CAT GUIDE

By sharing life and love with you, your cat is giving you a precious gift. In return, you can give your cat the care he/she needs to be happy and healthy.

This guide includes valuable educational information and our recommendations for caring for your cat.
Kitten Checklist

AGE

2 months
- Physical Examination
- Leukemia/FIV Test *(in-house blood test)*
- 1st FVRCP-C Vaccination *(Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia, Chlamydia)*
- 1st Leukemia Vaccination *(if cat goes outdoors or other cats in household do)*
- Fecal Examination *(intestinal parasite exam; please bring a fresh stool sample)*
- Food: Science Diet Kitten – begin feeding Science Diet Adult at 1 year of age
- Begin monthly Heartworm & Flea/Tick Prevention – give preventative year-round

3 months
- Booster Examination
- 2nd FVRCP Vaccination
- 2nd Leukemia vaccination *(if cat goes outdoors or other cats in household do)*
- 2nd Fecal Examination *(intestinal parasite exam; please bring a fresh stool sample)*

4 months
- Booster Examination
- 3rd FVRCP Vaccination
- 1 year Rabies Vaccination – 2 choices: Purevax or Imrav – see Rabies sheet in guide

6 months
- Spay or Neuter
- Microchip

Adult Checklist

ANNUALLY

- Physical Examination
- FVRCP Vaccination
- Leukemia Vaccination *(if cat goes outdoors or other cats in household do)*
- Rabies Vaccination – 2 choices: Purevax or Imrav – see Rabies sheet in guide
- Fecal Examination *(intestinal parasite exam; please bring a fresh stool sample)*
- Monthly Heartworm & Flea/Tick Prevention – give preventative year-round
What is your cat’s TRUE age?

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- **adult**
- **senior**
- **geriatric**
WHAT SHAPE IS YOUR CAT?

A little extra weight can be a big problem. Whether it's once a week or once a month, check your cat's body score regularly to make sure she's staying happy and healthy.
Caring for your Cat or Kitten

Taking care of a cat or kitten is a big job! Find out what supplies you will need and what responsibilities you will have to take care of your new best friend.

Supplies Needed

- Balanced, brand name food. Not generic! Make sure it’s for the right age. Dry food is better for your pet’s teeth. Canned food is more similar to a natural diet for cats, so some of both is probably best.
- Food and water bowls. Ceramic and metal are best. Some pets are sensitive to plastic.
- Cat toys – make sure there aren’t any small parts or string that can fall off and be swallowed
- A cat brush
- Cat toothpaste and toothbrush
- “Breakaway” collar and ID tag
- Microchip both indoor and outdoor cats
- Scratching post or scratching pad
- Litter box – one per cat, plus one extra
- Litter – scoopable litter is best. Don’t use dusty or perfumed litter.
- Cat carrier
- Cat nail clippers
- Optional: Cat condo, cat leash and harness, cat bed, cat “plants”

Dangers! Never Feed Your Cat/Kitten:

- Alcoholic drinks
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Grapes and raisins
- Moldy or spoiled food
- Onions, garlic and chives
- Bones
- Tomato plants
- Unripe fruit
- Yeast dough
- Any houseplants – some are poisonous

Feeding Your Cat/Kitten

- Kittens (under 6 months): 3-4 times a day
- Over 6 months: Feed twice a day (amount depends on food type and how active your cat is)
- Training your cat to eat twice a day: When your kitten turns 6 months old, offer food to him/her twice a day only. Leave the food out for ½ hour only. Your cat will quickly learn to eat all of his/her food during the half hour.
- Avoid giving your pet too many treats since cats can become overweight as they age
Chores
Daily
- Clean litter box, feed (see above)
- Clean water/food bowls
- Change water
- Play with your cat
- Walk (optional)
Weekly
- Thoroughly clean the litter box using a mild soap and replace litter
- Brush teeth once
Two Times a Week
- Brush hair (gently)
Monthly
- Check to see if nails need to be trimmed
Yearly
- Have your parent or guardian take your cat to veterinarian for a check-up

Training
You can train your cat to walk on leash by using a leash or harness made for cats, by starting in a fenced-in yard and rewarding them for good behavior with treats. You can also train your cat to use a scratching post by placing catnip around the base of the post and rewarding your pet when he/she uses the scratching post. Cats love to scratch!

Brushing Your Cat's Teeth
It is not easy, but cats are healthier if you brush their teeth. Use cat toothpaste and brush. Start when they are kittens, so they get used to it.

Spaying and Neutering
- Female cats should be spayed and male cats neutered by six months old. This reduces bad behavior and some diseases later in life.

Finding the Right Veterinarian
- When you get your pet, have your parent or guardian take it to a veterinarian for a check-up
- Your pet should see a veterinarian at least once a year and when you think it might be sick

Information on taking care of your cat or kitten provided by Link Welborn, DVM DABVP, of Temple Terrace Animal & Bird Hospital in Tampa, Florida.
A kitten's life is all about play, and play is all about prey. Soon after they open their eyes and hoist themselves up on their teeny paws, kittens start to play. But if you look closely, you'll notice that you have an itty-bitty hunter in your house.

Every race down the hallway, every pounce from behind a door, every swat and nip is a display of a kitten's hunting skills, instincts that are just as strong in today's housecat as they were in her ancestors thousands of years ago. To a kitten, everything, and we mean everything, in the house is potential prey, including you.

**Learning to play nice**

A kitten's first playmates are his mother and littermates, and from them he learns how to inhibit his bite. A kitten who is separated from his family too early may not have learned that lesson well enough and doesn't know when to stop. Acceptable behavior can quickly escalate.

In addition, if people use their hands and/or feet instead of toys to play with a young kitten, the kitten may learn that rough play is okay. In most cases, it's not too difficult to teach your kitten or young adult cat that rough play isn't acceptable.

If playing with your kitten evolves from peek-a-boo to professional wrestling in a matter of seconds, follow these tips to keep playtime interesting and reduce the number of trips to the first-aid kit.

- Don't let your kitten play with your hands or feet (or any other body part). This sends the wrong message.
- Use a toy when playing with her. Drag a toy, preferably a fishing pole-type toy that keeps your hands from from kitty's mouth and claws, along the floor to encourage your kitten to pounce on it, or throw a toy for her to chase. Some kittens will even bring the toy back to be thrown again.
- Give your kitten something to wrestle with, like a soft stuffed animal that's about her size, so she can grab it with both front feet, bite it, and kick it with her back feet. This is one of the ways kittens play with each other, especially when they're young. It's also one of the ways they try to play with human feet and hands, so it's important to provide this type of alternative play target.
- Encourage play with a "wrestling toy" by rubbing it against your kitten's belly when she wants to play roughly—and be sure to get your hand out of the way as soon as she accepts the toy.
- Don't hit or yell at your kitten when she nips or pounces. This will only make her fearful of you and she may start to avoid you. The idea is to train her, not punish her.
Discouraging "bad" behavior

Playing is not bad behavior, but you do have to set the rules for your kitten: no biting. Everyone in the household has to be on the same page, too; your kitten can't be expected to learn that it's okay to play rough with dad but not with the baby.

