

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW KITTEN

ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER OF CHICAGO, P.C.

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773-525-3353 Telephone
773-525-3280 Fax

Business Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 7:30am to 8:00pm

Friday: 7:30am to 5:00pm

Saturday: 7:30am to 2:00 pm

Closed Sunday



Welcome to Animal Medical Center of Chicago. You've made the first of many important decisions in your kitten's life simply by deciding to bring them in for their first visit. Our staff is dedicated to providing you with wellness care for every stage of your pets life. From the moment you walk into our clinic, you'll instantly recognize that we are devoted to your pet's well-being and happiness. We treat your pet as a member of our own family—with love and kindness. You'll often see a pet in a staff member's arms or eagerly awaiting a tasty treat.

We are more than just a pet hospital, and our philosophy is simple,

Excellence

Every Time

Every Patient

We are so thrilled you've decided to come and see the AMC difference, and we look forward to being a part of your pets lifelong care.

We are excited to announce that the American Association of Feline Practitioners recently recognized Animal Medical Center of Chicago as a **Gold Level Cat Friendly Practice**.

As a **Cat Friendly Practice** in Chicago, we acknowledge that cats present unique challenges before, during and after a veterinary visit. Many cats have an aversion to their carrier, and may be sensitive to new sights, smells, and settings. At AMCOC, we understand these challenges and shaped our **Cat Friendly Practice** to help ease our patients' stress. From the perspective of the cat and its owner, we have evaluated every aspect of our practice and made the following changes:

1. **Feline Sensitive Waiting Room** - We now have a "Cats Only" waiting room on the second floor of our hospital. In this private waiting area, your cat will not be exposed to dogs. Alternatively, if you prefer to wait in your car until your appointment, please call the hospital upon your arrival. We will call you when the doctor is ready for you to come inside.
2. **Feline Only Examination Room** - On our second floor, we now have an examination room designated for "Cats Only." On your arrival to AMCOC, an elevator will transport you both to this room to minimize your pet's stress and give them time to acclimate to their new surroundings before meeting the veterinarian.
3. **Staff Well Versed in Cat Friendly Handling Techniques** - Our doctors and staff have received additional training in the distinct needs of cats and are trained in low-stress handling techniques.
4. **Feliway Pheromone** - All cats will be greeted with a soothing pheromone treated towel and a room diffuser to comfort and calm them.
5. **Rewards** - Throughout your cat's visit, we will provide palatable treats to try to make the veterinary visit more pleasant.
6. **Feline Sensitive Staff** - Our entire staff is aware that cats are NOT small dogs. We know how to interpret your cat's subtle facial expressions and body language to help detect illness or pain. We can use this information to create a diagnostic and treatment plan to keep your cat happy and healthy.
7. **Encouraging Pre-Veterinary Pharmaceutical Options** - We know that clients often avoid bringing their cats to the veterinary clinic for wellness examinations due to anxiety and stress. Skipping wellness visits can allow subtle illnesses, like arthritis, dental or kidney disease, to be missed. We recognize that some cats may need pharmaceuticals or nutraceuticals to help reduce the stress associated with travel and hospital visits. If you anticipate a stressful visit to our hospital, please call one of our cat advocates to discuss anti-anxiety medication prior to your appointment.

We are committed to providing quality care to our feline patients and always strive to exceed your expectations!

Fear Free



Animal Medical Center of Chicago is a Fear Free practice. We approach every pet with the goal to minimize its fear, anxiety, and stress. We want your pet to enjoy coming to our practice. Starting at your pet's first visit to AMCO, we'll ask you a few questions to get to know your pet's personality a little better. Be sure to mention any behavior concerns you have whether at home, around others, or at our practice. In addition to your pet's medical record, we'll also start an emotional record to chart your pet's preferences while at the vet. You might see us use treats, gentle touch, or slow movements to make your pet feel at ease while at the vet. In some cases we might even suggest a supplement or anti-anxiety medication to make your pet feel more at ease. All members of our staff are Fear Free certified and trained to answer your questions regarding your pet's well-being. Our goal is to make sure your pet always has a happy visit to AMC. For more information on Fear Free visit fearfreepets.com and fearfreehappyhomes.com.

FEAR FREE
HAPPY
HOMES



VACCINATIONS AND VISITS

Vaccines are necessary to protect your cat against contagious and sometimes life-threatening diseases. Typically the vaccine schedule begins with your first visit. For optimum health we recommend adult cats have a yearly exam, fecal test and vaccines. As a reminder the rabies vaccine is required by law even if your cat remains indoors at all times.

