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## LOOKING AFTER YOUR KITTEN

After a few days of settling in at your new home, your new kitten can be brought to the surgery for a FREE HEALTH CHECK. The vet or nurse can give you advice about diet, care, vaccinations and answer any other questions you may have.

In the first week it is usually best to follow the diet plan the kitten is used to then change gradually over to other diets. It is important to feed a complete kitten food until at least 12 months old or until recommended by the food manufactures guidelines which are usually written on the foods bag. Kitten food and wormers can be obtained from the surgery.



## Vaccinations

Vaccinations are given to protect against flu, enteritis and leukaemia. Up to date flu and enteritis vaccinations are required to put cats into a cattery.

Leukaemia vaccination is strongly recommended, as it is a serious disease for which there is no cure.

1 <sup>st</sup> vaccination	9 weeks old
2 <sup>nd</sup> vaccination	12 weeks old

## Leukaemia

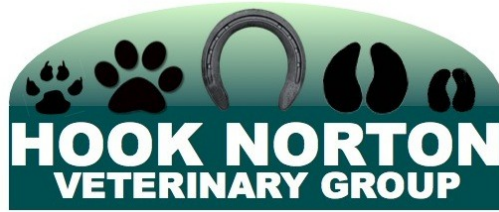
In cats this is caused by a virus, which is common in this area (it does not affect humans or other animals). A blood test can be carried out at the surgery to see if the cat has the disease. If the virus is already in the body the vaccine cannot prevent against the disease. It doesn't bring on or accelerate the disease. More detailed information is available from the surgery.

A single BOOSTER VACCINATION is needed each year. The vet will carry out s FREE HEALTH CHECK at the same time.

If it is more than 15 months since the last vaccination the course will have to be restarted. 1/2



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## Socialisation

It is very important that kittens are handled and socialised from a young age. More detailed information is available from the surgery.

## Neutering

Females (spay) at 5 ½ to 6 months old  
Males (castrate) at 6 to 8 months old

Neutering operations are carried out at Hook Norton and Charlbury surgeries, and require a full general anaesthetic. To prepare for this your cat should be given no food after 9pm the night before, water should be taken away first thing in the morning and be kept inside overnight. He or she will be admitted (usually between 8 and 9am) on the morning of the operation. Your cat can usually be collected between 4 and 6.30pm the same day. When your cat is discharged the nurse will go through the care you will need to give.

2/2