

Maintain your cat's health

You can maintain your cat's overall health in two important ways: 1) schedule an annual preventive visit with your veterinarian as well as other visits as needed; and 2) perform daily home examinations.

Do a nose-to-tail checkup every time you cuddle with your cat. Feel your cat's body for lumps, bumps, puffiness, sores and irregularities. Call your vet if you detect any abnormalities during these regular checks.

Keeping your cat's claws clipped is an important part of grooming. If not kept at the proper length, a cat's claws can actually grow into the paw pads, so attend to the claws weekly.

Never give your cat any medications, including aspirin, without the advice of your veterinarian. Many common human drugs (like acetaminophen [Tylenol]) are poisonous to cats.

Source: Humane Society of the United States



Escondido Humane Society
3450 E. Valley Parkway
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Escondido Humane Society

Keeping your cat healthy and happy



Photo by Skyy Blue Photography

Visit us online at
www.escondidohumanesociety.org
for more cat resources

The Escondido Humane Society
Adoption Center is open from
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

Your cat's health care

Take your new cat to the veterinarian right away for a check-up, fecal test and necessary vaccinations that will protect it from various life-threatening feline diseases. An annual visit is recommended for check-ups and booster vaccinations. In the event of injury or health problems see your vet immediately.

Early warning signs of illness

- Sneezing
- Vomiting
- Discharge from the nose
- Watery eyes
- Lethargy
- Diarrhea
- Lack of appetite
- Straining while urinating or defecating

Your kitten's health care

Kittens are normally full of life and should always appear alert and playful. If you suspect your kitten is ill, **DO NOT WAIT TO SEEK TREATMENT.**

Kittens are very vulnerable to dehydration, and this severe condition can kill a kitten within 24 hours. Both upper respiratory infection and diarrhea cause dehydration and need immediate medical attention.

Most kittens will come down with a mild infection during or after adoption. The trip to a new home is often stressful for cats and kittens. Many kittens contract upper respiratory infection, eye infection or diarrhea. If treated early, usually only one trip to your vet is necessary, resulting in minimal cost. However, if you wait until the kitten or cat is in critical condition, the cost can increase dramatically.

The Escondido Humane Society is a nonprofit adoption organization and is not licensed to treat your kitten or cat once you have completed the adoption.

Tackling fleas

Fleas are a common problem in San Diego County and can result in your kitten or cat contracting tapeworms.

Our cats and kittens are treated for fleas before adoption. Ask your veterinarian about further precautions to take.

Does my cat have fleas?

When grooming, cats may eat fleas that they discover, making it difficult to find adult fleas in the coat. An itchy cat, or insect bites on human ankles, may be the only sign of infestation. The best way to demonstrate the presence of fleas is to comb the cat meticulously with a fine-toothed flea comb over a clean white surface such as a piece of paper. Fleas and 'flea dirt' (flea excrement consisting of undigested cat blood) will be deposited onto the surface.