



Southern Cross  
Pet Insurance

# Cat healthcare tips

Looking after a pet is a big responsibility and there's lots to remember.

## Desexing your cat

Have your cat desexed by your vet at around 4-6 months of age. Desexing can prevent unwanted pregnancies and behaviours like fighting, spraying urine or wandering and reduces chances of catching Feline AIDS.

**Your cat should always have access to clean drinking water.**



## Microchipping

Microchipping is a great idea so if your cat gets lost, you and your cat can be easily reunited. You should also register your cat on the NZ Companion Animal Register.

**Good to know: Southern Cross PetCare policies cover \$25 each policy year for annual vaccinations.**



## Vaccinations

Vaccinations against disease are critical throughout your cat's life. The kitten vaccination schedule starts at 6-8 weeks old and booster vaccines are repeated at 10-12 and 14-16 weeks of age, then annually after that.

## Worming

Kittens commonly pick up a variety of worms from their mother or environment so use a broad spectrum wormer. A kitten or cat with worms may show the following symptoms: a dull coat, eating a lot but not gaining weight and a slight pot belly. Kittens need worming doses every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, monthly until they're 6 months old, then every 3 months thereafter.

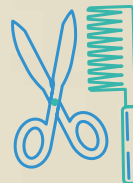
**Cats need worm treatment every 3 months.**



## Flea and tick control

Fleas and ticks can negatively affect your cat's health so applying flea and tick control regularly is important all year. Only use flea products that are safe for cats. You may also need to treat your home with a flea and tick control product.

**Grooming helps keep their skin and coat healthy and prevents hairballs.**



**Chewable food helps prevent tooth decay and keeps teeth strong.**



## A balanced diet

A balanced diet is important so your cat lives a long healthy life. Kittens need a diet that specifically promotes bone growth. Don't give milk to your cat as most are lactose intolerant and this may cause diarrhoea.

Always consult your vet on the best way to look after your cat. And to avoid unexpected costs, make sure your pet is insured.

Get a quote at  
[southerncrosspet.co.nz](https://southerncrosspet.co.nz)  
or call us on 0800 800 836.