



CONGRATS, NEW KITTEN!

We would like to welcome your new puppy to the
Friendship Animal Hospital Family!
Here at Friendship Animal Hospital, we're dedicated
to nurturing the special bond between people and
their pets by providing compassionate, modern
medical care tailored to each patient's needs.

Our goal is to support you in being the best pet
parent you can be—keeping your furry family
members healthy, happy, and thriving every step of
the way. When pets feel their best, their people do too
—and that's what we're here for.

Thank you for bringing your new puppy to join the
Friendship Animal Hospital Family.

Sincerely,
The Friendship Animal Hospital Team

HOW DO VACCINES WORK?

Vaccines are like boot camp for the immune system: They train your pet's body to fight off infectious disease. They don't cause an infection, but the immune system still sees them as an invader and makes antibodies in response. The body retains a memory of these antibodies, and if your pet is ever exposed to the same disease again, the immune system can respond lightning fast.

ARE VACCINES SAFE?

Vaccines have been accused of being dangerous. Vaccination has saved innumerable lives, both human and animal. Adverse events are rare with the safer vaccines available today.

There are isolated cases of allergic reactions, but these are rarely life-threatening when treated appropriately. However, vaccines must be given according to researched guidelines.

CORE VS. NON-CORE VACCINES

You may have heard our veterinary team mention core versus non-core vaccines. Core vaccines are needed for all pets to keep them and their human friends healthy and safe. Non-core vaccines are recommended based on the risk of exposure to certain diseases. Not all pets need every non-core vaccine. Vaccines are not one-size-fits-all and should be tailored to the individual kitten.



WHAT IF MY PET HAS A VACCINE REACTION?

Just like when humans are vaccinated, vaccinations can make pets out of sorts for a day or two. Expected responses to vaccines include:

- Mild fever (your pet feels warm)
- Mild loss of appetite
- Mild swelling at the injection site
- Mild lethargy.
- Soreness at the injection site

If your pet's response is more than mild or lasts longer than a day or two, call your veterinarian- they may prescribe medicine to make your pet feel better. Let us know if your pet has had felt unwell after vaccines in the past. Reactions are rare as vaccines today are safer than ever and are highly regulated to maintain purity and effectiveness.

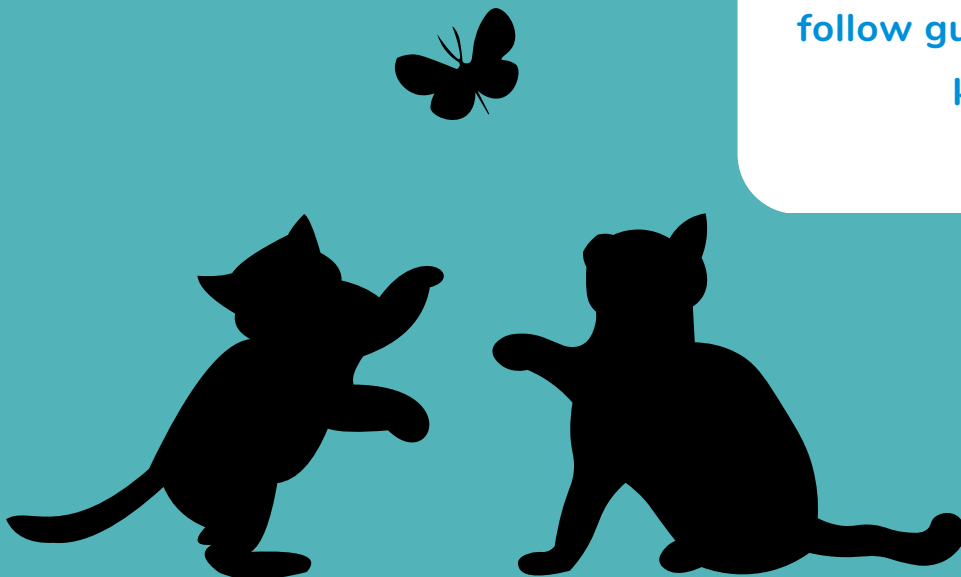
If your pet is vomiting or develops hives after vaccines, this indicates a more serious reaction. Call your veterinarian immediately. Some dogs and cats can have a rare but serious adverse reaction to any type of vaccination.

WHAT ABOUT DEWORMING?

Intestinal parasites are commonly found in kittens, which is why we routinely deworm for the most common types. To ensure your puppy receives the most complete care, we also request a small, fresh stool sample to test for less common parasites that may not be addressed by standard deworming.

WHY DOES MY KITTEN NEED REPEAT VACCINES “BOOSTERS”?

We know that an immune system “remembers” diseases from vaccines, but we don’t know how long the memory is for each individual animal. Kittens receive temporary immune protection from their mother after they’re born, maternal immunity can interfere with the effectiveness of vaccines, we repeat them to make sure they’re present when the kitten’s own immune system takes over. Eventually, kittens need to develop their own protection, and that’s where vaccines come in. This timeline varies between individual cats, so we follow guidelines to protect as many kittens as possible.





