



During your visits we will discuss.....

Your kitten's vaccine plan: *Generally*, if he or she is 6-8 wks. of age at this first visit, you can expect the pediatric vaccine series to be complete after 3 additional vaccine administrations. Kittens 9-11 wks. old at their first visit should have their vaccines boosted during 2 additional visits, while kittens 12 wks. or older at the beginning of their vaccine series must be boosted at least once after the first visit to be considered properly immunized. *Each of these appointments for vaccination should be scheduled at 3 week intervals.*

Remember, while most kitten vaccine schedules will follow the recommended protocol and include FVRCP, Feline Leukemia and Rabies vaccines given at the appropriate age, your veterinarian will be with you and your pet during every visit to cater his or her specific needs!

Revolution® is our product of choice for your kitten to prevent heartworm disease, kill adult fleas and prevent their eggs from hatching, and treat and control ear mites, roundworms and hookworms. **Revolution®** is an easy-to-use topical solution, and should be applied to your kitten once monthly after the age of 8 weeks, on a year-round basis.

Heartworm disease is spread by infected mosquitos, is potentially lethal in cats, and there is no approved treatment for the disease in our feline patients.

Fleas are not only a nuisance, but can also be hosts for tapeworms and other parasites. They are difficult to eradicate from a home once they are introduced!

While **ear mites** can be painful to your kitten and cause infections in the ears, **roundworm** and **hookworm** infections are *particularly* dangerous because they can be transmitted to *humans*; small children can become infected by playing in areas where animal feces is present. For this reason, additional deworming medication will be administered to your kitten during your first office visit, and a fecal sample will be tested for intestinal parasites.

Your kitten should be tested for **Feline Leukemia** during your first visit, if he or she has not already recently been tested. **Feline Leukemia** is a deadly viral disease that can be spread by saliva, nasal discharge, or even grooming between cats. Vaccination to help prevent this disease is recommended in all kittens, and *outdoor* cats should be vaccinated annually.



Feline Leukemia disease. A contagious viral disease of cats, Feline Leukemia will be fatal to 50% of infected cats and kittens within 6 months of contracting the virus. The virus is spread by the bodily fluids of infected cats through common litter boxes, bite wounds, social grooming and shared food and water bowls. Kittens can be infected with Feline Leukemia from their mothers before they are born!

We recommend vaccination for your kitten to help protect him or her from Feline Leukemia. While your kitten may live exclusively indoors and have a very low risk of contracting the disease at the present time, *circumstances may change in the future*. You may decide to discontinue annual vaccination after the “kitten series” because he or she has remained indoors and at very low risk. But because the vaccine was administered as a series of two as a kitten, you can at any time reinstate use of the Feline Leukemia vaccine annually if your cat’s risk of exposure to the disease increases. He or she will be effectively immunized very quickly, and it will not be necessary to boost the Feline Leukemia vaccine three weeks later.

***Please alert us to any of your kitten’s changes in lifestyle; these can include boarding/grooming appointments, new pets in the household, escapes from indoors, etc!**

We strongly recommend vaccinating *any* outdoor kittens or cats for Feline Leukemia. The Purevax® Recombinant Leukemia Vaccine/ Vetjet® transdermal system is used here at Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital, and is widely considered the safest and most effective method of Feline Leukemia vaccination in the veterinary industry.

There are many factors to consider when choosing a diet for your kitten! These can include convenience, cost, quality, and even health conditions specific to your kitten. His or her diet should be food made *specifically for kittens* and readily accepted by *yours*! The diet should also be one that is easy to find and purchase and be of a reasonable level of quality. During each of your kitten visits at Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital, we will provide you with a feeding guide specifically tailored to your kitten and the specific diet that he or she is presently eating.



The few general rules of thumb for cat litter boxes in the household. These recommendations are all geared toward your kitten using his or her box readily. Poor litter box habits can be devastating to a household, and remain some of the most common reasons for euthanasia in kittens and cats surrendered to shelters.

1. The first “rule” is that kittens and cats prefer clean litter that is scooped or changed regularly; the boxes *cannot be too clean*, and this might mean daily or twice daily scooping.
2. There should be enough litter boxes available for you your kitten if you have a multiple cat household. At least one box per cat is the minimum, and most experts in feline behavior recommend on per cat *plus* one extra.
3. Be certain that your kitten can easily access the litter box, and that it is located in a low traffic area where he or she feels comfortable. Also be certain that your growing kitten *fits* comfortably inside the box to avoid tipping or eliminating over the sides!

We recommend that your kitten remain indoors for several reasons. These include the decreased risk of *trauma* and *disease*. Kittens and cats that live exclusively indoors are far less likely to be hit by vehicles, attacked by other cats or dogs, or preyed on by wildlife. They are also much less likely to be exposed to potentially deadly diseases like Feline Leukemia or FIV. You might also consider that you indoor cat’s diet will be easier to control, and even neighbors who are animal lovers might not appreciate an unwelcome guest at their birdfeeder!

Have us show you how to trim you kitten’s nails! Be sure to provide your kitten with a scratching post or outlet *other than your furniture*. If you become frustrated with his or her scratching habits in the household, there are ways we can help; ask us about Soft Paws® nail caps or other solutions.



Spaying or neutering your kitten. We recommend that all our feline patients are spayed or neutered at or around six months of age; this procedure can *prevent disease* in your pet and help him or her be a much happier and contented housemate for you! At Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital, every safeguard is taken to assure that this surgery will be performed safely. We will remind you to have blood work submitted in the week prior to the surgery to rule out any systematic disease or irregularity that might interfere with the procedure, your kitten will be closely monitored throughout the process, and he or she will be medicated appropriately to treat any discomfort following surgery. You can take your kitten home later the same day, and we will provide you with easy-to-follow discharge instructions. We will ask you to return for a courtesy recheck exam ten days post-operatively; any external sutures will be removed at that time, and your kitten will be examined by one of our veterinary nurses.

A **microchip** used for permanent identification of your kitten is often placed on the same day the spay or neuter is performed, although we can microchip your kitten at any time you feel it is needed. We use the **HomeAgain® microchip** and recovery service, and the fee includes both the microchip placement and registration. Microchip scanners are used at all animal shelters and veterinary hospitals, and can help get your pet back to you safely if he or she is ever lost!

You will receive email reminders from us to refill **Revolution®** for your kitten. Remember, there is no approved treatment for heartworm disease in cats, so *prevention* really is the best medicine for this potentially deadly disease! We recommend that both indoor and outdoor cats are treated with **Revolution®** every month, since each can be exposed to mosquitos that spread heartworm disease. **Revolution®** will also kill any adult fleas present and prevent their eggs from hatching, and treat and control ear mites, roundworms and hookworms.

Oral care and brushing your kitten's teeth. Your kitten's physical exam at Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital will always include careful examination of his or her mouth, teeth and gums. This is an extremely important tool to help maintain your cat's oral health for years to come! *Home dental care* can include brushing the teeth, the topical application of products like Oravet® Plaque Prevention Gel, water additives, or even special chews and treats. We will find the home care that works best for your kitten and your lifestyle, and demonstrate how easily you can accomplish it.