

Life Long Health for Your Cat



Cats bring so much joy to our lives, but can be a big responsibility. We at Lee Veterinary Clinic are grateful that you chose our clinic to help care for your pet. Below are our recommendations to keep your pet healthy and happy for many years to come!

Vaccination Schedule:

Vaccinations are an important part of your pet's health. They prevent your pet from developing serious diseases, and also prevent risk of some diseases from being spread to humans. Each vaccine requires a slightly different timing of initial

- **Rabies:** (RV) This protects against a fatal neurological disease. It is extremely important to keep your pets up to date on rabies vaccination as it can be spread to humans as well. (Age: 12 weeks +)
 - Initial vaccination: 1 year immunity
 - After 2nd vaccination: choice of 2 rabies vaccines
 - Purevax: Non- adjuvanted (safest possible) licensed for 1 year immunity. Non-adjuvanted to lower risk of vaccine related sarcomas (tumors). These tumors are very rare (about 1 in 10,000 cats) but this vaccine is the safest for cats.
 - Imrab3: Adjuvanted, licensed for 3 year immunity.
 - Required every 1- 3 years (depending on vaccine chosen) thereafter to maintain immunity
- **Distemper combo:** (DV) This combination vaccine protects against three diseases: rhinotracheitis (feline herpesvirus-1), panleukopenia (feline distemper), and calicivirus. These diseases can cause a range of symptoms from neurological damage to upper respiratory infections. (Age: 5 weeks +)
 - Beginning vaccinations
 - Pet over 4 months:
 - Initial vaccine+ booster within 4 weeks: 1 year immunity
 - Pet under 12 weeks
 - Initial vaccine + booster every 3-4 weeks until 4 months old: 1 year immunity
 - If given again within 1st year: 2 year immunity
 - Required every 2 years to maintain immunity
- **Leukemia:** Feline leukemia causes blood disorders, causes immune deficiency, and different types of cancer. It is spread through contact with infected cats, often through fighting. Cats can be infected for years before showing symptoms, so testing is recommended before vaccinating. This is highly recommended for any cat that goes outdoors. (Age: 9 weeks +)
 - Initial vaccine+ booster within 4 weeks: 1 year immunity

Parasites:

Intestinal Parasites:

- Including roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms and more; all animals will have intestinal parasites some time in their life. As kittens they automatically get them before they're born as well as through mother's milk. As adults they are still at risk from ingesting rodents, birds, bugs or even just from being exposed to soil. We recommend checking a fecal sample and deworming your pet on a regular basis for best health and to protect your family from exposure as well.



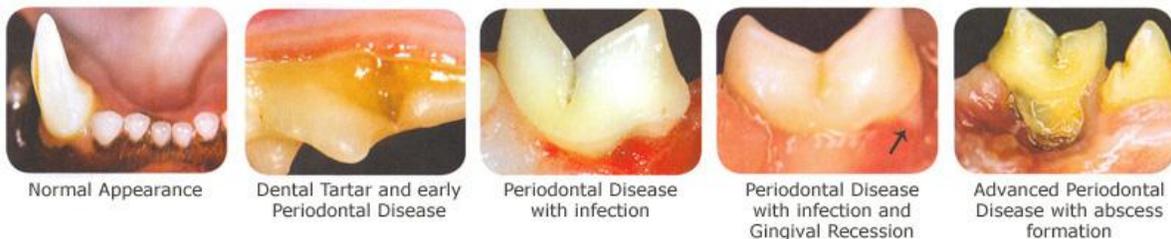
External Parasites:

- Fleas and ticks can spread disease and internal parasites. Once established, fleas can seem near impossible to get rid of. We recommend using a tick and flea preventative such as *Frontline* or *Certifect* to protect your pet. We do not recommend over-the-counter flea powders/dips/collars ect, as we see more reactions and side effects from the chemicals used as well as the products do not tend to be effective.



