



Your New Cat: Vet Care and Spaying or Neutering

Veterinary Care for Your Cat

Making sure your feline companion is in good physical condition should be one of your top concerns. It is important you make an initial visit and discuss any medical or health concerns you may have with your veterinarian. If you haven't yet decided who will be your regular veterinarian, call vets in your area, or ask for recommendations from the SPCA or friends and family.

Most cats leaving SPCAs in Nova Scotia will have received a de-worming and a basic booster that covers most of the common viruses applicable to cats. Your adopted cat will most likely have been spayed or neutered. Depending on the season, your cat may have also received a flea prevention treatment. All of this information should be documented in your cat's health record, which you should take with you to all of your appointments.

Veterinary care varies greatly, from vets with traditional views and methods, to holistic vets with alternative treatments. Some vets may specialize in certain breeds or skills. Veterinary services, including hours of operation and cost, may also play a factor in determining which clinic you select. It is important to become familiar with the local veterinary emergency clinic. Many emergency pet incidents occur at inopportune times, like late in the evening or on a Sunday when your regular veterinary clinic is closed.

Spaying and Neutering

There is always a large number of cats in shelters across the province waiting for responsible and loving homes. Adult cats are often spayed or neutered before leaving SPCAs in Nova Scotia. Kittens may be adopted with a certificate for their spay or neuter operation, which must be completed by the age of six months. **Spaying and neutering is the best way to combat the pet overpopulation crisis.**

A female cat in heat is very stressful for any family and possibly your neighbors, keeping you awake all hours of the night howling and acting in ways that can be embarrassing. Unaltered male cats will "spray" their territory, leaving behind an unpleasant odour that is difficult to eliminate. Both males and females, if not spayed or neutered, may also experience medical problems such as testicular cancer, and various other reproductive system cancers and illnesses, not to mention the fact that occurrences of urinary complications are much higher.