

PETVET
12186 CLARKSVILLE PIKE
CLARKSVILLE, MD 21029
(410) 531-6500

Congratulations on the new addition to your family! Here is a list of suggestions that Doctors Hall and Caplan feel will help to keep your cat happy, healthy, well behaved and thus an enjoyable member of your family. If you have any further questions or concerns please don't hesitate to ask our staff and/or Doctors Hall or Caplan.

1. Handling - Touch your cat all over (face, teeth, ears, toes, tail, belly, etc.) to get him/her used to being handled.
2. Feeding- Feed dry food. Feed the manufacturer's recommended amount and then adjust the amount according to your cat's metabolism/activity level. **Your cat's optimum weight is when there is some flesh over his/her backbone and ribs but you can still feel the indentations between the backbone and ribs.**
3. Dental care – Brush the teeth daily to weekly. Tartar control treats will also help to keep the teeth clean so that we will have to do a dental scaling and polishing less frequently.
4. Ear care – Clean the ears on a weekly basis.
5. Vaccinations – Kittens should get their vaccinations every 3-4 weeks until they are 12 weeks old. They should then have their vaccines boosted 1 year later.
6. Flea and tick control – All cats that go outside should be on a flea and tick preventative (topical or collar) in the spring, summer, and fall.
7. Identification – All cats should have some form of identification (microchip, I.D. tag).
8. Neutering – All cats should be spayed/castrated by six months of age.
9. Declawing/Tendonectomy - Keeping the nails trimmed short, training, and having scratching posts can often control or eliminate the need for these surgical procedures. If these steps do not control the scratching and your cat is a **totally inside cat (100% of the time)** these surgical procedures can be performed.
10. Litter Pans – You should always have 1 more litter pan than the number of cats in your household. The litter pans should be cleaned frequently (daily?) to decrease the chance of your cat not using the litter pan.
11. Chewing – Keep all “stringy” material (string, sewing thread, needles, dental floss, ribbon, yarn, tinsel, etc.) out of your cats reach. They can chew on these types of materials, which can get stuck in their intestines, and they may need to be removed surgically. Discourage your cat from chewing on people. Allow your cat to chew on toys specifically made for cats.

