

Grooming

Cats, especially the long-haired breeds, should be brushed frequently. Otherwise, your cat could swallow too much hair which can lead to complications serious enough to necessitate veterinary care. Don't use a hard wire brush, however; these are uncomfortable for your cat. Ask your veterinarian or pet shop about a hairball remedy. It is helpful in reducing digestive system distress caused by ingesting hair during grooming.

Other

Never disturb your kitten when it's eating, drinking, or using the litter box. Care for your kitten with love and patience. If you are rough and uncaring, your kitten will be the same. Don't allow your kitten to play with you with its claws extended. Encourage healthy play with items available from your pet shop.

Above all, ENJOY YOUR KITTEN! If you have any questions, be sure to ask your pet shop or your veterinarian. The ensuing years are for you and your cat to enjoy together.

Finally

This informational pamphlet is not a substitute for a good book. Visit your pet store for a wide selection of books on the responsible care and maintenance of your kitten.

MY KITTEN

Kitten's Name: _____

CFA#: _____

Date: _____

Veterinarian: _____

Phone: _____

Vet Checks	Date	Care Prescribed
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Spayed//Neutered: _____
Date

Shots:	Type	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Food:
Type: _____

Frequency: _____

Owner:
Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Purchased from:



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TAKING CARE OF YOUR KITTEN



PET INFORMATION BUREAU

"WE CARE ABOUT PET CARE"™

"WE CARE ABOUT PET CARE" and we know you do, too!

That's why we're including this care and handling brochure with your new kitten. This guide will answer many of your questions and will help you take good care of your kitten. Sometimes you will have to consult your local veterinarian on animal health problems. You, your veterinarian and your pet store will form the team which will be responsible for your kitten's well-being during its lifetime.

A kitten is a playful, curious and intelligent pet which will provide you with almost endless fun and laughter. Although some of this playfulness will be lost as your pet grows into a cat, it will still be an affectionate, clean and elegant animal who will provide you with years of enjoyment.

Taking Your Kitten Home

When choosing a kitten at your pet shop, make sure its eyes are clear, bright and well-rounded. Its coat should be soft and full, not rough. The kitten should be playful; an apathetic or lethargic kitten may be sick. In general, the kitten should be alert, lively and curious.

Never lift a kitten or cat by the scruff of the neck. You should gently place one hand under your kitten's chest to support its weight while placing your other hand under its back legs for stability.

Spend as much time as possible with your kitten during its first few days in its new home. A weekend or vacation is a good time to help your kitten adjust to its new environment and to the absence of its litter mates. Give your pet understanding, affection and reassurance as it becomes familiar and comfortable with you and its new surroundings. Avoid startling noises and movements which may frighten your kitten during this adjustment period.

Kittens also need lots of rest and sleep which helps them develop into healthy and strong adult cats. The kitten should be free to choose its own sleep and play areas. However, it should be provided with a sleeping basket, equipped with a soft pillow and

blanket and placed in a quiet spot. The basket's bedding should be washed once a week or so.

Housing

Your kitten should be allowed to roam freely about the house or apartment, although during the initial adjustment period you may want to confine it to one or two rooms. As its confidence grows, it can be allowed to explore other areas of its new home.

You should also provide your kitten with items specifically designed for climbing and scratching. This will keep it from using your furniture for these purposes. Kittens have an innate desire to sharpen their front claws regularly. Rather than trying to suppress this natural urge, you should encourage your kitten to use things which belong to it exclusively. Rubbing catnip or a favorite treat on a preferred surface will encourage your kitten to use it rather than furniture or carpeting.

An outdoor run is a good way to let your kitten experience the great outdoors safely. Letting cats run loose can be dangerous—annual statistics show that more than 50,000 cats are killed each year by cars. Neighbors may also take offense if your cat soils their gardens. An outdoor run should be enclosed by fence or screen on all sides and the top, have both sunny and shady areas, and have shelves for sitting on and climbing. Keep in mind, however, that keeping your kitten in the run continuously without human interaction can be psychologically detrimental to your pet.

Feeding

Two bowls are necessary for your kitten; one for food and one for water. Your pet store carries a complete line of commercially prepared foods which will meet your cat's nutritional requirements in dry, canned or moist varieties.

Your cat will probably nibble frequently during the day as opposed to consuming one or two large meals, so you should keep food in its bowl at all times. Don't let the food spoil, however. Dishes containing canned

food should be picked up after a reasonable time, 30-60 minutes, the leftover food discarded and the dish washed thoroughly. Dry food lasts longer, but the dish should still be washed frequently and any leftover food discarded.

Fresh water should also be provided at all times. Change the water no less than once a day and never leave the water bowl empty!

Housebreaking

Kittens are naturally clean animals. Locate a litter box in a quiet area and show your kitten where it is located. The litter should be changed frequently. If it becomes too soiled, your kitten may start relieving itself on the floor beside the box.

Spay/Neuter

Neutered males normally will not spray their urine in the house, a practice that smells and looks unpleasant. Your cat will also wander away from home less, get into fewer fights with other cats, and will not contribute to increasing the cat population (the strongest argument for neutering).

Female cats usually come into heat twice a year unless spayed. Females kept strictly indoors may come into heat more frequently. When in heat, the cat will make prolonged, noisy lamentations if she's not let out, and she'll try to escape at every opportunity. Spaying will make life easier for both your cat and yourself and, as with males, will prevent her from producing additional cats in an already overcrowded world.

Shots

Your kitten should be vaccinated against distemper when it's eight weeks of age, and a booster should follow four weeks later. Distemper boosters should be given annually thereafter.

Your kitten should receive its first rabies vaccination between three and six months of age followed by annual boosters. Your veterinarian can advise you about additional shots and vaccinations.