Equip yourself with the right training tools: toys, toys, toys, and a water pistol.

A gnawing problem

As we said, you shouldn't let your kitten play with your body parts. But if you're petting her and she starts gnawing on you, immediately say "uh-uh" and carefully take your hands away. Give her a toy to play with instead, but be sure she's not gnawing on you when you give her a toy or she'll think she's being rewarded for gnawing. Don't try to pet her again until she's tuckered out and no longer tempted to "kill" your hand.

You can also make your hands unattractive to your kitten by putting a bad-tasting, but harmless, substance on them, like Bitter Apple™or Tabasco sauce. Kittens will catch on quickly, but be sure she's not scratching or biting your hands when you give her a toy or she'll think she's being rewarded for scratching and biting.

Gimmie that!

Kittens always seem to want to play with whatever you're using—knitting needles, pencil, telephone antenna. If yours starts "attacking" your utensils, sharply say "uh-uh" to disrupt her behavior. Then give her one of her own toys. Be sure she's not attacking when you give her a toy or she'll think she's being rewarded for biting.

On the hunt

Kittens also like to "hunt" you while you're walking around. They'll jump out from behind a door or under a chair and pounce on your ankles. If she doesn't pounce, praise her with "Good kitty." If she does pounce, use your sharp "uh-uh" to distract her and interrupt her behavior And offer her an acceptable toy. Be sure she's not pouncing on you when you provide the toy or she'll think she's being rewarded for pouncing.

Pay no attention

Withdraw attention when your kitten doesn't get the message. If the distraction and redirection techniques don't work, the most drastic thing you can do to discourage your cat from rough play is to withdraw all attention.

The best way to withdraw your attention is to walk to another room and close the door long enough for her to calm down. If you pick her up to put her in another room, then you're rewarding her by touching her, so you should always be the one to leave the room.

Remember, your kitten wants to play with you, not just toys, so be sure to set aside time for regular, serious, and safe play sessions.
IMPORTANT REASONS TO SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET

Spaying your female pet (ovariohysterectomy):

• This is the removal of the ovaries and uterus.
• The ideal age to spay your pet is 4 to 6 months of age.
• If spayed before the first heat cycle, your pet has a less than 1% chance of developing mammary (breast) cancer.
• If spayed after one heat cycle, your pet has an 8% chance of developing mammary cancer.
• If spayed after two heat cycles, the risk increased to 26%.
• After two years, no protective benefit exists for mammary cancer.
• Pets with diabetes or epilepsy should be spayed to prevent hormonal changes that may interfere with medication.
• Spaying eliminates the risk of unwanted pregnancies and ovarian and uterine cancer.
• Spaying also prevents your pet from getting a pyometra (a severe uterine infection). A pyometra is a serious, life-threatening situation, not to mention a costly procedure to remove the infected uterus and save your pet’s life.

Neutering your male pet (castration):

• This is the removal of the testicles and spermatic cord.
• The ideal age to neuter your pet is 4 to 6 months of age.
• Neutering eliminates the risk of testicular cancer which is the second most common tumor in male dogs.
• Neutering greatly reduces the risk of prostate cancer, prostatitis (an infected prostate), and perianal tumors.
• Neutering your pet reduces roaming, fighting and eliminates or reduces spraying or marking in males neutered before 6 months of age or before the onset of these behaviors.
• Neutering also reduces the risk of spreading sexually transmitted diseases and eliminates unwanted litters.
Dental Care

General Information

Dental calculus (tartar) is composed of various mineral salts, organic material and food particles. In the early stages of accumulation, the material is soft (plaque), but it later hardens and adheres to the teeth. The breath becomes very odorous and the mouth becomes a dangerous source of infection.

Untreated tooth and gum disease may allow bacteria to enter the bloodstream and cause damage to the liver, kidneys and heart valves.

Prevention

- Feed hard or coarse foods in addition to wet food. There are even prescription dental diets available.
- Provide dental treats. *Remember that the treat foods are a source of calories and may lead to obesity if too many are given.
- Brush your cat's teeth regularly or at least periodically. We can provide different toothbrush options and special enzymatic toothpaste developed for pet's teeth.
- Regular professional cleaning by your veterinarian is the most effective way to ensure good dental health for your cat.

Dental Cleaning

Every pet is different as far as how often they need their teeth cleaned. Pets prone to calculus buildup may need professional teeth cleaning by your veterinarian every 6 or 12 months. Other pets may only require it every 3-4 years. The frequency of cleaning depends on genetics, diet and owner prevention.

Since pets have a difficult time sitting still and tolerating the cleaning, they need to be anesthetized for the procedure. This also prevents the pet from feeling the sensation of the ultrasonic removal of plaque and tartar from the teeth and under the gumline.

Sometimes teeth need to be extracted if they are loose, broken, infected, decaying or the roots are exposed. If these teeth are left in the pet's mouth they can cause significant issues such as difficulty eating, discomfort, swelling and infection.

We can provide detailed dental cleaning information and an estimate specific to your pet based on age, weight and severity of dental condition.
FAQ

What is a microchip?
The Avid Microchip is an implantable, integrated transponder about the size of a grain of rice. The microchip is encapsulated in bioglass to prevent tissue irritation and microchip migration. The microchip is not a GPS, does not use batteries and becomes energized by a microchip scanner. The microchip is permanent and will last the life of the pet. Each microchip has a unique identification number encoded into its integrated circuit. When enrolled in a pet recovery service this number links the pet to the owner's contact information.

Why should I microchip my pet?
Each year, 6 to 8 million pets end up in shelters in the United States (Source: HSUS). Typically, these shelters take in hundreds of lost pets each week, experience overcrowding, and have limited resources. Some of these shelters have a no-kill policy while others have to make hard decisions. Thankfully, many shelters scan pets upon intake and before disposition and will try to reunite a microchipped pet with its owner. When a microchip is detected, the shelter will call a pet recovery service to locate the owner and reunite the pet. The system works, each month thousands of lost pets across the U.S. are reunited with their owners.

Does microchipping hurt my pet?
Microchips are typically injected between the shoulder blades with a syringe. The procedure is similar to receiving a vaccination through a needle and most pets don't even react when the microchip is injected. The microchip provides a safe, permanent form of identification. It's like getting a vaccination against being lost!

What happens when my pet is lost?

Read recovery stories at: https://avidid.com/pet-owners/stories
Vaccine Options-Imrab® vs. Purevax

You have two choices when it comes to Rabies vaccinations for your cats. Imrab®, manufactured by Merial, is one of the most common Rabies vaccinations administered to dogs and cats. The first time this vaccine is given it is good for 1 year and then it needs to be boosted every 3 years.

