



# Caring for your Cat



**Cats are now the most popular domestic pet in the UK and the bond between a cat and its owner can be very strong, providing huge rewards. Living up to 14 years old or more, cats make fantastic companions.**

Caring for your cat's needs includes providing a good diet and regular exercise, along with lots of opportunity to play and express natural behaviours. A healthy cat will have bright eyes, clean ears, eyes and nose and be interested in what is going on around it.

## Routine Healthcare



The key to recognising illness in your pet is knowing what your pet is like when it is well. An observant owner will often be able to detect subtle changes in their pet's behaviour or appetite that indicates illness well before anyone else can.

Regular visits to the vet for routine health checks and preventative health care, including vaccinations, worming treatments, flea control and dental care, allows your vet to get a familiar picture of your cat when well. It also allows the presence of any clinical disease to be detected and diagnosed earlier.

## Routine Healthcare

Fleas cause discomfort and irritation and flea bites can lead to intense itching and self-inflicted trauma. Fleas also carry the larval stages of a tapeworm and cats can become infected with tapeworm when grooming. It is virtually impossible to prevent an outdoor cat coming into contact with fleas, so regular treatments are required to control the fleas and prevent a build-up within the home. Cats can also become infected with roundworm.

We have found that many non-prescription preparations do not work well enough to achieve effective parasite control and advise you to choose a veterinary licensed product / combination of products as best practice. We recommend worming adult cats every 3-6 months and monthly application of Stronghold for fleas. We offer a special discount on Stronghold - 12 months for the price of 9 months.

## Neutering



We recommend neutering cats. Kittens can be neutered from a young age, but this is usually done between the ages of five and six months. For the males castration reduces straying, spraying and fighting and for the females both unwanted pregnancies and behaviour associated with a season ("calling") are eliminated. Until your kitten has been neutered, we recommend keeping them indoors.

## Vaccinations

Cats, just like children, are at risk from many infectious diseases. We are strong believers that vaccinations can offer the essential protection against these deadly diseases.

To keep your cat fit and healthy make sure they complete both their initial course of vaccinations as a kitten and then receive booster jabs at yearly intervals thereafter. We vaccinate cats against cat 'flu' (feline herpes virus, feline calicivirus), feline infectious enteritis and feline leukaemia virus.

Rabies vaccinations will be required if you intend to travel to Europe with your cat.





## Microchipping

Cats are very independent and often go wandering over large distances. Collars and tags, however useful, may become lost or worse still, inflict injury on your cat. It is wise to get your cat microchipped. This is a safe and permanent method of identification which increases the chance of a lost cat being safely reunited with its owner. Don't forget to update your details if you move house or change phone numbers.



## Insurance

We strongly advise taking out insurance against illness and accidents for your cat. We recommend a lifetime policy to provide cover for both long-term and ongoing conditions. Our practice is accredited to Petplan, and as such we are able to advise you on their different insurance policies.

If your pet is healthy and aged between 6 weeks and 1 year of age, we can supply 4 weeks of free Petplan insurance as an "immediate veterinary cover" offer.

## Dental Health

Dental disease is a particularly common problem in cats. As owners rarely get an opportunity to look in their cat's mouths problems may go undetected for some months or years. All our vets recognise the benefits that dental care contributes to your cat's well-being and are happy to advise on the best preventative dental plan for your cat.

## Useful information

[www.wingravevets.com/pet-factsheets](http://www.wingravevets.com/pet-factsheets)



[www.icatcare.org](http://www.icatcare.org)



iCatCare



## Nutrition

The correct diet is essential to keep your cat fit and healthy and conversely, poor nutrition accounts for many significant health problems.

Home-made diets are difficult to prepare, expensive and very rarely nutritionally balanced or complete. Commercially available diets (such as Royal Canin) are convenient, fully balanced and complete. Different life stage diets will be appropriate at different stages of your cat's life, for example kitten, adult, mature and senior. Wet and dry diets are available.



## Wingrave's Cat Facilities

We believe that our clients and their pets deserve a 5 star level of treatment, service and care. As such, we have developed a range of services and facilities to ensure your pet is cared for in the best possible environment.

Our Sutton surgery has been awarded "Gold Status" by the International Society of Feline Medicine and benefits from separate cat and dog waiting rooms, consulting rooms and isolation wards creating a relaxing experience for all. We also have separate cat and dog wards at all our other surgeries.

**Follow us:**



[Wingravevets1](https://www.facebook.com/Wingravevets1)



**To learn more about caring for your cat as well as the services we offer at Wingrave, visit our website**

 [www.wingravevets.com](http://www.wingravevets.com)



 020 8642 9100 – 24 hour service

 [enquiries@wingravevets.com](mailto:enquiries@wingravevets.com)

 [www.wingravevets.com](http://www.wingravevets.com)

