

Welcome to Ashgrove Vets



On behalf of the team, we would like to welcome you warmly to Ashgrove Vets. We are a dedicated small animal practice, aiming to deliver the very best of care for your pets.

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Introducing a new kitten to your home and your life brings lots of fun and new challenges. What needs to be done and when to do it can be a little overwhelming; at Ashgrove we will do our best to make this straightforward, and answer any questions you may have about caring for your new addition.



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Vaccinations: Kitten vaccinations can be started from 9 weeks of age. The core vaccinations are given by two injections, 3 weeks apart. Your kitten will be protected against the diseases covered 3 weeks *after* the second injection; this means they should not go outside or be in contact with unvaccinated cats until then. Cats require an annual vaccination booster; we can remind you of this by post or email.



Indoor vs outdoor vaccination courses: if your kitten is to be kept strictly indoors and will never meet any cats other than vaccinated house mates (also kept strictly indoors), then the **indoor cat vaccination** course will be sufficient. However if your cat is to venture outside, mix with unvaccinated cats or cats who go outside, then we recommend the **outdoor cat vaccination course**.



What's the difference? Only the **outdoor** cat vaccination course provides protection against **Feline Leukaemia Virus**. This can cause lymphoma and leukaemia, severe immunosuppression, anaemia, and death usually within 3-4 years of infection. It is spread from infected animals mostly in their saliva, but also in faeces and urine. Prolonged **social contact** (e.g. grooming) or fighting can spread it from cat to cat.

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Worming: there are many protocols for worming kittens; the important thing is that high quality, effective products are used in the correct way, to ensure that your kitten can be relieved of any worm burden (often passed on from the mother) and kept as healthy as possible.



We recommend using **STRONGHOLD**; this is a combined wormer and flea treatment. We advise using Stronghold monthly; the first treatment will be provided free of charge at your kitten's first vaccination. From 6 months old your kitten will also require to be wormed against tapeworms: we advise that this is done every 3 months, with **PROFENDER**.



Because your kitten will grow so much during its first year, we recommend that you take advantage of our **free monthly weight checks**. This will allow us to prescribe the correct strengths of .

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Fleas and Ticks! Monthly **Stronghold** treatment (see above) will protect your cat against flea infestation. Although there are many different products on the market, this is one we have confidence in.

Regarding tick control, we advise the use of a **SERESTO** collar, which acts to repel ticks very effectively for 8 months. This is especially important if your cat roams or if you take your cat on holiday with you, to the countryside and particularly to the Highlands, which is a real tick hot-spot. Some ticks carry Lyme disease, which can be debilitating and difficult to treat effectively.



Microchipping: we recommend microchipping of all kittens. This is usually done at their 2nd vaccination. A microchip gives a kitten a unique number, to which its owners details are saved in a database. If a lost cat is presented to a vet, the police or SSPCA, it is scanned for a microchip. If one is found this can be used to reunite it with its owner. Standard microchips are £25.



Biotherm microchips: as well as standard microchips, we offer **BIO THERM** microchips. These allow us to take your kitten's temperature by scanning, rather than by inserting a thermometer into the rectum. Thus saves a lot of stress, and although at times we may wish to double check, we are generally very happy with the accuracy of this peripheral temperature measurement.

Biotherm microchips are £30.

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Insurance: At Ashgrove Vets we recommend insurance for all cats, indoor and outdoor. We believe so strongly in its worth that we offer all kitten owners 1 free month of insurance through Petplan. This insurance covers your kitten from the moment we have checked them, with no waiting period before full cover commences.



During the free month of cover a Petplan representative will contact you to offer you a continued policy; although we strongly recommend it, you are in no way obliged to continue the cover. Many companies offer pet insurance ; please choose carefully when taking out a policy.



Neutering

Unless you wish to breed your pet, we strongly recommend that you spay or castrate your kitten. There are health benefits to both sexes from neutering, which the vet will be happy to discuss with you.

Male and female cats can be castrated **from 4 months** of age.

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Ashgrove Healthy Pet Club

At Ashgrove we believe that prevention is better than cure. We also understand that everyone has busy lives with different financial pressures. Ashgrove Healthy Pet Club offers a preventative care plan for your cat which will save you money on the best quality medication, providing gold standard healthcare for a small monthly fee.



Ashgrove Healthy Pet Club: benefits

All flea and worming requirements
Annual core vaccinations
6 month check-up
10% Discount off neutering, diets, microchipping, dental work, acupuncture, additional vaccinations and tick prevention.
Please ask a member of staff for further details.

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