

Ideal Kitten Timeline

Following the timeline below will maximize your likelihood of raising a confident, well-mannered and enjoyable lifelong feline companion.

Age	Steps to take
7 weeks old	First kitten vaccine
6-9 weeks old	Best age to leave mom and littermates is 8 weeks of age. Keep kitten confined to one room with easy access to food dish, water dish and a shallow litter pan. Offer a mix of canned and dry kitten foods to prevent 'food fixation' Introduce a scratching post and hiding boxes
11 weeks old	Second kitten vaccines
10-14 weeks old	Begin to allow access to rest of home Introduce a second litter pan location Start nail trims: 1 paw per day, repeat every 2-3 weeks Start offering dry food in puzzle toys or mazes Encourage scratching post use – play games, cat nip Introduce a ceiling height cat post, if possible
15 weeks old	3 rd kitten vaccines
15-22 weeks old	Continue nail trims Start home oral care – wipe teeth daily with soft gauze Continue feeding in puzzle toys
19 weeks old	1 st feline leukemia vaccine if cat will be permitted outdoors or if at risk of occasional escape
22 weeks old	Final feline leukemia vaccine Schedule for spay/neuter

The feline leukemia vaccine indicated for cats who spend any time at all outdoors. It is suggested for all kittens in case of accidental escape. If the cat is living indoors only with no escapes at 1 year of age, the leukemia vaccine can be discontinued.