

Baby's First Checkup

Here's what you need to know for a stress-free and productive veterinary visit.

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Take It Home Be sure you have the following in hand before walking out the clinic door: 1. A written health record with the day's procedures recorded. 2. A written physical exam "report card" on your kitten's checkup. 3. A vaccination, fecal and deworming schedule for your kitten's first year of life. 4. An appointment card for your kitten's next exam and booster vaccination. 5. The food or medication prescribed.

Whew! You made it. Time to head home with your kitten, who will likely drift into a long, adult-strength catnap when you arrive home. Car travel and all the excitement of the veterinary hospital can be exhausting. Some kittens experience mild fever after vaccines, just as human babies do. However, never give a kitten any over-the-counter fever-reducer, because they are toxic to cats. Call your veterinarian for expert advice on how to help your kitten bounce back faster. Tempt it with something extra-tasty for supper, and before you know it, you'll have your endearing kitten-clown back in action and making you smile.