Unfortunately, with the Imrab® vaccine, there has been a high incidence of vaccine-associated sarcomas in cats. (A sarcoma is a malignant tumor of connective or other non-epithelial tissue.) Due to these cases we recommend Merial’s Purevax Rabies Vaccination as a safer option. Unlike Imrab®, which can be given every 3 years, the Purevax Rabies must be given every year.

Price Difference
The Imrab® vaccine costs $19.00 where the Purevax Rabies costs $32.00 but comes with decreased risk.

In conclusion, the Purevax Rabies is safer but more costly and needs to be boosted yearly. While we strongly recommend the Purevax, it is entirely up to you which vaccination you want your cat to receive.
Fleas

General Information
Fleas are small, brown or black, wingless insects with flattened bodies. Several types of fleas infest the coats of animals and some may occasionally feed on people. These blood-sucking insects cause considerable irritation (flea-allergic dermatitis) and distress to pets. Severe infestations may lead to anemia from blood loss. Pets may ingest fleas resulting in intestinal tapeworms. Fleas can carry several viral and bacterial diseases and can cause skin allergies, rashes and sores on both pets and their owners alike. The best place to look for fleas on your pet are the hindquarters, base of the tail, stomach and groin regions. Sometimes no fleas are found but tiny, black granules that resemble pepper may be seen. This material is flea feces and consists of digested blood. To distinguish this material from dirt, you can put it on a white piece of paper or cloth and either smudge it or apply a drop of water to it. If you see a reddish-brown color appear from the smudge or liquid, you can be sure it is flea feces.

Flea Life Cycle
After taking a blood meal, fleas begin laying eggs at the rate of about 60 per day. These eggs fall off of the animal and into your home. After 2-12 days the eggs hatch into larvae that feed in the environment. Larvae molt 2 times within 2-200 days and the older larvae spin a cocoon or pupa in which they remain for 1 week to 1 year. The long period during which the larvae remain in the cocoon or pupa explains why fleas are difficult to eradicate from the environment. A hungry adult flea emerges from the pupa and starts the cycle all over again. If allowed to reproduce, two fleas can quickly become 2000.

Important Facts
- Fleas bite the skin of your pet, resulting in a reaction on the skin which is irritating, similar to when we get a mosquito bite.
- Fleas spend 95% of their time on the animal and their eggs falls off wherever your pet is. This means that if your pet has fleas, your house and yard are also infested with them.
- If one animal in your household has fleas, assume all others are infested also.
- If you can only find a few fleas on your pet, don’t pass it off!

Prevention & Treatment
Flea infestations can be prevented by using once-monthly prevention for all pets in your home. Even if your pet only goes outside to the bathroom and comes right back in, they are at risk for getting fleas and bringing them into your home. There are many product options including topicals, oral pills or oral chews. We can help you find the right product for you and your pet. Keep in mind that if your pet has fleas, you must also treat your home. We recommend washing all bedding in hot water, vacuuming, using a premise spray inside the home and on the lawn. In some cases, a professional exterminator must be used to treat the infestation.
Ticks

General Information
Ticks are skin parasites that feed on the blood of their hosts. Ticks like motion, warm temperatures from body heat, and the carbon dioxide exhaled by mammals, which is why they are attracted to such hosts as dogs, cats, rodents, rabbits, cattle, small mammals, etc. In addition to making the animal uncomfortable, the parasite can transmit diseases and cause tick paralysis, which is why tick control is so important. It only take a few hours for an attached tick to transmit disease, so owners can usually prevent disease transmission to their pets by following a regular schedule to look for and remove ticks. Flea and tick prevention will also reduce the chance of tick-borne diseases.

Tick Life Cycle
Most types of ticks require three hosts during a two-year lifespan. Each tick stage requires a blood meal before it can reach the next stage. Hard ticks have four life stages: egg, larva, nymph, and adult. Larvae and nymphs must feed before they detach and molt. Adult female ticks can engorge, increasing their weight by more than 100 fold. After detaching, an adult female tick can lay approximately 3,000 eggs. During the egg-laying stage, ticks lay eggs in secluded areas with dense vegetation. The eggs hatch within two weeks. Some species of ticks lay 100 eggs at a time, others lay 3,000 to 6,000 per batch. Once the eggs hatch, the ticks are in the larval stage, during which time the larvae move into grass and search for their first blood meal. At this stage, they will attract themselves for several days to their first host, usually a bird or rodent, and then fall onto the ground. The nymph stage begins after the first blood meal is completed. Nymphs remain inactive during winter and start moving again in spring. Nymphs find a host, usually a rodent, pet, or human. Nymphs are generally about the size of a freckle. After this blood meal, ticks fall off the host and move into the adult stage. Throughout the fall, male and female adults find a host, which is again usually a rodent, pet or human. The adult female feeds for 8 to 12 days. The female mates while still attached to her host. Both ticks fall off, and the males die. The female remains inactive through the winter and in the spring lays her eggs in a secluded place. If adults cannot find a host animal in the fall, they can survive in leaf litter until the spring.

Tick-Borne Diseases
Lyme disease is one that most people have heard about, but ehrlichiosis or anaplasmosis are also possibilities; they are rickettsial diseases. Their progression from an acute to a chronic stage can be prevented by early treatment. Babesiosis causes red blood cell destruction and anemia. Rocky Mountain spotted fever is the most prevalent rickettsial disease in humans.

Tick Removal
When removing a live attached tick, don’t dispose of it until you have killed it. Put the tick in alcohol or insecticide to kill it. After you pull a tick off, there will be a local area of inflammation that could look red, crusty, or scabby. The tick’s attachment causes irritation. The site can get infected; if the pet is scratching at it, it is more apt to get infected. A mild antibiotic, such as over-the-counter triple antibiotic ointment can help, but usually is not necessary. The inflammation should go down within a week. If it stays crusty and inflamed longer than a week, it might have become infected and should be checked by a veterinarian.

Prevention
Even if your pet spends little or no time outside, ticks can come still into your home on you or other animals and can enter your home through cracks and windows.

Environmental Control: Treating the yard and outdoor kennel area, if any, is an important tool in the arsenal against ticks. There are products that can be used to spray the outdoor area that are not harmful to the environment. During prime tick months in the summer, spraying may be necessary every 1 to 2 weeks. If ticks are indoors, flea and tick foggers, sprays, or powders can be used. Inside, ticks typically crawl (they don’t jump) up and may be in cracks around windows and doors.

Prevent Ticks from Attaching: There are many preventative product options, including topicals or oral chews. We will help you find which product is right for your pet. Flea/tick prevention should be done once-monthly, even in the colder months.

Watch for Infection and Diseases: If your pet shows any signs of lameness, lethargy, fever or inappetance you should contact your vet right away to have your pet examined. Our standard annual heartworm test, called a 4DX, checks for Heartworm disease as well as the tick-borne diseases: Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasma.
Intestinal Parasites

General Information
Intestinal parasites come from other pets, wild animals and even from the soil. These parasites can cause your pet to become ill. Many of these parasites are zoonotic, meaning they are transmissible to people.

