



Levittown Animal Hospital

Healing Long Island's Pets Since 1965
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New Cat Checklist

Congratulations! Your new addition to the family will provide you with years of unconditional love and companionship. Our job is to help you ensure that those years are as healthy and happy as possible. Please read over this checklist to make sure that all of these issues are addressed:

Vaccinations: The FVRCP vaccine is ideally started at 8 weeks of age and is given every 3 weeks through 16 weeks of age. At least two doses should be given (3 weeks apart). Rabies vaccination can be done at a minimum of 12 weeks of age, but we recommend giving it at 16 weeks or older. FeLV vaccination is recommended only for at-risk kittens and cats. Annual vaccine protocols are customized for each patient at this hospital.

Spay/Neuter: Unless you have plans to show your purebred cat or become a professional breeder, the spay or neuter should be done by 5 to 6 months of age. This surgery will prevent a number of different diseases, including some types of cancer. It will also decrease your cat's desire to roam around the neighborhood, looking for a mate. Spay your female cat *before* she has her first heat in order to maximize the health benefits.

Identification: Protect your investment! 10 million pets get lost every year and without identification, 90% don't return home. Only about 14% of dogs and 4% of cats who end up in shelters are returned to their rightful owners. 30% to 60% of lost pets in shelters are euthanized because they cannot be properly identified and returned to their owner. Collars and tags are good, but they can easily fall off or be removed. Microchipping is permanent, completely unalterable, and does not harm or change the appearance of the animal in any way. The procedure is safe, inexpensive, fast, and virtually painless.

Parasite Prevention: All cats need to be protected against fleas and intestinal parasites. Roundworms, hookworms and fleas are all contagious to humans. Intestinal parasite screening is done for all cats every 6 to 12 months. Ask your veterinarian how to prevent these parasites from becoming a problem.

Retrovirus Testing: All cats with an unknown medical history must be tested for Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). These are life-threatening diseases, and they can be very contagious to other cats. A simple blood test for both FeLV and FIV can usually be done while you wait, with results in 10 minutes.