Visit #1: 8 weeks old

- A complete physical examination
- #1 Fecal test (parasite test)
- #1 FVRCP vaccine (protects against Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis , Calicivirus and Panleukopenia)
- Deworming (as needed)

Visit #2: 12 weeks old

- A complete physical examination
- #2 Fecal test
- #2 FVRCP vaccine
- #1 Feline Leukemia (an optional vaccine given if your cat is at risk)
- Deworming if indicated

Visit #3: 16 weeks old

- A complete physical examination
- #3 FVRCP vaccine
- #2 Feline Leukemia vaccine (if previously indicated for your cat)
- 1 One Year Rabies vaccine
- Heartworm and flea prevention

During the kitten booster series, we recommend testing your kitten for Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), two infectious and potentially fatal viral diseases in cats. Ideally, we would like to know your pet's FeLV and FIV status prior to introducing the kitten or cat to your household. Both of these diseases can be transferred to cats through saliva and blood.

Testing for these diseases requires a small blood sample to be taken. The test is most accurate three to four months after adoption, so we may recommend repeating this test in the near future. Ideally, this can be done at the time of spay or neuter surgery to confirm your pet's results.

PARASITES AND PREVENTION

Fecal

A fecal test detects intestinal parasite (worm) eggs in the stool. Many parasites are zoonotic, meaning that they can be transmitted to people, particularly children and those with compromised immune systems. We assume all kittens have parasites. They can be infected prior to birth via the mother's placenta or shortly after birth when ingesting their mother's milk. It is imperative to check your kitten's fecal sample for parasites twice over the course of one to two months—even if the first sample is negative. Adult worms shed their eggs intermittently in the feces which can result in a false negative result. We automatically deworm kittens at least twice after weaning due to high incidence of intestinal parasites.

Fleas

Fleas are wingless, jumping insects that bite your cat for a blood meal. A single pair of breeding fleas may produce 20,000 fleas in 3 months. Fleas are commonly found around the base of the tail and abdomen, but can be found anywhere on the body. Flea feces is easier to find than the fast moving insects themselves. Look for small black granules at the base of the fur and place the material on a wet paper towel. This is either dirt or flea feces which consists of digested blood. If you smudge the debris on a wet paper towel and see a streak of reddish/brown color, your cat has fleas! A flea ingested by a grooming cat can cause tapeworms.



Flea Prevention

We recommend using *Revolution* for flea, ear mite, heartworm, and intestinal parasite protection. It is a tube of liquid that is applied to the skin at the back of your cat's head near the base of the skull monthly. The pet's collar should be removed before application until the area is dry. This is especially important if your cat goes outside so fleas are not brought into your house. Any dogs in the household should be treated with either Nexgard, Simparica Trio or Bravecto year round to avoid bringing live fleas indoors. *Bravecto is also available for cats.*

Castration (Neuter)

Male kittens should be neutered at about six months of age. By castrating your cat while young, you can minimize some male behaviors like urine marking, roaming, and fighting.

Ovariohysterectomy (Spay)

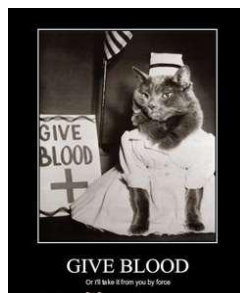
We recommend spaying female cats at 6 months of age. In addition to eliminating the chance of unwanted kittens, spaying at this young age dramatically reduces the incidence of mammary tumors and completely eliminates the possibility of developing ovarian and uterine cancer.

Microchip

A small microchip can be implanted between your cat's shoulder blades and serves as permanent identification. If your lost pet is brought to a shelter, humane society, veterinary clinic, or animal control agency, your pet can be returned to you. These places all have scanners to look for microchips when a stray pet is found. A convenient time to microchip your cat is at the time of spaying or neutering. However, the procedure can be done at any time since anesthesia is not required. If you move to a new residence after the initial registration you will need to update your contact information. Great news- our new microchips now have temperature sensors in them. The next time your kitten needs its temperature taken, it's simply performed by placing a scanning device over the site where the microchip was placed and it's read in seconds. Stress free and accurate!

