

Vocabulary words:

Abscess- A localized collection of pus anywhere in the body

Agouti – the sandy color found between the black stripes of a tabby

Albino – Lack of the pigment melanin which causes white fur and pink eyes.

Cardiology – the study of the heart and its diseases and treatments

Cataracts – Changes in the lens of the eye that make light unable to go through the lens, reducing the animals ability to see.

Color points – The color markings on the face (mask), ears, tail, legs and paws, being a distinctive color different from the rest of the coat, which is a lighter shade.

Dermatitis – An inflammation of the skin

Diabetes – Lack of production in insulin by the pancreas which causes cells to be unable to use sugar.

Elizabethan collar – A cardboard or plastic funnel fitted over head to prevent an animal from interfering with wounds or bandages on its body.

Estrous – the entire reproductive cycle, lasts 14-21 days in cats

Feral – a once domesticated cat or the descendants of a once domesticated cat now living in the wild state

Genes – Units of heredity that control the growth, development, function and physical characteristics of the cat.

Heterozygous – having two different alleles received from each parent for a particular trait (Aa)

Homozygous – Having an identical pair of alleles for a particular trait (AA/aa)

Host – An animal upon which a parasite lives.

Intact – The reproductive ability of an animal has not been altered.

Immune system – an animal's infection-fighting disease preventing, health-maintaining system which involves special infection fighting cells.

Mentor – Someone who guides, helps, demonstrates or otherwise helps someone else.

Neurology – the study of the nervous system and its diseases and treatments.

Pathogen – Organism capable of producing disease

Pedigree – a record of ancestry showing a cat's family tree over several generations.

Queen – go into labor; deliver kittens; give birth to kittens; mother cat.

Recessive gene – A gene whose characteristics are over ridden by a dominant gene in each pairing of chromosomes, so the characteristic is not evident in the resulting offspring.

Tortoiseshell – coat color resulting from linkage of dominant and recessive orange genes, both carried by female chromosome. Tortoiseshell cats are usually female.

Zoonosis – disease that can be passed between animals and humans.

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