

THE KITTEN HOUSE RESCUE
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A NEW BEGINNING WITH YOUR NEW KITTEN!

Getting a new kitten is exciting! Thank you for adopting a kitten from The Kitten House Rescue. Over the next 12 months you will be bonding with your new best friend(s) and providing the attention and care that your pet needs. Here are the basics to raising your new kitten.



NURTURE YOUR KITTEN WITH HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT:

Your kitten has been fed a diet of **Nutro Natural Choice Kitten** dry food. Nutro Kitten food provides the precisely balanced nutrition to meet your kitten's special needs.

- Clinically proven antioxidants to build a healthy immune system;
- Optimal levels of DHA from high quality fish oil for healthy brain and eye development.
- Supports gentle, healthy digestion.
- Promotes healthy development of vital organs
- Supports ideal body weight.

Your kitten is growing up right before your eyes. Provide food for your kitten several times per day. As your kitten grows to an adult, you can gradually reduce feedings to 2-3 times per day. Kittens tend to graze throughout the day. Make sure your kitten has plenty of fresh water and food. As a treat, you may want to add a small can of **Fancy Feast wet** or any quality wet food to your kitten's diet. DO NOT make the wet food his "everyday" diet. This can cause loose bowel issues.

SPECIAL TIPS FOR YOUR KITTEN'S FIRST YEAR:

- Your kitten needs an abundance of attention and care.
- When naming your kitten, remember that short names or nicknames are easier for kittens to learn. Teach your new kitten the name by using it constantly.
- Help your kitten get off to a good start by putting your kitten in one room with easy access to the litter box. This should also be a room where you plan to keep a litter box in the future. The litter box should also have low edges for easy entry.
- Play with your kitten at least 2-3 times a day, for 5-15 minutes at a time. Never encourage your kitten to play with your hands or feet or your kitten will learn to bite.
- Grooming your kitten is a nice way to spend quality time together. It will also allow you to monitor your kitten's health and help reduce vomiting or obstruction caused by hairballs.
- Healthy kittens begin to groom themselves regularly by the age of 3 or 4 months. Mutual grooming is common between cats that are close companions.

- Playful and intelligent kittens investigate objects by touching, chewing and tasting them. Growing kittens love to explore, but need to be protected from household items that are dangerous if chewed on (e.g., electrical cords) or swallowed.
- Provide safe toys and games. Toys such as a ball with flashing lights or a stuffed cat toy which makes sounds are especially fun for kittens to play and interact with. Alternate toys so they do not get bored with them. Of course, there is always the "red dot" which kittens love to chase. Wadded up paper is also fun, but make sure they do not choke on the shredded paper.
- Make sure toys are large and sturdy enough that they cannot be swallowed. Discard any broken toys.
- Buy collars which allow for two finger-widths of space between the neck and collar. Check the collar's fit frequently during growth. Loosen or replace collars as needed. Safety collars are available that stretch or break open if the collar gets snagged.
- Comfort your kitten at bedtime by providing a fleece or plush pet toy to cuddle with or a ticking clock to mimic a mother cat's heartbeat.

THE ONLY THING BETTER THAN ONE KITTEN IS TWO!

- A second kitten will keep each other company when you cannot, and you will provide a good home for one more loving pet!

THE LAWS OF THE LITTER BOX:

For single cat homes, you need at least one litter box for easy accessibility. Consider 2 litter boxes if you live on multiple levels. Place a litter box in a convenient place which is easy for your kitten to find and that you will remember to clean! In multiple kitten households, have at least 2 litter boxes available.

Fill your kitten's litter box with 1-1/2 inches of natural clay or clumping litter. Scented corn, wheat, pine and other litters feel unnatural to cats and they may reject the litter box.

Scoop litter boxes at least once daily. Make sure the litter box is appropriately sized for the kitten. As the kitten grows, it will need a larger box. Most kittens prefer uncovered litter boxes. Some cats do not like plastic litter box liners, because they do not like how it feels when they scratch.

Litter box locations should be quiet. Keep the box away from high-traffic areas of the house, and from places where your kitten could be disturbed in the litter box by the family dog or other cats.

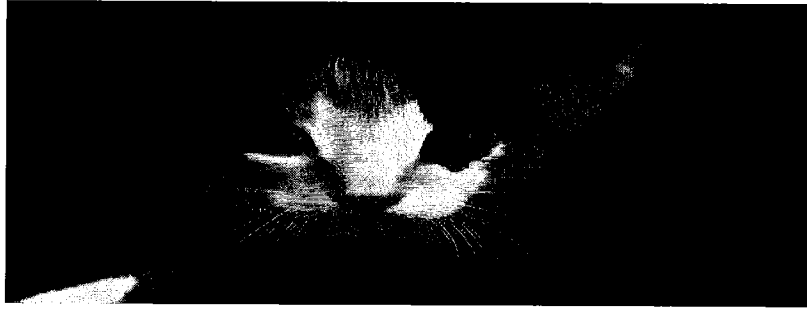
Never interrupt your kitten in the litter box. Do not try to catch or medicate your kitten while in the box.

Kittens like routine and do not like to have their litter box moved to a new location.

