



Congratulations on your new kitten! We are so happy to have your furry family member as a new addition to the Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic family. We are sure you have many questions about the care and needs of your kitty so we hope you find this document helpful. As always, our doctors and support staff are here to help answer any additional questions or concerns you may have.



OPEN 7 DAYS WEEK! 8AM - 8PM
contact_us@cherrydalevet.com
703.528.9001

Vaccines

FVRCP or HCP Vaccine

This vaccine protects against 3 common hardy viruses that both indoor and outdoor cats are susceptible to which are Rhinotracheitis, Calici, and Panleukopenia. This is a core vaccine that is typically started in kittens at 6–8 weeks of age and is bolstered every 3–4 weeks until they are 12 or 16 weeks of age, depending on their vaccine history. The vaccine used at Cherrydale is labeled as having 3 years of immunity once the final booster is given. This vaccine is very well tolerated with rare, mild lethargy post-vaccination being the only side effect.

Rabies Vaccine

This vaccine is required by law for both indoor and outdoor cats over the age of 16 weeks. The first vaccine has a 1 year duration of immunity. Pet owners have the option of continuing the Purevax 1 year vaccine at subsequent vaccine appointments, or choosing the Purevax 3 year vaccine. Your veterinarian will discuss this with you when your cat's next rabies vaccine is due. The possible side effects from the Purevax 1 year vaccine are rare and mild lethargy that generally resolves within 24 hours post-vaccination.

FELV Vaccine

: This vaccine is only required for cats that go outdoors and may have direct contact with other cats. It protects against Feline Leukemia Virus, which is a virus that is transmitted by direct cat to cat contact and can lead to bone marrow infection and lymphoma. The first vaccine is generally given at 12 weeks and the booster 3–4 weeks later. The duration of immunity is 1 year. The side effects from the Purevax vaccine used at Cherrydale are rare and mild and can include lethargy post vaccination.

Preventative Care

Cats that go outdoors should be protected against fleas, heartworm disease, +/- ticks. Cats do not appear to be susceptible to tick born disease, although they can carry ticks into the home. Cats are also an abnormal host for heartworm disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes. The mosquito bites the cat and a larva enters the blood stream which then grows into an adult worm in the heart. Signs of this disease in cats mimic that of feline asthma. There are multiple products available to prevent these parasites in cats, and your veterinarian will work with you to decide which product is right for your cat. Many of the over the counter products are made with chemicals that can have severe side effects and toxicities in cats, so please consult your veterinarian prior to using any of these products in your cat.

Internal Parasite Prevention and Treatment

A fecal sample will be analyzed at your first check up to determine if your cat has internal/ gastrointestinal parasites. Many times cats can be carrying these parasites and even pass them to other pets and are asymptomatic. The treatments for each of these parasites is different, and most require multiple treatments with a de-wormer to disrupt the lifecycle of the parasite. You will receive notification within 2–3 days of submission of the sample with results. It is recommended to check a fecal sample every 6 months as many of the parasites that can affect cats can be transmitted to people. If your cat is indoor only and will have no contact with the outdoors, please discuss a modified internal parasite detection schedule with a doctor.

Spay/Neuter Procedure

It is recommended that all cats be spayed and neutered by 6 months of age.

Common Household Toxicities

Many common foods and medications that are perfectly safe for people are toxic to cats and can even be fatal. Please do not give any over the counter human medication to your pet without consulting our doctors. For example, Ibuprofen is incredibly toxic to cats, and even one dose can be fatal. Topical antibiotic ointments (Neosporin, Bacitracin) and topical anti-inflammatories (Hydrocortisone cream) are safe to apply to minor skin ailments if needed. There are also a number of foods that can be toxic to cats including grapes/raisins, gums/foods containing Xylitol, and chocolate to name a few. Here is a good list from the ASPCA detailing foods to avoid:

Here is a good list from the ASPCA detailing foods to avoid as well as common plants that can be toxic. If you think your pet has ingested anything potentially harmful please contact the ASPCA at 1-888-426-4435.

Poison Control for Dogs & Cats	
People Food	
Safe*	Unsafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apples• Bananas• Blueberries• Bread• Broccoli (cooked)• Cantaloupe• Carrots (cooked)• Chicken & turkey (cooked)• Eggs (cooked)• Green beans (cooked)• Milk/cheese (if pet isn't lactose intolerant)• Oatmeal (cooked)• Peas (cooked)• Pumpkin (cooked)• Salmon (cooked) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol• Avocado• Chocolate, coffee & caffeine• Citrus• Coconut & coconut oil• Grapes & raisins• Macadamia nuts• Milk/cheese (if pet isn't lactose intolerant)• Nuts• Onions, garlic & chives• Raw/undercooked meat, eggs & bones• Salt & salty snack foods• Xylitol• Yeast dough 
Common Houseplants	
Safe	Unsafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• African violet• Air plant• Bamboo• Boston fern• Cast iron plant• Christmas cactus• Haworthia• Herbs (basil, sage, & thyme)• Palms (NOT sago palm)• Phalaenopsis orchids• Spider plant• Wax plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aloe vera• Asparagus fern• Corn plant• Cyclamen• Dieffenbachia• Elephant ear• English ivy• Herbs (lavender, oregano)• Jade• Lilies• Philodendron• Sago palm
ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435 <small>*Although these foods are safe for dogs and cats, please only offer as an occasional snack and in moderation.</small>	

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.