats.



- Heartworm preventives are safe, relatively inexpensive, and easy to give.
- American Heartworm Society recommends year-round heartworm prevention – even in colder climates.



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AT-HOME NAIL TRIMS

9 nail trimming tips to make at-home nail trimming a breeze

Source: Mikkel Becker, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA, CDBC, CTC, KPA Graduate, BA Communications

Fear and anxiety associated with nail trimming can be hard for you and your pet.

1. PAIR WITH POSITIVES

Provide ample and super-flavorful treats throughout the entire nail trim. Treats are optimally given continuously with the licking of a tasty soft treat or delivered in fast repetition. (Hint: Cut the treats into pea-sized pieces).

2. DON'T FORCE THE ISSUE

Holding your pet down against its will for a nail trim can increase fear and resistance. Instead, build your pet's confidence gradually by earning trust and associating paw and nail handling with good things your pet enjoys.

3. MAKE IT MANAGEABLE

Divide the nail trim into smaller segments. Start with a spot on your pet that's well within their comfort zone. Make sure that your pet's body language is happy, relaxed, and loose, and that he's readily accepting treats before continuing.

4. DON'T START WITH CLIPPERS

Handle your pet's paws and nails with your fingers. Then move to other items, like the closed end of a ballpoint pen or a spoon, to mimic the sensation of something touching the nail. This is essential for kittens to prevent problems in the future.

5. REINTRODUCE TRIMMERS AS A FRIEND, NOT A FOE

Hold nail trimmers in hand and allow your pet to approach, instead of bringing the trimmers to your pet. Encourage approach by placing a soft, spreadable treat on the handle. Or place clippers on the ground with a Hansel-and-Gretel-like trail of treats leading up to and around them.

6. TAKE IT ONE NAIL AT A TIME

Rather than doing it all at once, trim one to three nails a day. You'd be surprised at how much easier the task becomes for you and your pet.



7. SHORT SPURTS

Stay attuned to the pet's body language, pair handling with rewards, and keep nail trim sessions 30 seconds to two minutes long. Doing this will help build up your pet's confidence.

8. TRIM FIRST, PLAY LATER

Finish up sessions with a play session or special toy.

9. TAKE A TEAM APPROACH

Think of nail trimming as a team sport. Everyone on your pet's team affects comfort level with nail care. Find someone who is dedicated to protecting the emotional well-being of your pet. Team efforts provide help from all angles, especially when your pet needs extra help learning to relax during care.

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POISONOUS FOODS

10 Common things your cat should never eat

Source: [PetPoisonHelpline.org](https://www.petpoisonhelpline.org)

1. MILK AND CHEESE

Because cats are unable to break down the lactose in dairy products, this leaves the lactose sugar in their system for the bacteria in their intestines to ferment, causing intestinal cramps and diarrhea.

2. PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Common household plants and flowers that are particularly poisonous to your cat include: lilies, poinsettias, philodendrons, spinach, agaves, rhubarb, taro, autumn crocus, daffodils, tulips, kalanchoe, marijuana, aloe vera, and all forms of ivy.

3. CHOCOLATE

Chocolate contains theobromine and caffeine. Ingestion in toxic amounts can result in vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, elevated heart rate, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures, and even death.

4. ALCOHOL

Ingestion of alcohol can cause dangerous drops in blood sugar, blood pressure, and body temperature. Severely intoxicated animals can potentially experience seizures and respiratory failure.

5. CAFFEINE

Ingestion of coffee grounds/beans or tea leaves could cause serious toxicity. Signs of hyperactivity, restlessness, vomiting, elevated heart rate, high blood pressure, abnormal heart rhythms, tremors, and elevated body temperature may be seen. In severe cases, seizures, collapse, and death are possible.

6. GARLIC, ONIONS, CHIVES, AND LEEKS

Toxic doses can cause anemia, nausea, drooling, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, pale gums, increased heart rate, increased respiratory rate, weakness, exercise intolerance, and collapse.

7. TABLE SALT

Salt poisoning results in signs of vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, incoordination, and excessive thirst or urination. In severe cases, tremors, seizures, coma, and even death are possible.



8. MEDICATIONS

Advil, Aleve, Motrin, and Tylenol, (all common over-the-counter pain relievers) are highly toxic to cats. Additionally, ingesting even a small amount of ADHD medications, antidepressants, or benzodiazepines/sleep aids are highly poisonous to your cat.

9. XYLITOL

Xylitol is a natural, sugar-free sweetener commonly found in chewing gums, foods (including some peanut butter), candies, and sugar-free, chewable multivitamins. If xylitol is ingested, it can cause life-threatening low blood sugar (even within 10-15 minutes of ingestion) and acute liver failure.

10. CANINE FLEA PRODUCTS

Liquid flea products that contain concentrated amounts (45 to 65 percent) of permethrin are approved for use on dogs only. Cats exposed to concentrated permethrin usually act nervous, twitch, shake and may even develop seizures. **NOTE:** It is important to never let your cat groom your dog after application of topical flea products that contain permethrin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

24/7 ANIMAL POISON CONTROL

(855) 764-7661 <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com>

Critter Care 630-552-7804 crittercare@nva.com