Mio GattoAI

Cat Health Catalogue

Prevention, observation and knowing when to contact a veterinarian

Informational content by Mio GattoAI, prepared with the support of artificial intelligence and reviewed against the product pages. It does not replace a veterinarian's advice: for diagnoses, treatments or emergencies, contact a veterinarian.

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Essential sources

Emergency signs

Open-mouth or difficult breathing, inability to urinate, collapse, seizure, paralysis, major trauma, bleeding or suspected toxin exposure require immediate veterinary contact.

1. Daily observation and health diary

What to observe

Track appetite, drinking, litter use, stool, urine, breathing, movement, sleep, grooming and social contact. Trends, photos and videos help the veterinarian.

Prevention and preparation

Record date, duration, frequency, food, medicines, environmental changes and associated signs.

When to contact a veterinarian

Do not wait with red-flag or progressive signs; do not use human medicines; do not force food, water or handling.

Record	Record date, duration, frequency, food, medicines, environmental changes and associated signs.
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2. Preventive visits and life stages

What to observe

Needs change from kitten to senior. At least one preventive visit a year, and closer checks for seniors or cats with known conditions, supports early recognition and prevention.

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Health intake for a cat rescued from the street

A cat rescued from the street, or one with an unknown health history, should receive a complete veterinary examination as soon as possible. The veterinarian will assess general condition, possible microchip identification, parasites, wounds, infectious diseases and whether blood tests or other diagnostic checks are needed. Depending on age, clinical condition and exposure risk, they may recommend testing for feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), as well as the most appropriate vaccination, parasite-control and neutering plan.

Until the visit and health status are clarified, keep the new cat in a separate, quiet, easy-to-clean space. Avoid direct contact and do not share bowls, litter trays, beds or accessories with other animals in the home. Introductions should be gradual and follow veterinary guidance. A positive screening result should not be interpreted on its own: confirmation or repeat testing may be needed depending on the test type, the cat’s age, the timing of exposure and the clinical picture. Management, monitoring and cohabitation plans should be agreed with the veterinarian for the individual case.

Wounds or lesions that do not heal

Cuts, scratches, bites, abscesses, skin ulcers, oral lesions or other wounds that do not improve progressively, reopen, discharge material, smell unpleasant, or are associated with pain, fever, lethargy, weight loss or reduced appetite need prompt veterinary assessment.

Delayed healing can be linked to local infection, foreign bodies, ongoing trauma, dental disease, metabolic disorders, tumours or immune-system changes. Where risk factors or compatible clinical signs are present, the veterinarian may request a blood count, biochemical profile and targeted tests for infections transmissible between cats, including FeLV and FIV.

Avoid the generic expression “sexually transmitted diseases”: for cats it is more accurate to talk about infections transmissible between cats, noting that FIV is mainly spread through deep bites, while FeLV often requires close and prolonged contact. Do not give antibiotics, corticosteroids or human-use disinfectants without veterinary prescription.

Educational note

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3. Weight, Body Condition Score and muscle

What to observe

Track appetite, drinking, litter use, stool, urine, breathing, movement, sleep, grooming and social contact. Trends, photos and videos help the veterinarian.

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4. Complete and safe nutrition

What to observe

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5. Water and hydration

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6. Urinary health and litter trays

What to observe

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7. Kidneys, thyroid and diabetes: indirect signs

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8. Mouth and teeth

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9. Vomiting, diarrhoea and hairballs

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10. Skin, ears and coat

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11. Eyes and vision

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12. Breathing, heart and exercise tolerance

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13. Pain, mobility and osteoarthritis

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14. Behaviour, stress and conflict

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15. Sleep and cognitive change

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16. Parasites and transmissible disease

What to observe

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17. Vaccination, microchip and emergency planning

What to observe

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18. Toxins and foreign bodies

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19. Kittens: growth and prevention

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20. Senior cats: adapting home and care

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21. Low-stress transport and visits

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22. Information sheet for the veterinarian

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Essential sources

AAFP 2020 Feline Retrovirus Testing and Management Guidelines

https://catvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/RetrovirusGLS.pdf

Cornell Feline Health Center — Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center/health-information/feline-health-topics/feline-immunodeficiency-virus-fiv

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