Zoonotic Parasites
*Hookworms and roundworms can be harbored by your cat and transmitted to children who are living in homes with pets. In some cases, these parasites can cause blindness in humans. It is thought that 30% to 50% of dogs and cats carry gastrointestinal (GI) parasites and that 1 to 3 million people in the U.S. have infections from the same parasites carried by pets. Children, the elderly and immune-compromised people are at high risk.
*Cats get infected with hookworms and roundworms by walking places where other animals have defecated. The microscopic roundworm eggs and hookworm larvae end up on your cat’s feet. Your cat then licks his feet and infects him or herself with these GI parasites. Three weeks later, your cat is shedding hookworm eggs and larvae from his GI tract. If your cat licks his/her anus and then licks your child, or if your child pets your cat and eats without washing his or her hands, he or she can become infected with these parasites.
*Cats can get infected with hookworms and tapeworms by hunting prey. Even if your cat lives indoors, the ingestion of one house mouse can expose your cat to GI parasites.
*Tapeworms are contracted by an animal ingesting a flea. Even if your cat is indoors only, they are still at risk for getting fleas and thus tapeworms.

***If you are concerned about yourself or a family member having parasites, please consult your physician.***

To prevent transmission from pets to people you should:
-Keep your cat on monthly heartworm preventative all year. This medication helps to prevent hookworms and roundworms in your cat.
-Scoop the yard where your dog and/or cat defecate at least weekly, ideally daily, as worm eggs and larvae are found in stool and can contaminate the environment.
-Always wash your hands before eating, especially if you have recently handled a pet.
-Avoid open-mouth kisses from your pet as your pet may have ingested or licked infected feces and/or soil.

Prevention
While keeping your pet on once-monthly heartworm prevention can help prevent parasites as it also de-worms your pet for a few of these parasites, it does not de-worm for all of them. That is why we recommend doing a yearly fecal exam to make sure your pet has not picked up any of these parasites. It is always best to bring a sample that is fresh, not one that has been sitting in the yard.

Parasites that can be identified by a fecal exam:
- Whipworms (Trichuris)
- Coccidiosis
- Roundworms (Ascaris, Toxocara)
- Hookworms (Ancylostoma)
- Giardia
- Tapeworms (Taenia)

Treatment
Most commonly, people see small rice-like worms segments or spaghetti-like worms that are round.
If you see worms in your cat’s stool or if your cat vomits up worms, you should contact your veterinarian for treatment. If your cat is found to have an intestinal parasite, a specific medication will be dispensed to eradicate that parasite.
**Feline Heartworm Disease**

**General Information**

Heartworm disease is becoming more common in many parts of the United States. Heartworm is a very serious and life-threatening disease that is transmitted by mosquitoes. It is caused by the Heartworm, Dirofilaria immitis. This parasite lives in the right side of the animal’s heart and the nearby large vessels. The female worm produces large numbers of microscopic, immature heartworms that circulate in the blood. These immature worms (microfilariae) are taken up with the blood by a mosquito feeding on an infected dog. After living in the mosquito for 10-14 days, the microfilariae can then infect another dog that the mosquito feeds on. The feeding mosquito deposits infected microfilariae on the skin of another dog and these enter the body through the mosquito bite wound. The microfilariae eventually travel to the heart where they develop into adult heartworms. The adult heartworms produce new microfilariae within 3 months. It takes at least 190 days from the time the dog is bitten by an infected mosquito until the dog becomes a new source of infected microfilariae. Failure to treat heartworm disease may result in heart failure and/or serious disease of the liver and kidneys. Untreated heartworm disease is usually fatal.

**Preventive Treatment**

We recommend starting your pet on heartworm prevention when your pet is 8 weeks old. There are many product choices for heartworm prevention. We can help you find the best fit for you and your pet.

*We recommend year-round heartworm prevention.* Often, owners stop giving prevention in the colder months. It is a common misconception that your pet cannot contract heartworm disease in fall or winter. You may not see mosquitoes buzzing around in the middle of winter, but the threat of heartworm disease hasn’t disappeared. Heartworm medicine works by killing the parasites that your pet picked up the previous month. If you stop giving it in the fall or early winter, the parasites might remain and cause an infection. In many regions, the weather remains mild and mosquitoes continue to bite and cause heartworm disease. If you live in a cold climate, but travel with your pet to warm places, you may expose your pet to the threat of heartworm infection. Finally, getting the timing of when to stop and start giving heartworm medicine right is much more difficult than staying on a regular monthly schedule. And while prevention is inexpensive, treatment is not. If 2 months of prevention are missed, we recommend retesting for heartworm before beginning prevention again.

**Heartworm Symptoms & Treatment**

Symptoms of heartworm disease can be: chronic coughing, becoming tired easily, exercise unwillingness/intolerance, breathing difficulty and lethargy. Sudden death can occur in some cases of feline heartworm.

Unfortunately, there is no treatment available for cats with heartworm disease so prevention is absolutely critical.
Cats Get Heartworm Tool

Susan Little, DVM, DABVP
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Feline heartworm (HW) was first described in the 1920s; awareness has increased greatly since the introduction of heartworm preventative medication for cats in 1997 and the associated marketing campaigns. Feline HW remains difficult to diagnose, yet a fully preventable disease.

Heartworms (*Dirofilaria immitis*) are small thread-like worms that live in the blood systems and hearts of cats and dogs as well as other species, such as ferrets, wolves, and foxes. The cat is more resistant to heartworm than other animals, but still susceptible. Heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes, and is found in almost all areas where mosquitoes are found. For example, heartworm has been found in all areas of the United States except Alaska, and in warmer areas of Canada.

How Do Cats Get Heartworm?

Cats are infected with HW in the same way as dogs, but far fewer larvae mature to adulthood (average 15 adult worms in dogs and 1-3 in cats in endemic areas). This doesn't mean that cats are less affected by heartworm disease however, since the small body size of the cat can be adversely affected by only one or two worms.

It is difficult to estimate prevalence of feline HW for several reasons – there is no perfect test, infections may go unnoticed, and some cats die acutely without a diagnosis. The best available data suggest that feline HW is present at about 5% - 15% of the canine rate in endemic areas. Certainly wherever canine heartworm is found, feline heartworm is present as well.

Some species of mosquitoes will feed on both cats and dogs. Mosquitoes become infected when they bite a dog with immature worms called microfilaria. When the infected mosquito then bites a cat, the microfilaria enter through the bite and develop in tissues under the skin. The immature worms go through several developmental stages, and find their way to a blood vessel. Via the blood vessels, they are carried to the arteries in the lungs, where they cause an intense inflammatory reaction. Many immature worms die at this point, causing even more inflammation.

Worms that survive to adulthood primarily live in the pulmonary artery, although sometimes they may be found in the right side of the heart. It takes about 8 months to produce adult worms from the time the mosquito bites and infects the cat. Adult female worms are about 21 cm in length, and adult males are about 12 cm in length. If both male and female worms are present, they produce live young – microfilaria – that live in the animal's bloodstream, waiting for a mosquito to come along and take a blood meal. Cats rarely produce microfilaria, partly because they harbor few adult worms and partly because their immune system inhibits the development of microfilaria. Therefore, cats rarely transmit HW to other species via mosquitoes.

