

# Getting a New Kitten?



Receive a gift certificate  
for your kitten!  
Valued at \$79.50!



THE 7 MUST-KNOW KEYS  
TO HAPPY CAT TIMES  
from Devoted Vets!

**devoted  
vets**

*for your animal's life!*

[www.devotedvets.com.au](http://www.devotedvets.com.au)

# Congratulations on welcoming a new member of the family!



a very  
exciting  
time for  
everyone

We know that this is a very exciting time for everyone, but it can also be a bit overwhelming particularly if this is your first time caring for a kitten!

With this list of tips and information we hope to help you through the first year of your kitten's life smoothly and keep him or her happy and healthy throughout their life!





# 1. Make sure Your Kitten is Fully Vaccinated



protects  
them from  
potentially  
dangerous  
diseases

Vaccinating your kitten protects them from potentially dangerous diseases, while allowing them to socialise with other animals.

Vaccinations help your kitten by strengthening their immune system to help fight off infection.

Most kittens will just need their core vaccination which covers them for the diseases that all kittens could potentially come in contact with. It is commonly called an “F4” vaccination and it protects kittens against the following serious diseases:

- Feline Parvovirus or enteritis – a potentially fatal disease that causes severe diarrhoea and reduced immunity.
- Herpesvirus, Calicivirus and feline Chlamydia – these are the “cat flu” group of diseases and cause severe eye, nose and mouth symptoms. Problems caused by cat flu can be lifelong, so protection is absolutely essential.

Kittens require three booster vaccinations one at 6-8weeks old, one at 12weeks and one at 16weeks of age, then yearly boosters for life.

(Alongside our core vaccination are non-core vaccinations which we only recommend for at risk animals.

The most common one is Feline Immunodeficiency Virus also known as FIV or Feline AIDS virus. This virus suppresses the immune system making infected cats unable to cope with common normally mild diseases and greatly shortens their lifespan. The virus is transmitted via bites and once infected there is no cure, so all outdoor cats are considered at risk and should be vaccinated.

If you want to vaccinate your kitten against FIV discuss it with your vet at their kitten vaccinations.)

## 2. Protect Your Kitten against Parasites!



we  
recommend  
you  
routinely  
protect your  
kitten

These are the parasites that we recommend you routinely protect your kitten against:

**Intestinal worms:** Common worms include roundworm, whipworm, hookworm and tapeworms. Because worms can have a greater health impact on young animals we recommend you worm your kitten more frequently than adult animals.

We recommend kittens are wormed every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then every month until 6 months old then every 3 months from 6 months onwards.

**Fleas:** are parasites that are commonly found moving around on the skin of cats and dogs. They most commonly cause itching but can also trigger Flea allergy dermatitis and can transmit tapeworms

Female fleas can lay up to 50 eggs in the environment (bedding, carpet, soil) and so are difficult to get rid of once you have them!

There is a wide variety of flea preventatives, some given monthly, some given up to three monthly, if you require advice on which product is best for your kitten chat to any of the staff at Devoted Vets!

Some flea preventatives will also cover against ticks, including the paralysis tick, while we don't tend to have paralysis ticks in the area, if you plan to travel make sure you discuss if tick prevention will be necessary in that area.

**Heartworm:** a worm that lives in the blood vessels and heart, it is transmitted via mosquitoes so even inside cats have the potential to be exposed. While it is not a common parasite it can cause sudden death so it is important to protect against. The most common preventative treatment is a monthly tablet or spot-on.

# 3. Get Your Kitten Desexed



**get your  
kitten  
desexed at  
3-5months  
of age**

We strongly recommend that you get your kitten desexed at 3-5months of age if you have no intention of breeding them.

This is particularly important in female kittens as we want to desex them before they come on heat for the first time which can be as early as 6months old!

Desexing your pet prevents unwanted kittens and in males helps to prevent wandering, spraying and cat fights.



## 4. Feed Your Kitten a Premium Diet



**quality diet  
is essential  
for your  
kitten**

A good quality diet is essential for your kitten to grow up happy and healthy!

For the first 12 months of their life it is important for them to have a good quality kitten food, there are many great cat food brands, generally the “premium” brands will be of the highest quality with the highest digestibility giving your kitten the best balance of nutrients that they need!

