



Woofles Gourmet Petfood Kitchen

Caring for a new kitten

CAT PROOFING YOUR HOME:

Kittens are very curious little creatures and love to explore every nook and cranny they can find. It is important to ensure your kitten can't get into any area that could harm him, things like electric jug cords that he could try and play with, power cables, things on bookshelves, curtain/blind cords, poisonous household items etc.

SOME ITEMS YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR NEW KITTEN:

Food – It is important to feed your kitten a suitable diet. Cats are obligate carnivores and rely on nutrients and minerals from meat muscle and tissue. We suggest starting your kitten on a raw food diet, meaning they receive a combination of species appropriate raw meat and bones. Kittens need to eat a higher fat / higher protein diet than an older cat. Foods such as duck, rabbit and ostrich and fish and chicken are good choices for kittens.

Water Bowls – Most cats love the pure, fresh taste of running water, so always make sure your cats water is fresh and changed on a daily basis. An automatic dispenser or water fountain are also a good choice.

Toys – kittens love to play, and a lot of bonding time with your kitten will begin by playing with your kitten and his toys. Dangly toys can keep kittens entertained for hours, as well as scratching posts, little furry balls they can chase, or tunnels they can run through.

Cat Carrier – a transport box is a necessity when owning a cat, there will be times you will need to transport the kitten to and from the vet for vaccinations etc.

Litter box and kitty litter – This is an all-important purchase, and is an absolute must for both indoor and indoor-outdoor cats. Look for a sizable box with high sides for grown cats, as they tend to throw the litter around quite a bit. These can also be as simple or as extravagant as your wallet allows, but let's start with a basic plastic litterbox for now. Kittens will need a box that's low enough for them to enter easily. As the cat gets older, if you intend your cat to remain indoors, it is ideal to purchase a box with higher sides, which the cat can jump into and out of, helping to prevent spreading of kitty litter all around the place.

A Bed - Since this is your first cat, he or she may likely sleep on your own bed, however it's still a good idea to provide kitty with her own special, cozy place for napping. The bed should be comfortable, easily washable and spacious enough for an adult cat to curl up comfortably, but not so vast that she'll feel exposed and vulnerable.



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FLEAS: are a common problem in kittens, especially during summer. It is important to use a product that is safe for kittens, as a lot of flea products are only suitable for adult cats. A natural based product such as 'Flee Flea' is a great way to keep fleas away if you use it on a regular basis.

WORMING: is it important to worm your kitten every 3 weeks from the age of 6 weeks to 16 weeks of age. From 4 months onwards, kittens and cats should be wormed every 3 months.

VACCINATIONS: All kittens require 2 vaccinations given 3-4 weeks apart. The first vaccinations should be taken at about 9 weeks of age, and the second at around 12 weeks of age. Vaccinations protect your kitten against Feline Enteritis, Chlamydia, Feline Aids, Feline Panleukopenia, Feline Rhinotracheitis, and Feline Calicivirus. Each Vet clinic offers a different course of vaccinations, so always check with your vet to ensure you are vaccinating against the right things.

DESEXING: When your kitten is 6 months of age, it is old enough to be spayed or castrated. If you are not planning on breeding from your kitten, it is a good idea to have this done, not just for convenience reasons but there are significant health benefits as well.

SOCIALISATION: Although cats are fairly independent animals and do well on their own, they are quite social. Cats that receive little or no contact with people, other animals and new environments while they are young, may develop behavioural problems such as anxiety or fear. It is a good idea to try and expose your kitten to different people, places and things while they are young. The first few months of a cats life are the most crucial to their social development.