

PET

We Know Pets

NEW KITTEN

Congratulations on your new kitten! The following are some basic steps to get you & your kitten started & is by no means comprehensive. Remember, if you have any questions regarding your kitten, please contact us.

Feeding- Your kitten has been weaned & will require 2-3 meals per day, reducing to 1-2 meals per day as an adult cat. Cats are carnivores & can survive without plant based foods, which means their nutrition requirements are quite specific. Feed a balanced kitten diet until your kitten becomes an adult, you may then progress to the adult formulas.

Your kitten has been fed a premium food whilst in our care - Hill's Science Diet kitten formula.

We recommend that you continue feeding this to avoid stomach upsets.

Never feed cooked bones or fatty foods to your kitten as these can have detrimental effects to your kittens health.

A group of cats is called a clowder, a male cat is called a tom, a female cat is called a molly or queen while young cats are called kittens.

Kittens do not need to drink milk. Always provide fresh water for your kitten. You may need to check this through the day or set up a drinking fountain as some cats & kittens enjoy water play!

Play & exercise- Kittens love to play! This is the best way of exercising them & developing a bond.

Kittens also love to chase a ball or toilet roll along the floor or you can use a cat dangler toy & have the kitten chase it - Kittens love movement! This turns on their natural seeking instinct & provides them with the mental enrichment required for healthy felines!

Toilet training-The great thing about cats & kittens is that they generally have no problems using a litter tray! If your kitten is having problems, place them into the litter tray after they have eaten, when they wake up & when they start to wander after a play. We recommend using the one type of kitty litter as some cats can refuse to use a newly introduced litter! One of the most common feline behaviour problems are associated with elimination outside of the litter tray. Talk to us or consult your vet if this is occurring.

Grooming-Cats & kittens are very efficient at grooming themselves, however, all kittens will benefit from regular grooming. Depending on the length of your kittens coat you may need to do this more often. Grooming your kitten will help them become accustomed to being handled; this is especially useful for veterinary examinations!

Life span- With good care, cats can live on average to around 18 years of age. This depends on individual genetics, health, exercise & just plain statistics.

Cats conserve energy by sleeping for an average of 13 to 14 hours a day!



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Continued.....

Managing your kitten's health- Your kitten will need to be vaccinated as follows:

*6-8 weeks old: Feline Enteritis, Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus & Immunodeficiency virus

*12-14 weeks old: Feline Enteritis, Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Immunodeficiency virus

*16-18 weeks old: Feline Enteritis, Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Immunodeficiency virus

We will provide you with all of your kitten's vaccination records to date.

Managing parasites-

Intestinal Worms: Use a recommended intestinal worming treatment

*every 2 weeks from 6 weeks to 12 weeks of age, then

*every month from 3-6 months old, then

*every 3 months for the rest of the cat's life.

We will recommend the best flea preventative for you to use on your kitten. It is important to follow a flea prevention program every 28 days.

Annual Adult Vaccination- Feline Enteritis, Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Immunodeficiency virus or on the advice of your veterinarian. Feline Chlamydia & Feline Leukaemia are optional vaccines.

De-sexing- De-sexing makes a better family pet. If you are not a registered breeder, we suggest you de-sex both toms & queens. Talk to your vet about early de-sexing, remember cats can be sexually

mature at as young as 5 months of age! Desexing reduces cancers developing such as prostate & mammary cancer. All of our rescue kittens have been desexed.

*Domestic cats usually weigh around 4 - 5 kilograms .
The heaviest domestic cat on record is 21.297 kilograms!*

Microchipping & registration- By law, all cats & kittens must be microchipped. The microchip can help identify your cat if they ever became lost. Your kitten also needs to be registered with your local council. We also recommend that you use an ID tag on your kitten's collar with its name & your phone number.

Indoor or outdoor? Recent research shows that cats who live permanently indoors have lower levels of aggressive & hunting behaviours than those allowed to roam.

Keeping cats inside also reduces the risk of them getting into fights with other cats & getting hit by cars. Indoor cats keep the birds & wildlife in & around your house & garden safe.

Sleeping & settling in-Cats feel most secure when their bedding is something they can climb into such as a cat cubby. Ensure that you select something that is warm & secure. When you first bring home your kitten choose a small room that they can feel safe & secure in such as the laundry. Make sure that they have access to their food, water, litter tray & their bed.

It is important to allow your kitten to settle into it's new surroundings gradually. Introducing your kitten to other pets should also be a gradual encounter that should always be supervised.



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