What Problems Are Caused by Heartworm in Cats?
Many cats will have no clinical signs of HW disease and they will spontaneously eliminate the infection without incident. Other cats may have clinical signs associated with infection at two possible time points:

1) Upon arrival of immature worms in the pulmonary arteries in the 3- to 6-month post-infection period. The high mortality of immature worms stimulates a severe inflammatory response in the lungs and the associated arteries. Lung lesions may be long-lasting. The clinical response in the cat is termed heartworm-associated respiratory disease (HARD) because respiratory signs predominate (difficulty breathing, rapid breathing, and cough). The clinical signs may be transient or intermittent. Clinical signs subside as the worms mature. Many cats with HARD are misdiagnosed as having asthma or bronchitis.

2) Upon death of adult worms, with release of toxins leading to inflammation and clot formation. Clinical signs include rapid onset of respiratory difficulties or sudden death (occurs in 10% or more of HW-infected cats). Even the death of 1 adult worm can be lethal by causing circulatory collapse and respiratory failure. Adult worms are able to suppress the cat's inflammatory response and so actually cause few problems until they die in 1 to 2 years.

Nonspecific clinical signs associated with feline HW include chronic vomiting (present in 25%-33% of cases), lethargy, loss of appetite, and weight loss. Less common signs caused by worm migration to other tissues include fluid in the abdomen or chest, and neurological signs (loss of balance, seizures, collapse, and blindness). Signs of heart disease or heart failure are very uncommon in cats with HW, compared to dogs.

**How is Heartworm Diagnosed in Cats?**

Diagnosis of feline HW may be difficult. Cats rarely have the infective stage of HW (microfilaria) in their bloodstream, unlike dogs, so certain tests such as filtration or IFA testing are not recommended. No single diagnostic test can detect feline HW at all life stages of the worm. The most commonly available tests are antibody tests (that detect antibodies produced by the cat in response to HW) or antigen tests (that detect actual adult worms). Combining antigen and antibody testing achieves more reliable results than either test alone.

A positive HW antibody test means the cat has been exposed to the early stages of HW, but may or may not currently be infected. A negative test does not rule out HW infection. The different tests available also vary widely in sensitivity, as each brand may detect a different stage of larval development.

HW antigen testing detects proteins associated with the reproductive tract in mature female worms, so that a positive test confirms the presence of at least one adult female HW. A negative antigen test does not rule out infection with adult worms as antigen levels may be below the detection ability of the test. Antigen tests miss the early stages of HW infection and don’t detect the immature worms that cause HARD.

The American Heartworm Society ([www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org)) has produced guidelines for testing cats:

- Healthy cats in HW areas should be screened with both antigen (for adult worms) and antibody (for immature worms) tests
- For cats with clinical signs compatible with HARD, use both an antigen and antibody test, and chest x-rays to assess severity of lung disease
- Testing may be used to monitor the progress of cats previously diagnosed with HW
- Testing cats before administering preventative medication helps increase awareness about local risk potential and will establish a baseline reference in case the cat must be retested
- Cats with positive HW tests may still be given preventive medication to avoid infection with more worms
Certain changes in lung blood vessels may be seen on x-ray in about 50% of HW-infected cats. Other lung changes are very similar to those seen in feline asthma, and may be impossible to tell the two diseases apart using only x-rays. In cats with positive antigen tests, indicating the presence of at least one adult worm, ultrasound may be used to confirm the diagnosis and locate the worm.

How Are HW-Positive Cats Treated?

Heartworm positive cats with no clinical signs of disease, but with changes visible on chest x-rays, should be monitored every 6 to 12 months with repeat antigen and antibody testing, and x-rays. Recovery is indicated by improvement in x-ray signs and conversion of a positive antigen test to negative. It may be prudent to administer prednisone to cats with x-ray signs of disease whether or not they have clinical signs of illness, although this is controversial. Prednisone helps control the intense inflammatory response to HW in the cat’s lungs. Whenever antibody- or antigen-positive cats have clinical signs, prednisone should be administered on a decreasing dose schedule over a period of about one month. The effect of treatment should be assessed by clinical response and x-rays. Cats with recurrent signs can be retreated.

Unlike in dogs, there are no safe drugs that will kill adult heartworms in cats. Surgical removal of adult worms is possible, but prone to serious complications, such as shock and death. In most cases, veterinarians opt to wait and monitor infected cats until the adult HW dies and the cat eliminates the infection.

Feline Heartworm Is Preventable!

Only 4% of cat owners give HW preventives, compared to 59% of dog owners. Even indoor cats in endemic areas should be on HW prevention year-round. In one North Carolina study, 28% of HW-positive cats were considered indoor only. Four drugs are currently licensed for prevention of feline HW by preventing development of immature worms in body tissues. Two products are oral: ivermectin (Heartgard; Meridian), milbemycin (Milbemax, Interceptor; Novartis); and two are topical: selamectin (Revolution; Pfizer), moxidectin (Advocate; Bayer).

The Five Myths About Feline Heartworm (from www.knowheartworms.org)

1: Heartworm is not just a disease of dogs. Heartworm causes different disease in cats than in dogs, but it is equally serious.

2: Indoor cats can get heartworm too. It only takes one mosquito bite to infect a cat, and because mosquitoes can and do get indoors, both indoor and outdoor cats may be at risk. In heartworm-endemic areas, both indoor and outdoor cats should take preventative medication.

3: Heartworm does not cause heart disease in cats. While heartworm can cause cardiovascular disease in dogs, it causes respiratory disease in cats.

4: Despite the fact that cats get few adult heartworms, they may still suffer serious illness because of the inflammation associated with immature worms.

5: Diagnosis of heartworm in cats is more difficult than in dogs, but a positive antigen test is a reliable indicator that mature adult worms are present. Since diagnosis may be difficult, prevention is even more important.
CREATING HARMONY IN MULTIPLE CAT HOMES

The domestic cat is a social animal; however, not all cats will get along well together when there are multiple cats in restricted spaces. These techniques help promote harmony. Serious aggression needs a more comprehensive treatment plan.

Resources:
- Resources should be plentiful and dispersed throughout the environment. Critical resources include:
  - Litter boxes (See the handout Litter Box Tips for more information.)
  - Feeding and water stations
  - Scratching posts/pads
  - Resting perches at different vertical heights
- Single cat-sized resting perches at different vertical heights throughout the home significantly expand the usable space.
- Resting perches should be just big enough to accommodate one cat comfortably; larger spaces may allow for confrontations.
- Avoid creating spaces where a cat can trap another cat easily; offer more than one exit route from an area/resource site.
- Catnip toys can arouse certain cats into a highly reactive/aggressive state. If this occurs, the toys should be removed from the environment.

