

Summary of Key Points in Feline Preventive Healthcare

Annual and Semi-annual Visits

Recalls should emphasize the importance of regular physical exams and consultations and ensure vaccinations are current for individual patients

Nutritional Assessment

Evaluate diet, weight, body condition score and muscle condition at every visit and determine the cat's ideal weight

Recommend:

- A specific diet
- Amount to be fed
- Feeding frequency

Follow-up at a recheck visit and with a follow-up phone call to assess how cat is performing on recommended diet regime

Behaviour and Environmental Assessments

At each visit ask if the owner has any concerns about litter box use and management, house soiling, scratching and behavior problems. Assess resource availability (number and location):

- Food and water stations
- Toys and perches/resting areas
- Litter box number and location

Pet Insurance

A plan should:

- Require an ongoing veterinarian/client/patient relationship
- Allow pet owners the freedom to choose their own veterinarian
- Be clear about their policy limits, pricing structure, and optional coverage
- Communicate clearly about the fee reimbursement process

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) Testing

Testing should be performed for:

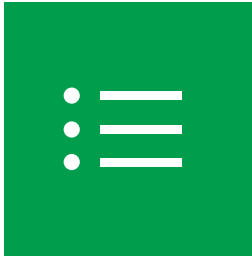
- All kittens
- All cats that are ill, have bite wounds, oral disease, or known exposure to infected cats
- Cats about to be vaccinated for FeLV or FIV
- Cats with ongoing risk (e.g., access to outdoors) should be tested annually

Vaccinations

Should be based on risk assessment, tailored to individual patient

Administer vaccines as follows:

- FvRCP: at or below right elbow
- Rabies: at or below right stifle
- FeLV: at or below left stifle
- Other vaccines not considered necessary for most cats



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Parasite Control

Control and prevention of internal and external parasites is recommended for all cats, regardless of lifestyle

Fleas:

- High-risk cats should receive monthly flea control

Heartworm:

- Preventive protocols should be developed in regions where canine heartworm disease is endemic, and should follow the same schedule used for canine patients
- Testing before administration of prophylaxis is not required

Surgical Sterilization

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) endorses prepubertal surgical sterilization, typically performed between 6-16 weeks of age

The benefits of early sterilization include:

- Reduced risk of disease
- Shorter surgery times
- Lower complication rates
- Lowered risk for developing mammary neoplasia

Dental Care

- Examine oral cavity, discuss oral health and preventive care at every exam
- Anesthesia is required for a detailed oral evaluation, professional cleaning and dental treatment
- Full-mouth radiographs are recommended for all cats when dental care is being provided

Permanent Identification

(microchip +/- tattoo, collar and tag)

- All cats should be identified; the CVMA recommends using a microchip with ISO technology
- Remind clients to update contact information

Disease Screening

Perform blood tests, urinalyses, blood pressure measurement, fundic examination and radiographs as needed in younger cats, and on a regular basis after 8 years of age

Pain Assessment and Management

Evaluate for the presence of pain and the need for analgesia at every exam and in all hospitalized cats