

General Information

- Dirty ears in your cat may indicate an ear mite infection. Treatment involves ear cleaning, drops or a spot on to kill the mites.
- Indoor cats may require regular nail trimming.
- Daily brushing of your cat's teeth can help to prevent dental disease.

Moving House

- This can be a very stressful time for your cat.
- To help your cat explore their new environment, close the cat indoors and allow the cat freedom around the house.
- A regular routine and reassurance is essential.
- Don't allow cats outdoors for approximately 2 weeks and then only for short periods and on an empty stomach so they come back home for feeding.
- Making sure your cat is microchipped will help to identify you as the owner if the cat strays.

Insurance

- Advances in veterinary medicine means your vet can do more for your cat but treatment can be expensive.
- Pet insurance allows you to budget monthly rather than face unexpected bills that you might not be able to afford.
- Numerous companies offer pet insurance. Research the various policies available and see which policy is most suitable for you and your cat.
- In general a lifetime policy is best as it will cover your pet for the duration of its life for any condition. Any pre-existing conditions will not be covered if you take out a new policy so get them insured now! Don't wait until they are sick!

Health Club

Campsie Vet Centre has our own health club to provide for preventative health care for your new arrival. Insurance does not cover for routine procedure such as worm/flea/vaccinations or surgery such as neuter. Our Pet Health Club is a simple and affordable way to get the preventative care that we routinely recommend for your pet. The Pet Health Club offers significant discounts on worm/flea/tick treatments, vaccinations, routine surgeries and even food in clinic. For further information please discuss with our trained staff.

Conclusion

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you many years of fun and companionship with your cat. We are always happy to answer any questions you may have regarding your cat.



Opening Hours

Mon - Fri

9.00am - 7.00pm

Sat

9.00am - 5.00pm

Phone for an appointment

Telephone

028 8224 6644

Address

25 Knocknamoe Road,
Killyclogher, Omagh,
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BT79 7LB



Campsie Veterinary Centre



**GUIDELINES FOR CARING
FOR YOUR NEW CAT**

Congratulations on your new feline friend. This booklet will provide you with helpful advice for the care of your new cat.

Feeding

- It is recommended that you feed your kitten 4 times a day up to 12 weeks of age, 3 times a day up to 6 months, twice daily thereafter.
- Cats like to eat small amounts regularly. This stimulates natural hunting behaviour where only small packages of food are caught and eaten up to 14 times per day. You can simulate this by using feeding toys, specific feeding bowls or feeding at regular intervals. Making your cat work for their food means they are less likely to become obese and actually reduced stress levels because they are expressing natural behaviour.
- Dog food is NOT suitable for cats. Dog food does not contain taurine, an essential amino acid needed to keep your cat's heart healthy.
- Do not feed your cat cow's milk as they cannot digest it and this may cause diarrhoea.
- Keeping your cat hydrated is vital to prevent urinary issues and reduces the likelihood of renal issues later in life. Cats prefer to drink running water if possible- and they hate eating next to water! Food bowls and water bowls should be kept separate. Some ways to keep your cat drinking are, to use a cat fountain that circulates water, leaving glasses of water in elevated positions or allowing them to drink from a dripping tap.

Immunity

- We recommend that all cats are vaccinated against flu and gastroenteritis.
- Vaccination against feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) is also recommended. Feline leukaemia is a potentially life threatening disease that can affect your cat in later life.
- Vaccinations can be started from 8 weeks of age.
- Booster vaccinations are given 3-4 weeks after the first vaccination and annually thereafter. Annual vaccinations also act as a useful opportunity to get a health check for your cat.

Worming

- Worms can cause a poor coat, pot-bellied appearance and even weight loss.
- Kittens are born with round worms and should be wormed every two weeks from 2-12 weeks of age.
- Treat once every three months thereafter against tape and round worms.
- Worming can be done using a tablet or a spot-on.
- Worms that your cat may have are transmissible to humans.
- For cats that hunt, monthly worming is recommended.



Fleas

- Fleas can cause itching or even severe allergic reactions.
- Treatment can start from 6-9 weeks of age, depending on the product used.
- Cats should be treated monthly for fleas.
- We recommend using a spot on bought from your vet.
- If your cat has fleas you will also need to treat your home. This involves using a recommended aerosol spray, vacuuming and washing bedding at 60 degrees.
- Combined flea/tick/worm and ear mite preventative treatments are available in spot on form. 12 month continuous cover is provided for in our Pet Health Club.

Microchipping

- Microchipping allows your cat to be permanently identified. Each pet receives a unique number which is registered against the owner's details on a national database.
- This allows your cat to be traced back to you if it gets lost.
- It is easily done when your cat is being vaccinated or at another convenient time.
- It is essential when travelling abroad with your cat, as part of the Pet Passport scheme.

Neutering

- Cats can be fertile from 4 months of age.
- Both male and female cats can be neutered from 4-6 months of age.
- We can determine the gender of your cat when he/she is in for vaccinations, as this can be difficult when they are young.

Advantages of neutering

Males:

- Reduces the risk of certain types of cancer.
- Reduces unwanted sexual related behaviour i.e. spraying urine against surfaces, fighting, roaming and involvement in road traffic accidents (RTA's)

Females:

- Eliminates the risk of unwanted pregnancies.
- Reduces the risk of breast cancer and infections of the womb.

Your cat is more likely to gain weight after neutering so we recommend reducing their daily food intake to avoid this.



Grooming

- Grooming helps to build a good relationship with your cat.
- Grooming your cat helps remove dead hair and maintain healthy skin and coat condition.
- We recommend grooming for cats once weekly to prevent hairballs and matting.
- If you notice that your cat isn't grooming itself regularly there might be an underlying health problem.

Toilet Training

- Cats are usually particular about their toilet habits.
- Place the litter tray in a quiet accessible corner, away from food and water.
- Place kittens on the litter tray after meals and first thing in the morning to help them learn to use it.
- Empty and clean the tray regularly otherwise your cat may go to the toilet elsewhere.
- You may need to confine your cat to the same room as the tray initially.
- Gradually move the tray towards the garden for outdoor cats.

Behaviour

Spraying and soiling indoors:

- If your cat is urinating or defaecating outside of the litter tray, there may be a problem with the tray. Ensure that the tray is being cleaned regularly and that it is not too close to the cat's food bowl.
- If this does not work, try providing a different type of litter in another tray.
- If the problem persists, it is possible your cat may have a medical problem e.g. a urinary tract infection. Your vet should be able to advise you on this.

Scratching/clawing indoors:

- Providing a scratching post for your cat is a good idea to prevent scratching of upholstery and furniture. A helpful tip to promote the use of the scratching post is to wipe your cat's paws on the post to leave its scent.
- Multi-cat households are quite often a source of stress for certain cats. It's important that you provide enough of each resource such as litter trays/ water bowls/ feeding stations. A good rule of thumb is 1 resource per cat plus an extra. These should be spread throughout the house to prevent bullying behaviour.
- Feliway pheromone plug in's can help to maintain a peaceful/ calming environment for your cat.
- Provide elevated places for your cat to sit as well as covered hiding places so that your feline friend can decide where they are most comfortable.