

Essential Medical Information for Your New Cat

Thank you for adopting and saving a life!

Common Ailments to Watch For

Some illnesses are common in boarding, kennel and shelter environments. There is always a possibility that your new pet can come down with an illness within several days of bringing him or her home. If your animal develops symptoms of one of these illnesses due to the shelter environment, HSHV's Veterinary Clinic may offer medications at a discount during the **first 10 days post-adoption**. If your new companion is acting lethargic, is not eating or drinking, or is showing any other sign of illness, it is important that you contact a veterinarian. If you notice the problem during our HSHV Veterinary Clinic hours of operation, we strongly encourage you to call and schedule an appointment (HSHV Clinic 734-662-4365). You may also decide to utilize your preferred or family veterinarian.

If our clinic is closed and your newly adopted pet becomes ill, you will need to use your own discretion on whether or not this is a life or death situation requiring emergency veterinary care. Please note that if you choose to take your new pet to your own veterinarian or an emergency clinic, *any expenses incurred will be your responsibility*.

Diarrhea & Vomit

- It is not uncommon for your new cat to have some softer stool, diarrhea, or vomit within a few days of being in its new environment. Some causes are stress, diet change, and intestinal parasites/worms. There may be additional causes for diarrhea or vomiting, so if the symptoms continue for more than a few days or are accompanied by lethargy or loss of appetite, please contact a veterinarian.

Coughing & Sneezing

- Due to the high volume of cats and kittens we care for, diseases such as Upper Respiratory Infections (URI) are not uncommon. Even if your cat was healthy when you brought him or her home, the incubation period for URI is anywhere from 2-7 days, which means that your cat could begin showing symptoms up to a week after adoption.
- If your cat is sneezing or coughing minimally and there are no other symptoms, chances are it is not an emergency and an appointment can be scheduled through your preferred veterinarian. If the sneezing or coughing exists in conjunction with other symptoms such as lethargy, lack of appetite, dehydration, or cloudy nasal discharge, you should contact your veterinarian and schedule an appointment immediately.

Vaccination Reactions

- Some cats may experience mild to severe vaccine reactions. Mild reactions include pain at the injection site, fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and the occasional swelling of the face or ears. Severe reactions include difficulty breathing, major swelling, collapse, and gray or pale gums. If your cat experiences any of these symptoms after receiving a vaccine, please seek veterinary care immediately.



We encourage you to sign up for the FREE 1-month trial offer of pet insurance through 24PetWatch. It's not a scam, you can easily cancel afterward, and in many cases, it will help pay for the treatment of illness and injuries common among sheltered animals. Coverage is based on your enrollment date, not your adoption date, so enroll ASAP.

Life & Health After Shelter

If your pet appears healthy and has adjusted to your home without any issues, it is still very important to make an appointment and establish your new cat with a veterinarian. This will give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have, and discuss ongoing care. Be sure to bring your pet's HSHV medical history provided in your adoption folder with you no matter what veterinary clinic you decide to partner with.

FVRCP — Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia

This vaccination is highly recommended and is given to all cats before leaving our shelter. Kittens under four months of age require booster vaccinations typically every three or four weeks in a home environment. A booster should be given once a year thereafter or according to your veterinarian's recommendation.

Rabies

This vaccination is highly recommended and is given to all cats over four months of age before leaving our shelter. If a kitten is too young to receive a rabies vaccine before adoption, we offer a discounted coupon for this vaccine here at our HSHV clinic. The first rabies vaccination is good for one year. From then on your cat may receive its rabies vaccination every three years. Vaccination for indoor cats is also recommended due to the potential for exposure from a bat or other animal that has entered the house.

Preventative Care

All cats in our care typically receive at least one dose of Revolution and potentially one to four doses of Strongid or Marquis Paste dewormer while in our care. While this addresses the most common parasites we see in cats, our outpatient veterinarians will likely recommend a fecal test during your cat's veterinary exam to evaluate for any additional parasitic concerns. Discussing preventative care with your veterinarian is also important if your cat will be living an indoor/outdoor lifestyle.



Get half off your first veterinary exam

at the HSHV clinic when you schedule it within 60 days of adoption. Call (734) 662-4365 to make an appointment.



Other After-Shelter Recommendations

The medical care your new kitty received at HSHV is appropriate for life in a shelter. Once adopted, however, your veterinarian will likely make other recommendations based on your pet's needs in your home. Those recommendations may include other vaccinations (such as the Feline Leukemia Virus Infection FeLV vaccine), other preventatives (such as heartworm preventative), and other tests (such as a fecal test or retesting for FeLV). It is important to contact us or another veterinarian shortly after adoption to discuss these recommendations.

We would be happy to welcome you and your new pet as permanent clients to our full service veterinary clinic. All proceeds support animals who need care here at HSHV. For additional information, please call our HSHV clinic at (734) 662-4365. Any vaccines or treatments recommended or required after adoption are the financial responsibility of the adopter unless otherwise specified in your animal's medical history.