



Kitten Intake for Foster Programs

Purpose

To ensure thorough and consistent examination and preventive care for kittens in foster homes.

Equipment & Supplies

- Scale
- Stethoscope
- Pyrantel pamoate
- Ponazuril
- Topical selamectin
- Nitenpyram
- Praziquantel
- Identification band
- Microchip and universal scanner
- Thermometer and lubricant
- 1 & 3 cc syringes
- Intake form/medical record-keeping system

Biosecurity

- Always wear gloves when handling kittens
- Change gloves between litters
- Do not hold kittens against clothing
- Use a towel on intake exam table when intake processing litters and replace towel between litters
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect intake exam table, stethoscope, weight scale, etc., between litters

Intake Processing Procedure

For all kittens and cats

1. Take a digital photo and label with individual impound number
2. Scan for a microchip
3. Offer canned kitten food and ensure patient is eating on its own (for kittens that appear to be 4 weeks or older)
4. Complete tasks from “Medical Treatments on Intake”
5. For physical examination, assess the following:
 - a. Determine sex
 - b. Determine age based on weight and teeth eruption
 - c. Attitude
 - d. Hydration status
 - e. Determine body condition score
 - f. Coat and skin
 - g. Eyes/Ears/Nose/Mouth/Teeth/Mucous Membrane Color
 - h. Heart/Lungs
 - i. Abdomen
 - j. Anus/Genitals
 - k. Muscle Tone/Ambulation
 - l. Obtain body temperature (normal range: 99-102.5°F)
6. Insert microchip and scan for confirmation**
7. Document exam findings and microchip information on medical record
8. Place kittens into sanitized multi-compartment housing unit with bedding, food, water, and litter until they are moved to a foster home

Medical Treatments on Intake

| Treatment | Requirement | Dose/Duration | Route |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Wood's Lamp Exam | Required | Once (performed in complete darkness) | NA |
| Identification band | Required | Once and remove before sending to foster | NA |
| Weigh | Required | Once in pounds and ounces | NA |
| Physical Examination | Required | Once | NA |
| Modified Live Virus (MLV) FVRCP | Required – 4 weeks or older | Once | Subcutaneously |
| Ponazuril | Required – 2 weeks or older | Once at intake and repeated once daily for additional 2 days* | Orally |
| Pyrantel pamoate | Required – 2 weeks or older | Once* | Orally |
| Microchip | Required** | Once | Subcutaneously |
| Topical selamectin | If fleas present | Once* | Topically |
| Nitenpyram | Optional if visible fleas present | Once* | Orally |
| Praziquantel | Optional if tapeworms present | Once* | Subcutaneously |
| Probiotics | Optional | Sprinkle on food for 3-5 days* | Orally |

*Consult with program veterinarian for initial and repeat dosing.

**If kittens are less than 4 weeks of age the microchip can be implanted at a recheck appointment

Medical follow up after initial intake

Kittens < 5 months of age:

Every 2 weeks until 20 weeks of age:

- Physical examination
- Pyrantel pamoate
- MLV FVRCP vaccine (4 weeks of age and older)

Every 4 weeks:

- Topical selamectin (If needed)

Kittens > 5 months of age and adult cats:

At 2-week recheck:

- Physical examination
- MLV FVRCP vaccine
- Pyrantel pamoate

Every 4 weeks:

- Physical examination
- Topical selamectin (If needed)
- Healthy adult cats in a prolonged foster period may need less frequent examinations and re-checks.

Additional Resources

[Animal Intake Physical Examination](#)

[Using Teeth to Determine Kitten Age](#)

[Is it a Male or Female Kitten?](#)