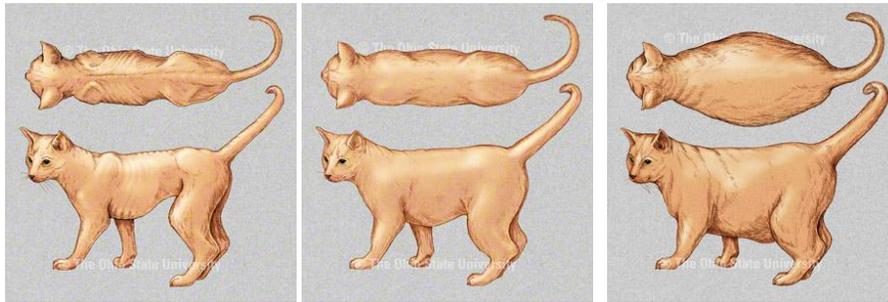
Dental care:

- Dental disease the MOST common disease in dogs and cats, and is commonly overlooked by owners. If unnoticed it continues until tissues holding the teeth in the mouth are replaced with tartar and infection. These teeth are extremely painful and can cause abscesses within your pet's nose or skull.
 - Having a chronic infection in the mouth is just as unhealthy as having an infection on the skin, bladder or elsewhere on the body. The body can be so busy fighting infection that it will pre-dispose your pet to other illnesses as well.
 - Pets are extremely good at hiding pain, and most continue to eat without owners noticing a problem. However after the dental disease has been addressed, most people report that their pet "hasn't played or acted this well in years" showing that the pet was likely in significant pain prior to the dental care.
- Prevention is very easy! It is as simple as a daily smearing of toothpaste on the teeth. The CET toothpaste has enzymes that prevent plaque from developing into hard tartar.
 - Some chews/treats can help with tartar control, but most are not effective and are just "well marketed extra calories". The most effective prevention is using enzymatic toothpaste.
- Once the hard tartar is established there is little you can do at home. At this point the best thing is to have a thorough dental cleaning and exam. During this procedure, your pet will be carefully monitored while under anesthesia and we will remove the tartar and determine the health of each tooth. Any teeth that have dental disease too advanced to stay will be removed at that time. Your pet will wake up with a clean, healthy mouth which will soon be pain free.



Feeding:

- Correct nutrition is very important for your pet's long term health. Studies have shown that even slightly obese pets have their lifespan shortened by 2 years, when compared to a lean pet.
- **Body Condition Score (BCS):** We rank fitness on a score from 1-9. Ideal is 4-5 with underweight being 1-3, and overweight 6-9.



- Underweight (left): → Visible spine or hip bones
- Ideal weight (middle): Visible waist from above and from side, ribs easily felt.
- Overweight (right): Loss of visible waist, ribs hard to feel, may have fat deposits over tail or sternum.

Spay and Neuter:

- Both of these procedures remove the reproductive organs from the pet. It prevents unwanted kittens, and complications from pregnancy and birth. It also has long lasting health benefits as well as a decrease in behaviors such as roaming, aggression and urine marking.
- Spaying females before their first estrous cycle ("heat") greatly reduces her chance of mammary tumors, ovarian cancer and uterine infection (all of which can be fatal and costly to treat).
- Neutering a male eliminates the possibility of testicular tumors and greatly reduces the chance of prostate problems. Neutered males are less likely to try to escape a yard to find a female in season. This reduces the chance of them being hit by cars, getting into fights or becoming lost.
- The greater good: Many people are surprised to learn that nationwide more than 3 million cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100-percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats.