Techniques to prevent/diffuse tension:
- Cats with high play drives often bother more sedate/elderly cats. Owners should channel this excess playful energy onto appropriate toys in short owner-initiated play sessions daily.
- Cats who harass other cats in the house should be fitted with a cat-safe collar with bells to provide an advanced warning system to other cats.
- Daily short-term segregation of cats may provide restful periods; all cats should have access to a litter box and water at all times.
- Blocking eye contact between two cats caught in a stare down can readily diffuse a tense situation—hold up an inanimate object (pillow cushion, paper) between the cats. When tension is reduced, the cats can be independently redirected onto another activity (e.g., play with a toy) or safely segregated.
- The synthetic pheromone, Feliway®, may help reduce overall tension in multiple cat homes.
- Transfer of scent from one cat to another may help create an affiliation or familiarity between cats. This scent transfer may occur passively as the cats come in contact with the same inanimate objects or may occur actively as the cats rub or groom each other. Humans can augment this scent transfer by petting cats with a common towel/rag/glove on a daily basis.

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Authors Drs. Horwitz and Neilson
INTRODUCING CATS

Adding another cat to a household can be a smooth transition or one fraught with problems. The worst outcome may include serious overt aggression between the cats and/or elimination problems. While it may be impossible to prevent all problems, certain introduction techniques may facilitate the process of integration.

- A transition room should be created for the new cat. This transition room will house the new cat as it is being gradually introduced into the family and should be a secure area. The door should latch securely and/or lock. Be sure to provide everything a cat may need including a feeding/watering site; a litter box; perches at different vertical heights, hiding spots, scratching posts/pads, toys, etc. Remove any items of value, any items that may be dangerous to the cat (e.g., plants, electric cords, strings), and any target items that may encourage inappropriate elimination (e.g., plush bath mats).
- About 2 weeks prior to introduction of the new cat, a pheromone diffuser, Feliway®, should be placed in the home; one in the main area and one in the transition room.
- Make any necessary adjustments to the house prior to the arrival of the new cat. This may include adding cat perches/cat trees around the home, litter boxes, and feeding stations; closing off access to the transition room that will contain the new cat; adding bells to the collars of anticipated bully cats, etc.
- Identify favored activities/treats of the resident cats to use during introductions with the new cat.
- When the new cat arrives, it should be placed in the transition room.
- Place a dumbbell-type toy under the door that separates the new cat from the resident cats to encourage play at the barrier door; you can create a dumbbell-type toy by tying two cat toys together with heavy string.
- Identify a common rag/towel/glove with which to pet each cat every day to facilitate scent transfer. Concentrate on wiping the towel against the cheek area and the base of the tail.
- If there is overt persistent aggression at the barrier door, a neutral zone will have to be created by closing another door.
- Identify favored activities/treats for the new cat.
- When the new cat appears comfortably settled in the transition room, start to rotate segregation locations. If the new cat is particularly fearful, you may need to retain its ability to access its transition room as it explores the rest of the house. In this case, the resident cats will need to be contained elsewhere.
- The next step is to progress to short (less than 5 minute) visual introductions. Cats are contained in some manner (in crates, on harnesses/leashes, behind doors with windows) so they can't make physical contact but they can see each other. Try to engage cats in a favored activity in their respective locations during these visual opportunities. Perform these two to three times daily until all cats appear
- The cats then should be allowed supervised physical contact; owners should have remote devices (water squirt bottles, canned fog horns, large blankets to cover the cats with) ready to interrupt any escalation in aggression, if it occurs. Owners should NEVER handle aggressively aroused cats, because cats redirect their aggression readily to the closest target.
- With success, interaction periods can gradually increase in duration and human supervision can gradually decrease until the cats are living in harmony.
LITTER BOX TIPS

Boxes:

- Provide one litter box for each cat in the house, plus one additional box.
- Boxes should be in different locations around the house to provide multiple and different access points. In multilevel houses with multiple cats, litter boxes should be offered on each floor level.
- Boxes should be easily accessible, especially for young kittens, physically disabled cats, and elderly cats.
- Avoid placing boxes in high traffic zones or very remote locations.
- Most cats prefer uncovered boxes.
- Boxes should be large enough for the cat to comfortably move around in the box. The box should be at least 1.5 times the length of the cat. Consider getting a plastic storage container to use as a litter box, if commercially available litter boxes are too small.
- Since plastic can absorb and retain odor over time, boxes should be replaced annually.
- Do not bother a cat when it is in the litter box as this may create an aversion to the litter box.

Litter:

- Most cats prefer unscented, clumping (fine, sand-like clay) litter.
- Offer enough litter so that the cat can dig/cover adequately (at least an inch in depth).
- Plastic litter liners may be aversive to some cats.
- Some cats have unusual litter preferences. To test a specific cat’s preference, a variety of litters can be offered simultaneously and the preferentially used litter retained.

Cleaning:

- Most cats prefer a pristine litter box.
- Boxes should be scooped at least once daily.
- Boxes should be completely changed with a box washing on a regular basis. This may vary from weekly to monthly depending upon the litter type, cat's hygienic standards, and box usage. Old litter should be dumped, the box washed with liquid soap/water, rinsed thoroughly with water, and filled with new litter. Avoid using harsh chemicals when cleaning as these may repel the cats from the box. If a box needs extensive soaking/chemical treatment to clear the odor, then it is time to purchase a new box.

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Authors Drs. Horwitz and Neilson
It's a fact of life that cats scratch, and it's good for them to do so. But you don't have to live with shredded furniture or ratty-looking walls and flooring. It's easy to teach a cat to use a scratching post as long as you understand what he's looking for in the way of communication, claw conditioning and fulfillment of his need to stretch and exercise.

Scratching is first and foremost a means of communication. Your cat is saying, "I, Purrcy, was here. Look how big I am, and how high up I can scratch." That's why cats like to scratch in places that will be seen by other cats; think of it as feline "graffiti." Scratching leaves traces of scent, undetectable by people but perceptible to other cats, deposited from glands on the paws.

We don't know exactly what message they're sending, but it's obviously important. So scratching on a post stuck off in a dark corner makes no sense to a cat. He's going to look for an object to scratch that has a much more prominent place in his living area, and that may well be the arm of your sofa.

Scratching also keeps claws and paws in shape. It sheds the dead keratin that sheathes the claws, making way for a new covering, and it exercises the muscles in the legs and paws that are so important to a cat's agility. Stretching is a big part of scratching, and we all know how good that feels. So instead of trying to stop your cat from scratching, encourage him to scratch on objects that are convenient for you and attractive to him.

The best scratching post is tall enough for your cat to extend his body full-length when he scratches. A little one-footer might be OK for a kitten, but a full-grown cat needs a post that is at least three feet high to allow him to perform the stretches that are part of his enjoyment of scratching. The post can be upright or angled as long as it's an appropriate length.