CORE VACCINES

Rabies

Rabies is an incurable and fatal viral disease, Rabies is transmitted through saliva and targets the central nervous system. Because it is spread from animals to people, public health agencies require all cats and dogs to be vaccinated against Rabies.



FVRCP

“FVR”

“Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis” – a viral disease affecting the eyes and upper respiratory system. Signs include runny eyes, profuse nasal discharge, lost of appetite, weight loss and corneal and oral ulcers.

“C”

“Calicivirus” – a virus that is part of the “Feline Upper Respiratory Complex” causing severe upper respiratory infections.

“P”

“Panleukopenia” (Feline Distemper) – a viral disease that causes vomiting, diarrhea, and dehydration. It severely depletes the cat’s white blood cells which leads to high fatality rate even with extensive treatment.

LITTERBOX TRAINING...HOW TO?

Litterbox training is usually a smooth process with kittens, especially when started early in a quiet, low-traffic area of the home. Use a clean box with 2–3 inches of unscented, clumping litter, and make sure the box is low enough for easy access and at least 1.5 times the length of your kitten. Once your kitten is consistently using the box, you can gradually give them more freedom in the home. Keep in mind that cats may have litter preferences, so starting with unscented clumping litter is a good choice. Be sure to scoop the box daily, change the litter weekly, and if you have multiple cats, aim for one box per cat, plus one, with the boxes placed in different areas of the home.



FELV/FIV

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) are serious diseases that can weaken a cat's immune system. Both viruses can spread from mother cats to their kittens, through mating, or by bite wounds. FeLV can also be spread by saliva such as shared bowls or grooming. We recommend testing all new cats and kittens before they meet other pets in your home to help keep everyone safe and healthy. There is no effective treatment for either disease.

NON-CORE VACCINE

FELINE LEUKEMIA

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) can lead to serious health problems over time. It spreads through close contact, such as grooming, sharing food bowls, or from mother to kitten. We recommend testing all kittens for FeLV and starting the vaccine series to help protect them, especially if they will be spending time outdoors or around other cats.



PARASITE PREVENTION FOR YOUR KITTEN!



What about heartworms, fleas, and ticks? Our mild winters here mean cats need prevention from parasites all year long, not just summers.

Fleas and Ticks...All Year Round, Really?

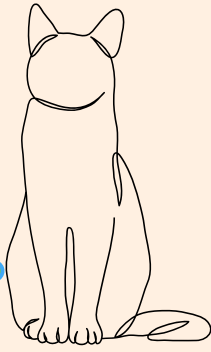
<https://www.zoetispetcare.com/blog/article/fullyear-protection>

Disease Prevalence Maps

<https://capcvet.org/maps/#/>

Need recommendations for flea, ticks, intestinal parasites, and heartworm prevention?

We offer a variety of options available for purchase at our hospital and our online pharmacy! Ask a team member how you can get your kitty protected today!



FEAR FREE FOR KITTEN OWNERS

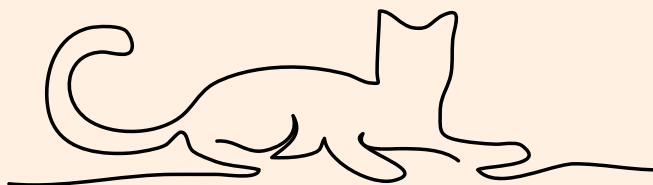


What is Fear Free?

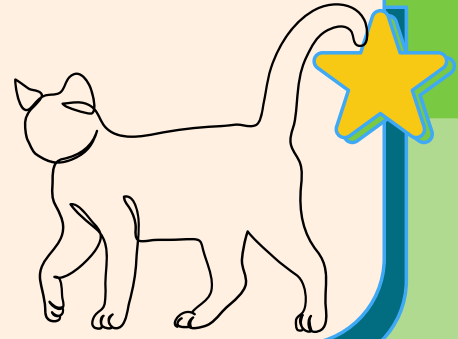
Fear Free is a veterinary approach designed to reduce stress, anxiety, and fear in pets before, during, and after their visits to the clinic. It uses gentle handling techniques, calming environments, and positive reinforcement to create a more comfortable experience for both pets and their owners. By focusing on emotional well-being, Fear Free care helps pets feel safer and more relaxed, making vet visits less stressful and more effective.

Learn more about Fear Free and how get tips on how you can use Fear Free with your pet at:

<https://www.fearfreehappyhomes.com/>



HELPFUL LINKS



WANT TO KNOW MORE BUT NOT SURE WHERE
TO START?

[Indoor Cat Initiative](#)

[Fear Free Activities and Enrichment](#)

[Kitten 101](#)

[Living with Cat Claws](#)

[Purina Guide to Getting a Kitten](#)

[ASPCA Pet Poison Control Household Hazards](#)

[Sally Said So Trainer](#)

(Most cats never need a trainer, but here is one , should you need it)