



THE FELINER

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A MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER INSERT FOR CAT LOVERS, SUMMER 2016

BEFORE YOU BRING A NEW CAT HOME ...

Selecting a new cat or kitten for your home can be overwhelming emotionally for pet owners. The process is both exciting and satisfying because you are both doing a good deed AND changing the dynamic of your pet family. But paying attention to the health conditions of pets you already own, as well as the new cat or kitten can save anguish and expense for everyone involved.



Have your current pets been examined by a veterinarian within the past year? Have their stool samples been checked, as well? This can prevent the spread of illness and of parasites between pets. If you have a senior cat or a cat with an illness or disability, it may not be fair to bring a young, active cat into the mix.

The fact that your new cat comes with papers documenting veterinary care and vaccinations does not guarantee a clean bill of health. - If at all possible, take the new cat or kitten to your own veterinarian for an exam BEFORE bringing it to your home. If this is not possible, place the new pet in quarantine in a separate room (with litter box, food and water, and a cozy pet bed or pillow), possibly on a separate floor of your home until you can take it to the veterinarian. Cats are prone to many contagious viruses affecting the upper respiratory system. The effects of these viruses are not always obvious, but they can be difficult and expensive to remedy.

Cats are quite territorial. Although some do no more than hiss at newcomers, others attack each other swiftly. To prevent injury, don't just put a new cat or kitten down next to your other pets. Allow new and old pets to exchange scents, either from the safety of a cat carrier or through a baby gate placed in a doorway. Be sure to monitor the first interactions, not

leaving the pets alone together for several days (or longer, depending on your cats!) following the first introduction. Cats who crouch, growl, and run toward other pets are up to no good!

Make sure that your new cat or kitten knows the location of the litter box before allowing it free access to your living space. Keeping the box clean will encourage it to use the litter box instead of other areas in your home. Cat experts recommend providing one litter box for each cat in the home; some even recommend an extra litter box to keep everyone happy in multi-cat homes!

Make sure that all pets in your home are spayed or neutered as soon as possible. Unneutered cats are prone to spraying, marking territory with urine that will leave your home strongly scented!

Acquiring a new feline pet can be easy or difficult, depending on the interactions between owners and pets. With a little forethought and care, it can be very rewarding for you.

MESSAGE FROM OPIE



by Vikky Warner

Dear Opie,

My cat never goes outside. Does he need a rabies vaccination?

In a nutshell, the answer is YES!

It's the time of year for bats to be getting into homes, and cats (hunters by nature) hunt bats! According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, bats are on the list of wild animals in the United States most likely to get rabies. Other wildlife on that list includes skunks, raccoons, coyotes and foxes. In recent years, cats have become the most common domestic animal infected with rabies. This is because many cat owners are not getting their cats vaccinated. Your cat could contract rabies from another cat!

The state of Indiana requires all cats and dogs to be vaccinated for Rabies. If your cat should bite someone, and is not vaccinated, you could be fined and your cat quarantined at a facility at YOUR expense. If your cat is not vaccinated for rabies and comes into contact with a rabid animal, the regulations have been changed. Your cat would either have to be euthanized and submitted for rabies testing, or be quarantined for a minimum of 4 months to a maximum of 6 months, and this would be at your expense. Even if your cat bites you, and you have to visit a doctor for treatment, your doctor may have to report the bite to authorities, and the above procedures will apply.

If your cat is current on its rabies vaccination and comes into contact with a bat, it is still recommended that you contact us as well as reporting exposure to the Humane Society. Your cat's doctor may ask you to bring your cat in for revaccination and you may still be asked to keep your cat under an observation period as specified by local ordinance.

When your cat becomes overdue on rabies vaccination, we will be contacting you. Our reminders consist of the Healthy Pet Magazine or postcard as a first reminder, a phone call as a second reminder, a postcard as a third reminder and if we still have not seen your cat, we will send a final postcard at 90 days overdue. These reminders are important, and we hope you respond to them, for the sake of your cat!

Thank You



We'd like to thank the following clients for their referrals:

Judy & Michael Anderson

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Pat & George Brown

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If you made a referral and your name does not appear on this list, please accept our thank you for the referral and our apology for omitting your name.