



Your family pet. Our family passion.

## Dental Disease Prevention

Oral hygiene is one of the most important aspects of pet health care. It is estimated that 80% of pets more than 3 years of age have significant dental disease. Of that 80%, fully 50% require immediate attention. The same conditions that lead to our tooth and gum problems also occur in your pet's mouth.

Periodontal disease can cause pain and discomfort for your pet. It can also put them at risk for:

- Heart problems
- Lung problems
- Kidney disease
- Joint infections

This occurs because the bacteria from inflamed gums can get into the bloodstream and become widely distributed throughout the body.



## Home Dental Care

Royal Canin veterinary diets manufacture a specific dental diet that is clinically proven to reduce accumulation of plaque and tartar. We recommend most adult cats be fed a dental diet, unless they have a need for a specific diet.

**Teeth Brushing** – it may sound silly, but yes you can brush your cat's teeth at home! We sell a toothpaste specifically for cats that they absolutely love. Little toothbrushes and small fingertip toothbrushes are also available. The earlier you start brushing with your kitten the easier it will be to continue throughout their life. Ask a member of our Pet Health Care Team for advice and guidance on brushing your cat's teeth.



## Veterinary Dental Treatments



If your pet has existing periodontal disease, the only way to clean the teeth is under a general anaesthetic. The teeth are examined, cleaned above and below the gum line, and polished. A thorough oral hygiene treatment by your veterinarian will take anywhere from 35 minutes to over an hour, depending on the severity of the disease. The good news about these treatments is your cat is only with us for the day, they go home with pain medication as needed, and they are happier and healthier.



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## Fleas, Ticks, Heartworm and Parasites

The Niagara region is home to some of the warmest temperatures in the country, especially in the spring and summer. With this warm weather comes increased susceptibility to topical and bloodborne parasites which thrive in this environment. Although these parasites, or the diseases they carry may sometimes be successfully treated, prevention is always preferred because of decreased cost and increased safety for the patient. Typically, these parasites have been of concern only from May to October, however due to warmer temperatures, we are now recommending topical parasite prevention for both cats and dogs year round.



### Fleas

It is very important to prevent flea problems before they occur. Just a few adult fleas left untreated can produce hundreds of thousands of offspring in as little as 30 days. The days of flea baths and collars are long gone, a topical solution applied monthly is the way to go. These products are only available through your veterinarian. Today it is the most simple and safest way to protect your pet and your home from an infestation.

### Roundworm & Hookworm (intestinal parasite)

Roundworm and hookworm are intestinal parasites often spread from the mother to the kittens. Left untreated, they will steal nutrients from growing kittens, and cause symptoms such as distended abdomen and poor hair coat. Hookworms can also cause anemia in cats. In severe cases they can cause vomiting or diarrhea. You won't necessarily see this type of parasite unless infestation is severe.

### PREVENTION AND TREATMENTS

Revolution and Advantage are our recommended products against these infestations. Both are applied topically once a month between your pet's shoulder blades. They are simple, safe and effective.

**REVOLUTION** protects against:

- fleas
- ear mites
- hookworm
- roundworm



Talk to a member of our Pet Health Care Team today to discuss the best options for your pet in preventing fleas and ticks.

- heartworm
- ADVANTAGE** protects against:
- fleas



## Health Hazards & Emergency Protocols

It's an eternal debate for cat owners. Should cats be allowed to roam free or stay within the safety of the home?

Cats love to explore and trips outside can be an adventure, however, it is much safer to keep them indoors. There are so many dangers once they leave your front step, from being hit by a car, wildlife, animal cruelty, parasites, viral and bacterial diseases.

Some hazards to be aware of, both indoors and out:

- Antifreeze – cats love the sweet taste of antifreeze, though it is a fatal threat
- Toxic plants such as azalea, Easter lily, oleander, mistletoe, yew plants, poinsettias to name a few
- Household detergents, cleaning products
- Chocolate
- Garlic, onion
- Decorations such as tinsel on your Christmas tree, string and yarn

**Upper Canada Animal Hospital** is strongly affiliated with the Niagara Veterinary Emergency Clinic. The emergency clinic is open 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, and is fully staffed for your emergency needs. We are in constant communication with the Clinic when a patient of ours has been admitted after hours. They forward records and information over to us right away so we know the status of our patients and can follow up with our clients.



Should you find yourself in need of after hours emergency care, it is always best to phone them first so they can prepare for your arrival. They will also be able to suggest immediate first aid and give specific directions.

**The Niagara Veterinary Emergency Clinic is located at:  
3300 Merritville Highway, Unit #1A Thorold, Ontario L2V 4Y6**

Phone Number: 905-641-3185



UPPER CANADA  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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## Vaccinations and Examinations for Your Kitten

Our pet vaccination and wellness program has been designed especially to protect young felines against disease and illness. Our kitten / cat wellness program is available to your pet from 6 weeks of age up to 16 years. It is a well known fact that kittens are vulnerable to contagious and potentially fatal diseases during early stages of development. This is why we are committed to providing a comprehensive medical plan to ensure your kitten gets off to a great start.

