



Preparation for birth

Cats are very good of taking care of themselves during the pregnancy and birth, however, it is a good idea to prepare a 'maternity box', where she can give birth and feel safe. This box should be at least 2'x3', approx 1' tall. A cardboard box is ideal. There will need to be a hole in the side where the queen can crawl in and out. Place blankets and soft bedding in the bottom. Keep this box in a warm, quiet and draught free place. It is a good idea to get the cat used to this special bed before the birth.

If at any point during the pregnancy or birth you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the surgery.

Remember there is a vet on call 24 hours a day,

www.valeveterinarygroup.co.uk



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Serving the Mid Devon Community since 1918.

Caring For Your Pregnant Queen



Where your animal's health is our top priority.

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How can I tell if my queen is pregnant?

Cats become pregnant very easily. Pregnancy can occur whenever the female is in heat (calling), this is on a continual cycle from spring through to autumn. To start with there will be no obvious signs that she is pregnant, however after about three weeks there will be tell tale signs;

- Nipples become red and enlarged (approx 3 weeks after mating).

- Occasional vomiting may be seen, this is normal.

- Weight gain.

- Abdominal swelling.

- Behavioural signs, she may become 'maternal', and may even purr more!

- Near to giving birth she will become unsettled, usually a sign she is looking for somewhere to give birth.

The average cat pregnancy lasts for between 60 & 63 days. Diagnosis can be made by a vet. They can perform an ultra sound scan from about 28 days.

Feeding

During the first half of the pregnancy the queen won't need any additional feeding. However, from the fourth week she will need extra nutrition. You can either increase the amount fed by approx 15% or change to a high quality kitten food. We recommend feeding Royal Canin Weaning Biscuits. These can then be fed to the kittens too from 4 weeks.

Healthy pregnancy

Cats are capable of taking good care of themselves during pregnancy, but there are several things you can do to help everything go smoothly;

Vaccinations

We do not vaccinate cats during pregnancy and lactation. It is a good idea to have your cat vaccinated prior to mating. Healthy mums pass on their immunity to the kittens in the colostrum ('first milk'), so it's good to make sure the antibody levels are at a peak.

Flea and worm control

We recommend worming your cat with Drontal Cat before mating. Worming during pregnancy is not usually required for cats, however products such as Profender and Drontal On are safe to use.

We recommend treating your queen for fleas prior to mating. There are several products that are safe to use during pregnancy such as Frontline.

After your cat has given birth, both she and the kittens will need to be wormed with panacur liquid.