Blood work

We will perform pre-anesthetic blood work prior to any procedure requiring general anesthesia. This screening allows us to assess your pet's health, including liver and kidney function, and a complete blood count, before giving any anesthetic drugs. Blood work is also recommended on an annual basis for cats over 7 years of age.



PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES

Medical care for your cat can be expensive, especially if your cat is seriously ill or injured. It is wise to plan ahead. There are several companies that offer insurance for your pet. We recommend researching some of them to choose a plan best suited for your pet. In addition to insurance, many owners start a pet emergency fund or set aside a credit card to use for pet expenses when they get their puppy. Insurance, emergency funds and/or a special credit card can help to ease the stress of emergency pet care. Preparing for emergencies may be the difference between life and death for your beloved pet. Many cats are attracted to eating plastic, strings and other materials that can be harmful if swallowed. If your pet accidentally ingests poisonous or non-digestible material please call us immediately.

List of Emergency Service Locations

If your pet is sick, injured or has accidentally ingested poisonous material or medication, call us at 773-525-3353. If we are closed, please call an emergency clinic in your area. These numbers are provided on our after hours answering machine. A current list is provided below.

Premier Veterinary Group

3927 W. Belmont Ave. Chicago, IL 60618

Phone 773.516.5800

Open 24 Hours

Veterinary Emergency Group

755 W North Ave, Chicago IL 60610

Phone 312.757.5444

Open 24 Hours

MedVet

3305 N California Ave, Chicago IL 60618

Phone 773.281.7110

Open 24 Hours

ANIMAL POISON CONTROL

Human medication, herbal supplements, and multivitamins can be toxic to pets. Certain plants, such as lilies, can also be toxic to cats. Some may cause only contact irritation (skin irritation or drooling), but a few may cause more serious complications such as kidney failure. If your pet accidentally ingests poisonous material or medication please call us immediately at 773.525.3353. Animal Poison Control is available 24 hours a day for a \$60.00 consultation fee at 1.888.426.4435. If possible, have ready the package or name of the material ingested, the amount your pet ate, how long ago it happened, your pet's weight, and a credit card.

10 CAT HOUSEHOLD POISONS

These can make your cat
very ill, many are toxic.



RAT POISON



LILIES



ASPIRIN



ENGLISH IVY



MARIJUANA



CHOCOLATE



IBUPROFEN
(i.e. Advil)



ACETAMINOPHEN
(i.e. Tylenol)



SAGO PALM



AMARYLLIS

Introducing your new pet to the household

Before you bring your new cat home, have a litter box, food, and water bowls set up in a “safe” room. This room will serve as a home base for the cat as he becomes accustomed to the new surroundings. Keep the newcomer in this room and allow him to greet current pets under the door. If all pets are calm and relaxed, you can allow them to interact in a supervised manner (ie: dogs on lead, cats on harness, etc.). This is important so you can break up any disagreements and avoid injuries. Pay attention to their body language. Gradually increase their time together until you are confident that no one will get hurt. Always make sure that all pets have an escape route/safe place to go to if there is a disagreement. Keep in mind that your new cat, or your current pets, may not be ready for an introduction for several days.

Introducing a new pet into the household can be very stressful. To decrease your cat's stress and anxiety, we recommend purchasing Feliway, which is available online or at local pet stores. This is a feline pheromone that has a calming effect on your cat. It is available in a spray container or as a plug in device. If your pet's stress is significant, please call us to discuss pharmaceutical and behavioral management techniques to reduce it.

Finally, don't forget to lavish your current pet with extra love during this transition period.

Litter Box Tips



- Provide one more box than the number of cats in your house.
- Place litter boxes in different areas of the house.
- Scoop daily.
- If you use a box liner, change and clean the box every 1- 2 weeks.
- Empty box completely and clean with hot water and Dawn dish soap every 1-2 weeks.
- Cats prefer unscented and low dust litters. We recommend Dr. Elsey's or World's Best Cat Litter.
- Make sure your cat has room to move around inside the box. Ideally, the box should be one and a half times the length of your cat.
- Try covered and uncovered boxes. Most cats prefer uncovered boxes.
- A cat's sense of smell is 15 times more sensitive than a human's so keep the box clean.

No matter how well you maintain your cat's litter box, it's bound to get worn down from daily use. Your cat's nails and the scooper can scrape the plastic, creating tiny grooves that are a breeding ground for bacteria. You should buy a new litter box every year, but try to get one that is similar in size and appearance to what your cat is accustomed to using.

