



# Cardinal Animal Hospital

[www.cardinalanimalhosp.com](http://www.cardinalanimalhosp.com)

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## KITTEN HEALTH PROTOCOL

Cats can be a very important member of your family and are at this point in time the most popular pet in our country. It is our goal to keep them healthy and active well into their teens. We can achieve this with good preventative medicine as well as with the most up to date medical techniques. This all begins as a kitten and our recommendations for a long and healthy life are as follows.

When the kitten is 6 weeks of age we begin with a thorough physical exam, microscopically check a stool sample for intestinal parasites, test for Feline Leukemia Virus, and start on a vaccination program.

Feline Leukemia Virus is a very contagious, fatal disease of cats and we recommend testing your new kitten prior to any other procedures. If the test is negative we can vaccinate to prevent this disease from occurring.

In addition to Feline Leukemia vaccination we also vaccinate against Distemper, Calicivirus, Herpesvirus, and Chlamydia. Boosters are given every 3 weeks until the kitten reaches 4 months of age. These boosters are important due to the fact that the kitten's immune systems are immature and are unable to maintain a good level of immunity until they are 16 weeks of age. At 16 weeks of age a Rabies vaccine is given to protect them from this very serious disease, which can also affect humans.

Intestinal parasites such as hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms and coccidia can seriously affect your kitten's health and sometimes your childrens as well. Checking for these parasites and treating are a very important part of maintaining good health.

Heartworms are another serious parasite that are transmitted by mosquitoes. They get in to the blood stream and eventually end up in the heart where they can cause serious disease and even death. In cats there is no current treatment for heartworms. We can prevent this deadly disease by starting your kitten on a monthly topical preventative.

Proper nutrition is an integral part of keeping your new kitten healthy. We recommend feeding a good quality kitten food until 1 year of age. We feel that Science Diet Growth is unsurpassed as a diet for your kitten during that 1st year.

We also strongly urge you to spay and neuter your new kitten at 5-6 months of age. This not only prevents pregnancy but also lessens the chances of them developing mammary cancer, testicular cancer, and uterine infections. It also prevents unwanted behavioral problems such as urine spraying.

We hope this information will be helpful. Our professionals here will continue striving to provide outstanding care for you and your pet. Thank you for your business and please contact us if you have any further questions or concerns. Cardinal Animal Hospital