You can buy kitten/cat milk from the supermarket to add in when they are young but while it might be tasty they do not need it once they are eating solid food. Equally wet food is not a necessity. It can be a tasty treat but crunchy dry food works best to keep their teeth clean throughout their lives.

# 5. Make Sure Your Kitten is Microchipped and Registered



**It is legally required that your kitten is registered**

A microchip is a method of identification of your animal even if not wearing a collar. It involves placing a small rice grain sized computer chip under the skin between the shoulder blades. Each chip has an individual number and can be registered with your contact details with the registration authority.

If your pet gets lost it can be scanned and your details found so you can be contacted and your pet returned safely.

It is legally required that your kitten is registered with the council by three months of age, the council requires all cats and dogs to be microchipped prior to registration. It is also legally required that all cats and dogs being sold or given away are microchipped so most kittens when adopted or bought will already have a microchip, we can scan your kitten if you are unsure.

Microchipping is a quick and simple procedure to microchip your kitten if they do not already have one, chat to your vet about microchipping at your first kitten vaccination.

## **24 Hour Cat Curfew**

Baw Baw Shire Council has an order imposed under the Community Local Law 2016, stating that all owners of cats are required to keep their cat securely confined to the property and not allow that cat to wander outside the owner's premises.

Cats can live a happy and healthier life when not allowed to roam. Restricting your cat to your home and yard protects them from harm from vehicles, other cats and dogs, and disease. It also protects our native wildlife.

## 6. Keep Your Kitten Entertained!



**providing  
them with  
enrichment  
will keep  
them happy**

If your cat lives fully indoors, providing them with enrichment will keep them happy and stimulated.

This can include: scratching posts, toys, high areas to climb and puzzle feeders.

If your cat is also an outdoor cat, they can be contained to your property with cat proof fencing, that prevents them from jumping fences, or an outdoor cat run/enclosure.

For lots of tips and tricks to keep your cat safe and happy at home, visit [safecat.org.au](http://safecat.org.au)

Sourced from:  
<http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Resident-Information/Animals/Cats-Registration-and-Responsibilities#section-4>



# 7. Any Problems With Your New Kitten?



don't  
hesitate to  
phone  
Devoted  
Vets on  
5623 2525.

## JUST PHONE DEVOTED VETS ON 5623 2525

Your kitten should always be happy and healthy!

If you notice any sign of ill-health don't hesitate to phone Devoted Vets on **5623 2525**.

Gentle, Caring Vets and Nurses for the Animals You Love  
And Friendly 5 Star Service for You Guaranteed!

We offer a 24/7 emergency service for 365 days of the year!

For routine appointments you now have the convenience of booking on-line.  
Visit us at [www.devotedvets.com.au](http://www.devotedvets.com.au)

And keep up to date with our news on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/devotedvets/>



The first few days in your home are very important for your new kitten and for you. Are your kitten's health, worming, diet, behaviour, and next vaccination all critically important? You bet!

That's why Devoted Vets is giving you this FANTASTIC FREE package for you and your kitten:

- FREE health check by one of our Devoted Vets or Devoted Nurses. We carefully check the kitten's eyes, colour, ears, heart, lungs, tummy, skin and temperature. We ask important questions about your kitten's appetite, thirst and attitude!
- FREE dental check by one of our Devoted Vets or Devoted Vet Nurses. It's vital to get dental health right from the start. We will check the milk teeth, and how they fit together in your kitten's mouth. We advise you on diets to keep your kitten's teeth healthy, and its mouth free of gum disease.
- A FREE kitten wormer!
- RESERVE your next appointment at Devoted Vets for your kitten's next vaccination. Learn what we check and discuss at this critical stage.
- And of course, lots of FREE cuddles for your kitten, and 5 Star Service for you.

This Gift Certificate must be redeemed within three days of purchase of your kitten and does not include your kitten's second vaccination if your kitten is old enough to receive it.

So phone **Devoted Vets on 5623 2525** immediately to book your free New Kitten Check, or call into **Devoted Vets at 12 Normanby St, Warragul, 3820** to book an appointment NOW.