

Congratulations on Your New Kitten!

Here are some tips to help your new family member settle into a hopefully long and happy life with you.

Help Your Kitten Feel at Home

Provide your kitten with somewhere warm and quiet to sleep. At first, they will probably be quite overwhelmed, so it's good to give them some quiet time alone to get used to their sleeping spot. It is also a good idea to restrict your new kitten to one room in the house at first, then gradually, over a few days allow, them to explore further.

Kitten Nutrition

To give your kitten the best start in life, you should provide a good quality dry kitten food. Your kitten may need three feeds a day until around three months of age, then twice daily feeding should be sufficient. If your kitten is the only pet in the house, you may be tempted to give access to food all day. This can become a challenge if you have other pets that need different food or pets that overeat. Placing food down at set meal times and removing any uneaten portion after half an hour may prevent hassles down the track.

Worming

Your kitten needs intestinal worming every two weeks, until twelve weeks old, and then every month until six months old.

Litter Training

Provide your kitten with a litter tray in a quiet area, away from frequent traffic of people or other pets, and clean the tray regularly. Some cats are finicky about toileting, and may need two litter trays so one can always be fresh.

Handling Your Kitten

For a cat to feel secure when lifted, its torso and bottom should be supported. Children need to be taught that animals are not toys, and that it's unsafe for both cat and child, for young children to be left with a cat unsupervised. To help your kitten get used to grooming and medical examinations, make an effort to touch all parts of your pet from an early age; areas you might normally miss include: opening the mouth; and touching the ears, legs, between the toes, and the tail.

Toys and Playtime

Provide your kitten with a scratching post and encourage its use as a play centre. Should your kitten attack a piece of furniture, a water spray bottle can help discourage this behaviour.

If you have any further questions about caring for your new kitten, please discuss them with your veterinarian.