

KITTEN SHOPPING LIST

Food: Your kitten should be fed a premium diets for kittens. Kittens should be fed 2-3 times per day. Leave the food down for 20 minutes and take it away after that time or when the kitten walks away. Starting your kitten on scheduled feedings now will make it easier to monitor how much your cat is eating as an adult.

Treats: Treats should be fed minimally to your kitten. Catnip or “cat grass” can be offered, but can cause an upset stomach in some cats.

Toys and scratching post: Your kitten should be offered a variety of toys of various sizes and textures. Avoid toys with bells that can be chewed off or small toys that could be swallowed which could cause a blockage in the intestines. Your kitten should be given a variety of scratching posts to find the texture that your kitten prefers. Some kittens prefer posts that stand vertical, while others prefer items that lay flat on the floor. Encourage your kitten to scratch these



items by gently rubbing their front paws on the post to “show” them how to use them. Sometimes sprinkling catnip on or around the post will attract your cat to the scratching post. If your kitten is scratching furniture, carpet or other items in your home that are not appropriate, you may place double-sided tape on those items or squirt your kitten with water when you catch them scratching.

Bowls: You will need a bowl for food and a bowl for water. Ceramic or metal dishes are recommended as they can be kept cleaner than plastic. Some cats prefer running water and cat “water fountains” are available.

Collar and ID tag: Break-away collars designed for cats are recommended. Your ID tag should include your contact information and should be updated frequently! We also recommend microchipping your kitten. A microchip is a form of permanent identification that is injected under the skin. The information associated with the microchip should also be updated as needed.



Grooming: All cats should be brushed regularly. Long-haired cats may need to be professionally groomed from time to time, so it is a good idea to start a relationship with a groomer. Be sure to play with your kitten’s ears, eyes, mouth and feet regularly to get them used to having those areas touched. Most kittens do not need to be bathed and usually they do not like to be bathed which can make for a bad experience for both you and your kitten. Grooming wipes can be used for small messes on your kitten’s fur. Here are some items you should purchase for grooming your kitten:

- ◆ Brush or comb appropriate for your kitten’s coat
- ◆ Toothbrush and toothpaste (never use human toothpaste)
- ◆ Nail trimmer and styptic powder (Kwik Stop)

Litter box and litter: Select a litter box that is shallow enough for your kitten to easily get into and out of. You should have one more litter box than the number of cats you have in your home. The litter boxes should be placed in various areas around the house, and if you have a multi-level home, there should be at least one box per level. You should also offer your kitten both covered and uncovered litter pans. Litter box liners should be avoided. Select a non-scented, low dust litter. If changing brands of litter, be sure to mix the two litters together to slowly transition your kitten to the new litter. Litter boxes should be scooped out at least once per day, so using a clumping litter is best for this purpose. If using a regular clay litter, solid waste should be scooped out at least daily and the entire box should be emptied and cleaned weekly.