You also need to think about what's covering the post. Forget carpet! For one thing, cats don't see why the carpet on the post is okay to scratch but not the carpet on the floor. For another, materials like rope, sisal, hemp and burlap offer a lot more texture and shreddability, making them more pleasurable for the cat to scratch. You want him to think that the post, the cat tree and other acceptable scratching items -- hemp mats, for instance -- are so great that he doesn't even want to scratch anywhere else.

Choose a sturdy post. The fastest way to turn your cat off of using a scratching post is to buy one that falls over on him while he's climbing or scratching on it.

Provide more than one post -- and don't hide them away. Remember that cats like to show off their scratching prowess. If your cat is making his mark on a certain piece of furniture or pair of drapes, place the scratching post nearby so he'll have a better option for giving his claws a workout. Put one in front of a window so your cat can check out the birds and squirrels while he's scratching.

Encourage your cat to use the post by running your fingers up and down it or brushing a feather along the side of it. The motion will attract your cat and entice him to scratch. A little catnip, judiciously placed on top of the post and rubbed into the rope or sisal, may also gain his attention. Spraying the pheromone product Feliway on the object you want scratched really encourages its use, as well.

Be sure to praise your cat or give him a treat every time you see him using the post!
TOXIC TO PETS

Pet Poison Helpline
24/7 Animal Poison Control Center
855-764-7661
$49 per incident fee applies

- 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) Medications
- ACE-inhibitors Medications
- Acetaminophen Medications
- Acids Household Items
- African Evergreen Plants
- African Wonder Tree Plants
- Alcohol Foods
- Alkalis Household Items
- Alocasia Plants
- Aloe Vera Plants
- Amaryllis Plants
- Ambien Medications
- American Bittersweet Plants
- Amitraz Insecticides
- Amphetamines Medications
- Andromeda japonica Plants
- Angel's Trumpet Plants
- Anthurium Plants
- Antidepressants Medications
- Antifreeze Garage Items

- Apple Leaf Croton Plants
- Apricot Foods
- Arrowhead Vine Plants
- Asparagus Fern Plants
- Aspirin Medications
- Asthma Inhaler Medications
- Australian Nut Foods
- Autumn Crocus Plants
- Avocado Foods
- Azalea Plants

B:
- Baby's Breath Plants
- Baclofen Medications
- Ranieberry Plants
- Batteries Household Items

- Bear Grass Plants
- Beech Trees Plants
- Belladonna Plants
- Benzodiazepines Medications
- Beta-blockers Medications
- Bird of Paradise Plants
- Black Locust Plants
- Black Widow Spider Envenomations
- Bleeding Hearts Plants
- Bloodroot Plants
- Blue-green Algae (Cyanobacteria) Plants
- Bluebonnet Plants
- Bone Meal & Blood Meal Fertilizers
- Boxwood Tree Plants
- Branching Ivy Plants
- Bread Dough Foods
- Bromethalin Garage Items
- Brown Recluse Spider Envenomations
- Buckeye Plants
- Buddhist Pine Plants
- Burning Bush Plants
- Buttercup Plants

C:
- Caffeine Foods
- Caladium Plants
- Calcipotriene Medications
- Calcium Channel Blockers Medications
- Calcium Supplements Medications
- Calla Lily Plants
- Camphor Topical Medications
- Candelabra Cactus Plants
- Carbamates Garage Items
- Carbon Monoxide Toxic Gases
- Cardiac Glycosides Plants
- Castor Bean Plants
- Charming Dieffenbachia Plants
- Cherry Foods
- Chinaberry Tree Plants
- Chinese Evergreen Plants
- Chives Plants
- Chocolate Foods
- Chokecherry Plants
- Cholecalciferol Garage Items
- Christmas Rose Plants
- Chrysanthemum Plants
- Cineria Plants
- Clematis Plants
TOXIC TO PETS

- Cocaine Illicit Drugs
- Coins Metals
- Coral Snake Envenomations
- Cordatum Plants
- Corn Plant Plants
- Cornflower Plants
- Corticosteroids Topical Medications
- Corydalis Plants
- Cough Medicine Medications
- Cowbane Plants
- Crocus Plants
- Croton Plants
- Crown of Thorns Plants
- Currants Foods
- Cyclamen Plants
- D: Daffodils Plants
- Daphne Plants
- Davilily Plants
- Decongestants Medications
- Delphinium Plants
- Detergents Household items
- Devil's Ivy Plants
- Dieffenbachia Plants
- Diuretic Medications
- Dogbane Plants
- Dracaena Plants
- Dragon Tree Plants
- Dumbcane Plants
- E: Easter Lily Plants
- Effexor Medications
- Elaine Plants
- Elderberry Plants
- Elephant Ear Plants
- Emerald Feather Plants
- English Ivy Plants
- Ephedra Herbals
- EtoGesic Medications
- Eucalyptus Plants
- Euonymus Plants
- F: Fenn Plants
- Fertilizers Fertilizers
- Ficus Plants
- Fiddle-Leaf Philodendron Plants
- Firestarter Logs Household Items
- Fireworks Household Items
- Firocoxib Medications
- Flamingo Plant Plants
- Flax Plants
- Flea and Tick Medications Medications
- Flea Collar Medications
- Fluoride Household Items
- Four O'Clock Plants
- Foxglove Plants
- G: Garlic Foods
- Gasoline Garage items
- Geranium Plants
- Giant Dumbcane Plants
- Glacier Ivy Plants
- Gladiolas Plants
- Glory Chain Plants
- Glory Lily Plants
- Glow Jewelry Household items
- Gold Dieffenbachia Plants
- Golden Dust Dracaena Plants
- Golden Chain Tree Plants
- Golden Pothos Plants
- Gopher Purge Plants
- Gorilla Glue Household Items
- Grapes Foods
- H: Hahn's Self Branching English Ivy Plants
- Hand Sanitizer (Ethanol) Household Items
- Hand Warmers Metals
- Heartleaf Philodendron Plants
- Heavenly Bamboo Plants
- Hellebore Plants
- Hemlock Plants
- Herbicides Garden Items
- Holly Plants
- Hops Foods
- Hornets Envenomations
- Horse Reins Plants
- Horse Chestnut Plants
- Horsehead Philodendron Plants
- Hurricane Plant Plants
- Hydrangea Plants
- Hydrocarbons Garage Items
TOXIC TO PETS

I:
- Ibuprofen Medications
- Imidazoline Medications
- Iris Plants
- Iron Metals
- Isoniazid Medications

J:
- Jack-in-the-Pulpit Plants
- Japanese Show Lily Plants
- Java Beans Plants
- Jerusalem Cherry Plants
- Jessamine Plants
- Jimson Weed Plants
- Jonquil Plants
- Jungle Trumpet Plants

K:
- Kaffir Lily Plants
- Kalanchoe Plants
- Kerosene Garage Items

L:
- Lace Fern Plants
- Lacy Tree Plants
- Lantana Plants
- Larkspur Plants
- Lead Metals
- Leeks Plants
- Lilies Plants
- Lily of the Valley Plants
- Liquid Potpourri Household Items
- Locoweed Plants
- Long-acting Anticoagulants Garage Items
- Lunesta Medications
- Lupine Plants

