



During your initial visit we will discuss.....

Biannual wellness exams and your cat's vaccine schedule. Here at Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital, our wellness examination and vaccination protocol is slightly different than what you may be used to. We are very interested in preventative care. We have found that early detection of diseases makes for better treatment outcomes. Since every year of your cat's life is equivalent to seven human years, we believe that biannual wellness exams are the best method for early disease detection. We have seen that biannual wellness exams allow us to provide the best possible health care to your pet for a variety of reasons: In addition to early disease detection, seeing your pet twice a year allows us to split up how many vaccines your pet receives at one time. Most cats' vaccine schedules will follow the recommended protocol including **FVRCP**, **Feline Leukemia** and **Rabies** vaccines. Cats, just like humans, can have reactions to vaccines, and splitting the vaccines among two visits six months apart decreases the chance of a vaccine reaction. Biannual wellness exams also allow us to individually tailor a vaccine protocol to the needs of your pet. Once your biannual exam schedule is established, our reminder systems will be set to alert you via email, regular mail, or telephone when your pet's next wellness exam is due to help ensure the health of your four-legged family member.

Your cat should be tested for **Feline Leukemia** during your first visit, if he or she has not already recently been tested. Feline Leukemia is a deadly viral disease that is spread by the bodily fluids of infected cats through common litter boxes, bite wounds, social grooming and shared food and water bowls. While your cat may currently live exclusively indoors and have a very low risk of contracting the disease at the present time, *circumstances may change in the future*. Vaccination to help prevent this disease is recommended in all cats, and **we strongly recommend vaccinating any outdoor cats for Feline Leukemia**. The Purevax® Recombinant Leukemia Vaccine/ Vetjet® transdermal system is used here at Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital, and is widely considered the safest and most effective method of Feline Leukemia vaccination in the veterinary industry.

***Please alert us to any of your cat's changes in lifestyle; these can include boarding/grooming appointments, new pets in the household, escapes from indoors, etc.!**



Revolution® is our product of choice for your cat to prevent heartworm disease, kill adult fleas and prevent their eggs from hatching, and treat and control ear mites, roundworms and hookworms. Revolution® is an easy-to-use topical solution, and should be applied to your cat once monthly on a year round basis. We recommend that both indoor and outdoor cats be treated with Revolution® since each can be exposed to mosquitoes that spread heartworm disease.

Heartworm disease is potentially lethal in cats, and there is no approved treatment for the disease in our feline patients, so prevention really is the best medicine for this potentially deadly disease!

Fleas are not only a nuisance, but can also be hosts for tapeworms and other parasites. They are difficult to eradicate from a home once they are introduced!

While **ear mites** can be painful to your cat and cause infections in the ears, **roundworm** and **hookworm** infections are *particularly* dangerous because they can be transmitted to *humans*; small children can become infected by playing in areas where animal feces is present. For this reason, we recommend a fecal sample be tested for intestinal parasites.

There are many factors to consider when choosing a diet for your cat! These can include convenience, cost, quality, and even health conditions specific to your cat. His or her diet should be one that is easy to find and purchase, and be of a reasonable level of quality. At any one of your visits to Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital, we can provide you with a **“diet calculation,”** a feeding guide specially tailored to your cat and the specific diet that he or she is presently eating.



The few general rules of thumb for cat litter boxes in the household. These recommendations are all geared toward your cat using his or her box reliably. Poor litter box habits can be devastating to a household, and remain some of the most common reasons for euthanasia in cats surrendered to shelters.

1. The first “rule” is that cats prefer clean litter that is scooped or changed regularly; the boxes cannot be too clean, and this might mean daily or twice daily scooping.
2. There should be enough litter boxes available if you have a multiple cat household. At least one box per cat is the minimum, and most experts in feline behavior recommend one per cat plus one extra.
3. Be certain that your cat can easily access the litter box, and that it is located in a low traffic area where he or she feels comfortable. Also be certain that your cat fits comfortably inside the box to avoid tipping or eliminating over the sides!

We recommend that your cat remain indoors for several reasons. These include the decreased risk of trauma and disease. Cats that live exclusively indoors are far less likely to be hit by vehicles, attacked by other cats or dogs, or preyed on by wildlife. They are also much less likely to be exposed to potentially deadly diseases like Feline Leukemia or FIV. You might also consider that an indoor cat’s diet will be easier to control, and even neighbors who are animal lovers might not appreciate an unwelcome guest at their birdfeeder!

Have us show you how to trim your cat’s nails! Be sure to provide your cat with a scratching post or outlet other than your furniture. If you become frustrated with his or her scratching habits in the household, there are ways we can help; ask us about Soft Paws® nail caps or other solutions.



Spaying or neutering your cat. If not already done, we recommend that all of our feline patients be spayed or neutered; this procedure can prevent disease in your pet and help him or her be a much happier and contented housemate for you! At Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital, every safeguard is taken to assure that this surgery will be performed safely. We will remind you to have blood work submitted in the week prior to the scheduled surgery to rule out any systemic disease or irregularity that might interfere with the procedure, your cat will be closely monitored throughout the process, and he or she will be medicated appropriately to treat any discomfort following surgery. You can take your cat home later the same day, and we will provide you with easy-to-follow discharge instructions. We will ask you to return for a courtesy recheck exam ten days post-operatively; any external sutures will be removed at that time, and your cat will be examined by one of our veterinary nurses.

A **microchip** used for permanent identification of your cat is recommended if he or she does not already have one. We use the **HomeAgain® microchip** and recovery service, and the fee includes both the microchip placement and registration. Microchip scanners are used at all animal shelters and veterinary hospitals, and can help get your pet back to you safely if he or she is ever lost!

Oral care and brushing your cat's teeth. Your cat's physical exam at Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital will always include careful examination of his or her mouth, teeth and gums; this is an extremely important tool to help maintain your cat's oral health for years to come! *Home dental care* can include brushing the teeth, the topical application of products like Oravet® Plaque Prevention Gel, water additives, or even special chews and treats. We will find the home care that works best for your cat and your lifestyle, and demonstrate how easily you can accomplish it!