Always contact your veterinarian if your kitten goes to the bathroom outside of the litter box area. Veterinarians are trained to help with these problems. Commonly, medical problems are the source of this behavior. If there is not a medical problem, your vet should be able to help you or refer you to a behavior specialist.

If an accident occurs outside the litter box, clean it with an enzyme cleaner. Kittens have a strong sense of smell far superior to ours. Regular household cleaning or other products will not prevent a cat from being attracted back to the spot.

Change litter in the litter box completely once a week. Wash the box with a mild detergent and dry before refilling.



CONTROL YOUR KITTEN'S CLIMBING AND SCRATCHING:

Kitten's natural instinct is to scratch and climb to leave their scent and visual markings, to sharpen their claws and to stretch their legs. Instead of declawing your kitten, provide a scratching post where normal scratching behaviors can safely be practiced.

Leave boxes, paper bags or pet carriers out in your home for your kitten to explore.

Kittens love vertical space and will climb on almost anything. Increasing vertical space increases the space in your home. This is important for kittens because they usually have a much larger area in nature than even the biggest of homes.

Supervise your kitten to prevent climbing and scratching in places other than on scratching posts. If scratching or climbing occurs, calmly take your kitten to the post to redirect the behavior. Placing dried catnip on the post encourages the kitten to use it more. Consistency is the key.

Until your kitten is using the post regularly, confine your kitten to a familiar room with toys, scratching post, litter box, food and water when you are not able to supervise. Remove any items that may be tempting to scratch. Once your kitten is frequently scratching the post, gradually allow freedom in the home without supervision.

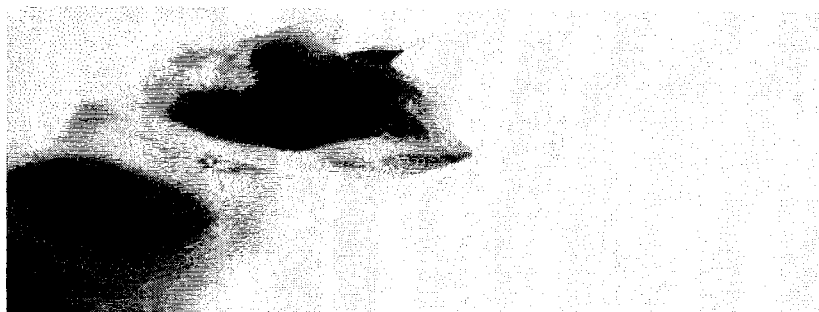
To prevent your kitten from climbing or scratching on your furniture or drapes, have cat trees, cat perches, etc., which are in acceptable areas and where your kitten can be up high.

Choose posts which are sturdy and tall enough for your kitten to reach up and extend his or her body when scratching. Most cat trees also include scratching areas. Good choices are sisal rope, corrugated cardboard or wood.

Reward your kitten for using cat furniture. Treats, toys catnip and fleece or other soft bedding will encourage your kitten to keep coming back. Put posts next to areas where your cat likes to sleep, so he or she can scratch upon awakening.

Many kittens prefer vertical scratching posts, but some prefer horizontal ones. If your kitten is scratching on the carpet or floor, try a log or horizontal scratching post.

Double stick tape or similar commercial product helps deter kittens from using furniture.



TRIM YOUR KITTEN'S CLAWS:

Regular nail trims will blunt the sharp tips of your kitten's claws and minimize accidental scratches during play.

Take care to avoid the blood vessels and nerves in the pink base close to the toe.

If your kitten has dark claws, you will not be able to see the pink base. You may need your veterinarian or professional groomer to trim them for you.

Only use nail trimmers designed for kittens/cats.

Introduce trimming gradually. Get your kitten used to your touch by waiting until your pet nods off for a nap, and then gently touching the footpads and separating the toes.

At first, trim a few claws once a week. The more you trim, the more familiar it will become. Eventually, a trimming every four weeks is enough.

Kittens which have extra toes (polydactyls) need to be carefully monitored for ingrown claws.

LOOK AT YOUR KITTEN'S EARS:

A kitten's ears normally do not require cleaning, but check them regularly for any dirt, debris, odor or redness, especially if you have noticed any unusual behavior in your kitten, such as scratching or shaking of the head as these are common symptoms of ear mites and ear infections. These will require treatment by a veterinarian.

DON'T FORGET THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR YOUR KITTEN:

- Collar, small bell for collar, ID tag
- Carrier
- Toys
- Litter box, Litter and Scoop
- Scratching Post
- Flea Comb, brush, nail clippers
- Catnip
- Food and water bowls
- Nutro Natural Choice Kitten dry food and Fancy Feast kitten wet food

Ask your veterinarian about flea and tick prevention, micro chipping, parasite control and dental care.

***THE KITTEN HOUSE RESCUE IS A 501c3 Charity**

Our rescue relies solely upon the generosity of public to continue our mission of rescue, rehabilitation and adoption. All of your donations are tax deductible. Please go to our website at www.kittenhouserescue.org and set up a one time or monthly donation to provide our rescued kittens with the necessary food, medical and veterinary care. Every dollar saves lives!

Thank you for thinking of adoption first! Thank you for adopting with us!

Debrah Rogers, Managing Director