



## ewell veterinary centre

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### Caring for Your Cat: Essential Advice for a Healthy, Happy Life 🐾

Welcome to our feline advice page! Whether you're a new cat owner or a seasoned cat lover, this guide covers the basics to keep your cat healthy and content.

#### 1. Vaccination Protocol 📄

Vaccinations are crucial to protect your cat from common diseases and support a healthy life.

- **Nobivac Tricat:** Protects against feline calicivirus, herpesvirus, and panleukopenia, which can cause severe respiratory illness and digestive issues.
- **Nobivac Ducat:** Offers protection against feline calicivirus and herpesvirus, common causes of cat flu, which can lead to chronic respiratory problems.
- **Nobivac FeLV:** Guards against feline leukemia virus, a potentially fatal disease that affects the immune system.

*Schedule:* Kittens start their vaccines around 8 weeks old, with boosters at 12 weeks. After the initial course, annual boosters help maintain immunity.

#### 2. Parasite Control 🐛

Parasite prevention is key to your cat's health, protecting them from discomfort and serious diseases:

- **Felpreva:** A broad-spectrum spot-on treatment that protects against fleas, ticks, and worms. Apply every 3 months for consistent protection.
- **NexGard Combo:** A monthly spot-on solution providing comprehensive coverage against fleas, ticks, mites, heartworms, and intestinal worms.

Regular parasite control also reduces the risk of transmission to other pets and humans. Check your cat regularly for signs like itching, hair loss, or visible parasites.

#### 3. Feeding Your Cat 🍽️

A balanced diet is essential for maintaining your cat's health, energy, and coat condition:

- **High-Quality Commercial Food:** Choose food appropriate for your cat's life stage (kitten, adult, senior). Look for products labeled as 'complete' to ensure all nutritional needs are met.



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- **Fresh Water:** Always provide clean, fresh water. Consider a cat water fountain if your cat prefers running water.
- **Foods to Avoid:** Do not feed chocolate, onions, garlic, grapes, raisins, alcohol, or caffeine—these are toxic to cats.

### 4. Neutering ✂️

We recommend neutering your cat around 5-6 months old. This simple procedure has many health and behavioral benefits:

- **Health Benefits:** Reduces the risk of uterine infections and certain cancers in females, and testicular cancer in males.
- **Behavioral Benefits:** Decreases roaming, spraying, and aggressive behaviors, especially in males.
- **Population Control:** Prevents unwanted litters, reducing the number of homeless cats.

### 5. Pet Insurance

Veterinary care can be costly, especially in emergencies. Pet insurance helps manage unexpected expenses, providing financial peace of mind:

- **Coverage:** Look for plans that cover accidents, illnesses, diagnostics, and ongoing conditions. Some plans also include preventive care.
- **Considerations:** Check for exclusions, waiting periods, and coverage limits to ensure the policy meets your needs.

### 6. Microchipping

Microchipping is a quick, safe, and permanent way to identify your cat if they go missing:

- **How It Works:** A tiny chip (about the size of a grain of rice) is implanted under the skin. It contains a unique ID number linked to your contact details.
- **Why It's Important:** Collars can fall off, but microchips provide a permanent link to you. Ensure your contact information is always up-to-date in the microchip database. 🐾

### 7. Socialisation

Proper socialisation helps your cat become confident, well-adjusted, and less fearful in new situations:



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- **Play and Enrichment:** Use toys, scratching posts, and interactive games to stimulate your cat mentally and physically. Regular play strengthens your bond and reduces stress-related behaviors.

If you have any questions or need more advice, we're here to help. Contact us anytime to discuss your cat's health and wellbeing.