Our examination vaccination program protects your kitten against the infectious and potentially fatal diseases:

- Rabies
- Panleukopenia
- Feline Leukemia (FeLV)
- Upper respiratory infections
- Intestinal parasites



### Feline Vaccinations

**FeLV Vaccine** - Protects against Feline Leukemia

Infection with the Feline Leukemia virus can result in a multitude of serious health problems for your cat – everything from cancerous conditions such as leukemia to a wide range of secondary infections caused by the destruction of the immune system. It can be passed through the blood, saliva and urine. Feline Leukemia is a potentially fatal disease.

**FVRCP Vaccine** - Protects against feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, panleukopenia

Infection with these viruses can result in respiratory problems including sneezing, nasal discharge, runny eyes, gastrointestinal problems, diarrhea, dehydration, ulcers and inflammation on tongue and in lungs. These viruses can be passed through the feces and saliva, and can be potentially fatal.

**Rabies Vaccine** – Protects against Rabies

By law, all pets must be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies is an incurable viral disease that affects the central nervous system, and can be passed on to humans. It is spread through the saliva through bites or a break in the skin and is passed into the bloodstream. There is no cure once an animal becomes rabid, it is a fatal disease.



### How Do Vaccines Work?

Vaccines contain small quantities of altered or “killed” viruses, bacteria or other disease-causing organisms. When administered, they stimulate your cat’s immune system to produce disease-fighting cells and proteins (antibodies) to protect you’re your cat against illness and disease.

### When Should My Cat Be Vaccinated?

Generally the immunity that a kitten has at birth begins to diminish after 8-9 weeks. It is then time to begin the initial vaccinations, with boosters following every 4 weeks until the kitten is 16 weeks old. Thereafter, your cat will require booster vaccinations annually.

An annual exam is imperative in the health of your kitten, to address problems before they arise, to protect them from disease, and ensure they live a long, happy, healthy life.



Talk to a member of our Pet Health Care Team today about our vaccination program, and get your kitten off to the best start possible.



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### Feline Nutrition – Healthy Diet Choices

You are what you eat. We have all heard this phrase before, and it rings true not just in humans, but in our pets too. Good nutrition is as important for your cat as it is for you.



There are many cat food options available, and choosing the right food can be confusing, frustrating and very overwhelming given the choices available.

Your kitten's diet will change through their life. Superior nutrition is an extremely important component for getting your kitten off to the best start. As all body systems are developing, it is most important that your kitten receives the benefit of scientifically based diet formulations that provide optimal levels of nutrients.

### A quality kitten food should have:

- Higher levels of protein, calories and minerals than adult diets. Higher calories are necessary for rapid growth patterns in kittens.
- Substantial levels of fatty acids to enhance neurological development, improve skin quality and promote a luxurious coat. Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids, and DHA are essential!
- A balanced level of calcium, phosphorus and other vitamins and minerals to support bones.
- Be highly digestible, resulting in less stool and improved stool quality.
- Be palatable for your furry friend – what's the sense if they don't enjoy it?

### Dry Food Vs. Canned Food

Both dry and canned food can provide the same level of nutrition. Dry food is the most convenient, however, canned food is an excellent way of getting more H<sub>2</sub>O in your cat, maintaining a healthy urinary tract. A mixture of both is a popular method.



### How Much Do I Feed?

How much you feed your kitten depends on a variety of factors, including the nutritional value of the food, your cats' activity level, and age. The recommended daily amount listed on the food packaging is to be used only as a guideline. Our Pet Health Care Team can help you in determining the right amount of food to feed per meal, as well as assess their body condition and change as needed.

### How Often Do I Feed My Cat?

Kittens should be fed a minimum of 2-3 meals per day until they are about 6 months of age. Adult cats require 2 meals per day. Daily caloric intake should be divided per meal to avoid excessive weight gain and obesity.

### Obesity

**Obesity affects almost one out of three pets**, and is a life shortening disease. Research has shown that the average life expectancy of an obese pet is 30% shorter than that of a normal healthy weight pet. Due to the unique metabolism of a cat, it is very difficult to reduce their weight once they have gained a few extra



pounds. For this reason, obesity prevention is exceptionally important. Cats should be meal fed from kitten hood. A canned, high protein quality diet, with a mixture of a high quality dry food is best.

### **Water**

Water is essential in your cats diet. Provide a large bowl of fresh, cool water daily to help maintain your cats health.

### **Milk**

Contrary to popular belief, a saucer of milk is not the best thing for your kitten. Cats are lactose intolerant, and milk can cause diarrhea and stomach upset.



Talk to a member of our Pet Health Care Team for guidance and assistance in choosing the right food for your pet. Our Team is well trained with Royal Canin Canada, manufacturers of Medi-Cal and Royal Canin Veterinary Diets, and undergoes continuing education courses to ensure we have the most recent information and research on dietary needs and advancements. We are here to help.