Nutrition:

We recommend kitten food for most cats up to one year of age. Choose a premium diet that is nutritionally complete and balanced, and has the AAFCO seal of approval. Please note that we do not recommend feeding a raw diet. Making a home-made diet can be very challenging for pet parents and if you do choose to make one, we recommend that you contact the board certified veterinary nutritionists at BalanceIt.com for recipes and vitamin supplements.

A great website to check out when choosing your cat's diet is catinfo.org. It lists the protein, fat and carbohydrate content of many commonly fed cat foods. We recommend feeding kittens a diet with greater than 45% protein, greater than 30% fat, and less than 10% carbohydrates on a dry matter basis for optimal growth and weight gain.

Cats are desert animals and do not naturally drink a lot of water. To minimize urinary tract issues, especially in male cats, we encourage feeding canned cat food to your cats. Canned cat food has a similar water content to what cats would naturally eat in the wild. Frequently, we recommend feeding canned food twice daily and leaving a small amount of dry food out for your cat to graze on during the day.

Obesity is a common problem in indoor cats and can be controlled by monitoring your pet's food intake and exercise. Overweight cats are prone to diabetes, heart disease, digestive problems, and orthopedic problems. At each veterinary visit, we will assess your pet's weight, body condition, and make appropriate dietary recommendations.

Please clean your cat's food and water bowls daily with hot water and mild dish soap. We do not recommend using plastic bowls because they can retain the odor and oils of the food.

Toys:

Use toys that your cat cannot tear apart and ingest. Also avoid toys with strings, they may be swallowed and cause an intestinal blockage. Hang toys from chairs and door handles, and scatter catnip toys throughout the house. Most cats love the interactive laser light toy, which allows them to stalk and chase. Rotate toys on a regular basis to alleviate boredom. Try to observe how catnip affects your feline friend. Some cats become over stimulated or aggressive from contact with this herb.

Scratching:

Scratching is a normal feline behavior. Provide acceptable surfaces like scratching posts or cardboard scratchers. Some cats prefer to scratch vertically and some prefer a horizontal surface. Train your cat to use a scratching post by placing treats and catnip on it. Place it in an area that your cat likes to frequent. Try attaching bubble wrap or aluminum foil on areas you want to deter your cat from

scratching or jumping on. To encourage scratching on approved sites, we recommend using Feliway Scratch - which is available online or at some pet stores.

Happy Kitty Hints

- Provide them with places to climb like a kitty condo. Cats need vertical space!
- Place an end table or stool next to a window so they can look out. Place a bird feeder within view for kitty to enjoy.
- Set aside time each day to pet, groom, and play with your cat.
- Take your cat or kitten on short car rides around the block to get them used to car rides. Try making this a positive experience.
- Keep the cat carrier out at all times and place treats inside so kitty does not associate the carrier with bad vet visits and travel.
- **www.indoorcatinitiative.com** is a great resource for ideas on providing a fun, interactive, and stress-free environment for your feline friend.

Dental Health

One of the most important things you can do for your pets is preventative dental care. Brush those teeth daily!

More than 85% of cats over 4 years of age have periodontal disease.

The bacteria associated with dental disease can travel in the bloodstream to infect the heart, kidneys and liver.

Regular at home dental care, along with periodic veterinary dental cleanings, is the best way to prevent the disease and keep your cat's mouth healthy.

There are also water additive and enzymatic dental chews for tartar prevention.



Brushing

in 4 easy steps

Step 1: Get comfortable.

- Set expectations that getting used to brushing might take several sessions, so reward your pet through the training process and remember to keep it positive and be patient.
- Practice lifting their lip to see their teeth and reward with praise.



Step 2: Try toothpaste.

- You can wrap your index finger in gauze or use a finger toothbrush.
- After your cat is comfortable, lift her lip and gently rub the pet toothpaste over her teeth and gums.



Step 3: Toothbrush time.

- Introduce the toothbrush provided by your veterinarian.
- If desired, place a small amount of pet toothpaste on the brush and gently start brushing. *Hint: Pet toothpaste, chicken broth and tuna juice can make it more acceptable for your cat.*



Step 4: Brushing success.

- Brush teeth and gums gently and finish with the bottom front teeth.
- Focus on the outside of the teeth — the surface facing the cheek is most prone to plaque and tartar buildup.
- When finished, offer her praise and plenty of love. Let your cat know what a great pet she is and make brushing a positive experience.