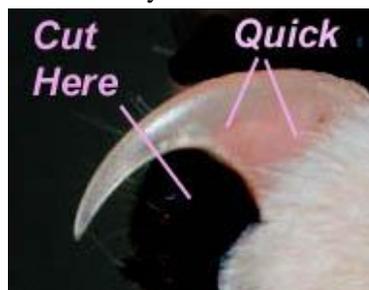
1+1=420,000

One female cat and one male cat and their offspring results in 420,000 kittens in 7 years. The solution to the problem of pet overpopulation is for you to spay or neuter your cat.

dogfence.com

Nail trimming:

- Trimming your pet's nails is quite easy, especially if you begin when they are young. Done weekly, this will prevent damage done by your cat by blunting the sharp tips. Begin by handling the feet often and just clipping a nail or two at a time. Clip small pieces off and avoid clipping into the quick. The quick is where the nerve and blood vessels run. You can see the quick easily on white nails and you will want to clip just below the quick.



Microchipping:

- Microchipping allows a form of permanent identification for your pet. It consists of placing a small microchip, which is about the size of a grain of rice, underneath their skin. The microchip is then able to be scanned and the number will correspond to your pet's information. If your pet is found wandering, without another form of ID (many animals slip their collars) then this may be the only way of finding your pet again. Shelters, rescues, and city and county animal controls use this method of trying to reunite pets with their owners.

Declawing:

- Declawing is much more complicated than nail trimming. It involves amputating the last digit of the toe which is where the nail grows from. The area is then closed with surgical skin glue. Each paw is bandaged snugly to control bleeding. Bandages may be removed within one to two days. Pain medications are administered for three to five days following the operation. Although difficult, owners need to restrict their cat's activity, especially jumping, for several days. Most cats will walk fairly well within two to three days. Their feet, however, will be tender for a weeks following surgery.
- Alternatives:
 - Nail trimming: cheaper and painless. Done weekly, this will prevent damage done by your cat by blunting the sharp tips.
 - Soft Paws: Painless soft plastic caps that are glued over the nails, these prevent damage as plastic covers the sharp tip of the nail. These grow out and eventually fall off, needing repeating every 6-8 weeks.
 - Scratching posts: Giving your pet an outlet for the natural behavior means they are less likely to try to use your furniture. They come at different angles, and different materials, so you may have to find what your cat prefers.

Ear Cleaning:

- Keeping your pet's ears clean is the best prevention against potential health hazards such as ear mites, ear infections and wax build up (which in turn can be excruciatingly painful for your pet)
 1. The ear wash solution is squeezed into the ear canal, until almost overflowing.
 2. Your pet will likely shake its head as soon as the wash is inserted into the ear, shaking out some of the solution. Massage the base of the ear to distribute the wash solution throughout the ear canal. You should hear a wet "squishy" noise, which is the cleaner moving around loosening and collecting debris. Pets usually like this part.
 3. Use cotton balls to remove discharge from the inner side of the ear flap and ear canal. Q-tips can be used to clean the folds of the outer ear, but do not place them farther than you can see. Deep placement of a Q-tip can rupture the ear drum or can pack wax and other debris further into the ear canal, preventing medications from getting to the deeper parts of the ear canal.



Routine Bloodwork:

- If your pet becomes ill, we may recommend different tests based on your pet's symptoms. We use blood work of various types to help diagnose and screen for diseases, but it is also useful throughout your pet's life.
 - When healthy: It's beneficial to check blood work when your pet is not feeling ill, as this gives us information on your pet's baseline levels and to screen for diseases that may be in early stages. These can be compared to the same values when your pet is not feeling well and gives us more information as to what is causing your pet's illness.

- Before surgery or anesthesia: Certain blood work can help us evaluate how your pet's organs are functioning. We use this information to make decisions on what drugs to use to make anesthesia or surgery as safe as possible for your pet.
- Aging pets: As your pet ages, it is ideal to screen for signs of early diseases such as liver disease or kidney failure. Many times we can start treatment before your pet becomes ill which allows a much better long term prognosis and the longest, healthiest life for your pet.

Thanks for choosing Lee Veterinary clinic for your pets health care. Please feel free to call whenever you have questions or concerns.

Lee Veterinary Clinic 218-486-5660 Email: leevetclinic@yahoo.com