



Kitten Newsletter

Stress in Cats

Believe it or not but stress amongst our feline friends is on the increase. This in some ways is due to our attitude towards them and our desire to include them in our family.

Stress can manifest itself in many different ways—too many to go into detail here, but the common symptoms are:-

- ◆ Spraying and inappropriate toileting
- ◆ Aggression
- ◆ Over grooming
- ◆ Hiding away

Many factors can increase the stress in their lives, for example:-

- ◆ Changes to their routine e.g. building work, house move, addition of a new pet or person into the household.
- ◆ Owner absence.
- ◆ Inappropriate facilities e.g. too few litter trays, hiding places, keeping an outdoor cat indoors.
- ◆ Visit or hospitalization at the vets, cattery or groomer.

Never fear! With some careful detective work and possibly the help of a qualified behaviourist and TLC on your part, most of these problems can be either reduced or eliminated.

Firstly, we advise getting any cat with a sudden change of behaviour examined by the vet to ex-

clude any medical cause. Once this is ruled out we can examine the cat's normal routine.

Simple things to start with:-

- ◆ Ensure sufficient resources (e.g. litter trays should be one per cat and one spare. These should be placed in different locations and not near feeding stations—would you eat near your toilet?!
- ◆ Allow the cat to control interactions with its owner
- ◆ Keep cat populations down and within own family groups.
- ◆ Allow cats access to outside even if only on a lead/harness or an enclosure for stimulation.
- ◆ Provide play opportunities
- ◆ Stimulate house cats—play/scratch posts allow them to perform natural behaviour.
- ◆ Avoid cleaning any urine with bleach or other ammonia based products as ammonia is the main component of cat urine and so to them you are cleaning cat urine with tiger urine! This just encourages them to urinate again.

Please ask at reception for further information on the correct cleaning of cat urine.



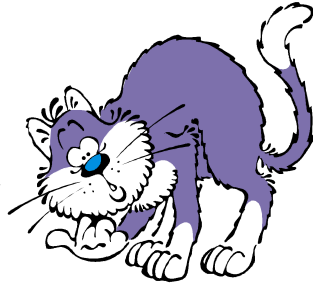
10% OFF ANY 2kg BAG OF CAT FOOD. Please ring either Totton 023 8066 0400 or Lyndhurst 023 8028 2358 to order any Hills, Royal Canin or James Wellbeloved food. Please present this voucher on collection.

Microchipping

Microchipping is an excellent inexpensive method of identifying your cat. For a one off payment of approximately £20, your cat will be implanted with the microchip and will receive life long membership with Petlog (The National Microchipping Database).

The microchip is roughly the same size as a grain of rice and is encoded with an unique number. It is implanted into the loose skin in the scruff of the neck and can be done at any age.

If the unthinkable happens and your cat goes missing, all vets, animal rescues and dog wardens have scanners that can read the microchip number. Petlog can be contacted and the owner's details are instantly available enabling you to be re-united with your cat as soon as possible.



Collars

It is entirely your choice whether your cat should wear a collar in addition to a microchip for identification purposes, but word of warning! Ensure that the collar you choose has an emergency release built in so that if your cat should become caught up by his/her collar, the collar is designed to break or open rather than causing serious injury.

Worming

There are two types of worms that occur very frequently in kittens.

Tapeworms

These stick to the walls of the intestine, causing bloating and diarrhoea. White rings rather like grains of rice in the faeces or on the cat's fur (around the anus) indicate the presence of worms. Kittens may also scratch or rub their hindquarters.

These worms can easily be contracted by hunting and eating prey or by being in close contact with infected cats.

Roundworms

These live in a kitten's small intestine causing bloating and possible slow growth. Roundworms can be detected by a pot-bellied appearance, digestive problems or dull fur in kittens. They are contracted from the faeces of infected cats and milk from their mother.

Worming Regime

We recommend worming your kitten at 9 and 12 weeks, then monthly until they are 6 months old. After that a recommendation of every 3 months unless they are prolific hunters and then you may need to worm more frequently. If your cat is a housebound cat then worming only needs to be done every 6 months.

What to use

There are several options available to choose from:

- Tablets—Milbemax—coated flavour tablets which can be easily hidden in food or given directly into the mouth.
- Granules—Panacur, often used in kittens as it can be hidden in food, but needs to be given as a 3 day course. It also comes in a liquid or paste version which can also be given directly into the mouth.
- Spot-on-Profender. This is applied to the back of the neck and is absorbed into the blood stream. This is used commonly in adult cats when giving tablets is impossible.

Further advice

If you require further information or want to discuss worming your cat then contact either surgery for more advice.

Do you have trouble remembering when your pets' worm pill is due ? If so we can help you. You can sign up for our FREE text messaging service. Let us have your name, address and mobile number and how often you would like a reminder and we will send you a text message letting you know when the treatment is due. If you would like further details or would like to sign up to the text messaging service then contact the surgery.

Name

Pet's Name

Address.....

Telephone Number