

*“Pearls”  
of  
Veterinary Medicine*



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## Behavior – Pediatrics – Feline Medicine

### Foster kitten socialization guidelines

Foster care environments significantly impact kitten development and behavior. **Kittens benefit greatly from being housed in social areas of the home** (living rooms rather than isolated rooms), showing 2-3 times greater odds of positive responses to human interaction, play, and novel objects. However, some alone time is also crucial - kittens with no alone time showed negative responses to play, while excessive isolation also produced negative outcomes. A cat's exceptionally wide hearing range (0.125–60 kHz), one of the largest among mammals, likely explains why kittens in quiet households showed significantly better behavioral outcomes. These kittens had nearly double the odds of positive behavioral responses compared to those raised in loud, active environments. **Gradual introduction to busier areas is recommended for noisy homes.**

Early socialization (2-7 weeks) with multiple people improves friendliness and reduces fear. **Kittens need exposure to children**, as those with no child exposure

showed significantly higher negative responses to human interaction. Interestingly, **bottle-feeding and singleton status showed no negative behavioral impacts.** Ringworm treatment using oral medications and baths created negative associations with new objects, suggesting positive reinforcement techniques would improve outcomes.

[Campbell, GR. Et al. \*Applied Animal Behavior Sci\* \(2024\); 276L106306](#)

[Cap Rep \(2025\).44\(2\):1](#)



## Feline Medicine

### Feline Grimace Scale Apps

[Sylvester.ai](#) is a mobile and web application that uses facial analysis and machine learning to detect signs of pain in cats based on the Feline Grimace Scale. A single photo analysis is free for pet owners, with subscription options of \$9.99/month or \$59.99/year for ongoing use. For veterinary clinics, there is a free plan offering educational resources, or a \$99/month professional plan for unlimited in-clinic assessments. A completely free, manual (non-AI) version of the [Feline Grimace Scale](#) is also available on both major app stores.

[Cap Rep \(2025\).44\(2\):1](#)

## Gastroenterology – Feline Medicine

### Approach to the cat with acute GI signs

**Acute vomiting with normal PE:** withhold food for 24 hours then feed bland diet for several days.

**Acute diarrhea with normal PE:** perform fecal float, fecal wet mount (look for trophozoites of *Giardia* or *Tritrichomonas*), rectal cytology (if neutrophils or spirochetes are observed, run fecal PCR or culture for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*) and a CBC (to check for eosinophilia which suggests parasitism or inflammatory bowel disease).

**For a dehydrated cat,** run a chemistry panel, urinalysis, FeLV, and FIV tests. Include a T4 if the cat is >5 years old.