M:
- Macadamia Nuts Foods
- Madagascar Dragon Tree Plants
- Marble Queen Plants
- Marigold Plants
- Marijuana Illicit Drugs
- Matches Household Items
- Mayapple Plants
- Metaldehyde Insecticides
- Methionine Medications
- Methylphenidate Medications
- Mexican Breadfruit Plants
- Milkweed Plants
- Miniature Croton Plants
- Mistletoe Plants
- Mock Orange Plants
- Moldy Food (Mycotoxins) Foods
- Monkshood Plants
- Morning Glory Plants
- Mothballs Household Items
- Mother-in-Law's Tongue Plants
- Mountain Laurel Plants
- Mouse and Rat Poison Garage Items
- Moxidectin Medications
- Mushrooms Foods

N:
- Naproxen Medications
- Narcissus Plants
- Needlepoint Ivy Plants
- Nicotine Medications
- Nightshade Plants

O:
- Oleander Plants
- Onions Foods
- Opioids & Opiates Medications
- Organophosphates Insecticides
- Oriental Lily Plants
- Oxalates (Insoluble) Plants
- Oxalates (Soluible) Plants

P:
- Paintballs Household Items
- Paraquat Garden Items
- Peace Lily Plants
- Peach Pits Foods
- Pencil Cactus Plants
- Pennroyal Oil Herbas
- Peony Plants
- Periwinkle Plants
- Pesticides Garage Items
- Petroleum Distillates Garage Items
- Philodendron Plants
- Phosphides Garage Items
- Pimobendan Medications
- Pine Oil Household Items
- Play Dough (Homemade) Foods
- Plumosa Fern Plants
- Poinciana Plants
- Poinsettia Plants
- Poison Hemlock Plants
- Poison Ivy Plants
TOXIC TO PETS

- Ibuprofen Medications
- Imidazoline Medications
- Iris Plants
- Iron Metals
- Isoniazid Medications
- Jack-in-the-Pulpit Plants
- Japanese Show Lily Plants
- Java Beans Plants
- Jerusalem Cherry Plants
- Jessamine Plants
- Jimson Weed Plants
- Jonquil Plants
- Jungle Trumpet Plants
- Kaffir Lily Plants
- Kalanchoe Plants
- Kerosene Garage Items
- Lace Fern Plants
- Lacy Tree Plants
- Lantana Plants
- Larkspur Plants
- Lead Metals
- Leeks Plants
- Lilies Plants
- Lily of the Valley Plants
- Liquid Potpourri Household Items
- Locoweed Plants
- Long-acting Anticoagulants Garage Items
- Lunesta Medications
- Lupine Plants
- Macadamia Nuts Foods
- Madagascar Dragon Tree Plants
- Marble Queen Plants
- Marigold Plants
- Marijuana Illicit Drugs
- Matches Household Items
- Mayapple Plants
- Metaldehyde Insecticides
- Methionine Medications
- Methylphenidate Medications
- Mexican Breadfruit Plants
- Milkweed Plants
- Miniature Croton Plants
- Mistletoe Plants
- Mock Orange Plants
- Moldy Food (Mycotoxins) Foods
- Monkshood Plants
- Morning Glory Plants
- Mothballs Household Items
- Mother-in-Law’s Tongue Plants
- Mountain Laurel Plants
- Mouse and Rat Poison Garage Items
- Moxidectin Medications
- Mushrooms Foods
- Naproxen Medications
- Narcissus Plants
- Needlepoint Ivy Plants
- Nicotine Medications
- Nightshade Plants
- Oleander Plants
- Onions Foods
- Opioids & Opiates Medications
- Organophosphates Insecticides
- Oriental Lily Plants
- Oxalates (Insoluble) Plants
- Oxalates (Soluble) Plants
- Paintballs Household Items
- Paraquat Garden Items
- Peace Lily Plants
- Peach Pits Foods
- Pencil Cactus Plants
- Pennyroyal Oil Herbals
- Peony Plants
- Periwinkle Plants
- Pesticides Garage Items
- Petroleum Distillates Garage Items
- Philodendron Plants
- Phosphides Garage Items
- Pimobendan Medications
- Pine Oil Household Items
- Play Dough (Homemade) Foods
- Plumosa Fern Plants
- Poinciana Plants
- Poinsettia Plants
- Poison Hemlock Plants
- Poison Ivy Plants
- Poison Oak Plants
TOXIC TO PETS

- Pokeweed Plants
- Poppy Plants
- Potato (Green) Foods
- Precatory Bean Plants
- Primrose Plants
- Privet Plants
- Propylene Glycol Garage Items
- Pyrethrins & Pyrethroids Insecticides
- Queensland Nut Plants
- Raising Foods
- Rattlesnake Envenomations
- Red Lily Plants
- Red-Marginated Dracaena Plants
- Rhododendrons Plants
- Rhubarb Plants
- Ribbon Plant Plants
- Rubber Tree Plant Plants
- Rubrum Lily Plants
- Saddle Leaf Philodendron Plants
- Sago Palm Plants
- Salt Foods
- Schefflera Plants
- Scorpions Envenomations
- Scotch Broom Plants
- Shamrock Plants
- Skunk Cabbage Plants
- Sleep Aids Medications
- Smoke Inhalation Toxic Gases
- Snowdrops Plants
- Spider Lily Plants
- Spiders Envenomations
- Spotted Dumbcane Plants
- Star Fruit Foods
- Star of Bethlehem Plants
- Stargazer Lily Plants
- Stinging Nettle Plants
- String of Pearls Plants
- Striped Dracaena Plants
- Strychnine Garage Items
- Super Glue Household Items
- Sweet Pea Plants
- T:
- Taro Vine Plants
- Tea Tree Oil Herbs
- Tiger Lily Plants
- Tinsel Household Items
- Toads Envenomations
- Tobacco Plants
- Tomato Plants
- Tree Philodendron Plants
- Tropic Snow Dumbcane Plants
- Tulips & Hyacinths Plants
- Tung Tree Plants
- V:
- Virginia Creeper Plants
- Vitamins Medications
- W:
- Wandering Jew Plants
- Wameckel Dracaena Plants
- Water Hemlock Plants
- Weeping Fig Plants
- Windshield Wiper Fluid Garage Items
- Wisteria Plants
- Wood Lily Plants
- X:
- Xylitol Foods: Candy, Gum
- Y:
- Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow Plants
- Yew Plants
- Yucca Plants
- Z:
- Zinc
We are here for you and your cat.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

402-421-2300  southridgeanimal.com
southridgeac@gmail.com

Hours of Operation
Mon: 7:30 am-6:00 pm
Tues: 7:30 am-6:00 pm
Wed: 7:30 am-6:00 pm
Thurs: 7:30 am-8:00 pm
Fri: 7:30 am-6:00 pm