



KITTEN INFORMATION SHEET

Bringing a new kitten home is very exciting and rewarding.

As cute, fun and mischievous as they are, they are a commitment for their lifetime which can be anywhere between 14-20 years.

This information sheet will help you to care and provide all the responsibilities you will need for your cat.

BRINGING KITTEN HOME:

The first few hours of your kitten entering your home are the most important and will shape how they adjust to your house.

It is also important to kitten proof your house before they arrive as there are many hazards they could come across.

It will be very daunting for them as they would have left the safety of their mum and siblings, as well as the surroundings they were brought up in.

It is very important that you are patient with your kitten and NEVER rush them into doing things they aren't used to. It will probably take a few weeks for your kitten to adjust to their new home.

Provide them with a small quiet room with a litter tray, food and water, a comfy bed and toys to play with. Make sure it is on ground level to prevent them from hurting themselves.

Ideally bring something from their previous place that has their scent on it to help them settle in.

Try not to leave them on their own for too long until they are settled.

If you do have to leave them for a while you could leave a radio on low volume to help comfort them and not feel lonely.

Once your kitten has settled into your house you can open the door and slowly start to let them explore the rest of the house.

FOOD AND WATER:



Kittens should have fresh water available at all times. They do not need milk as they become lactose intolerant and this can cause tummy upsets.

In the first year of their lives they should be fed kitten food. A high quality brand that says the food is 'Complete and Balanced' will give them all the nutrition they need to grow up healthy.

It is totally up to you if you feed them wet or dry or both. Generally, a kitten should be fed about 4 times a day. If you are feeding them biscuits, they can graze on these all day.

Follow the instructions on the brand of food you have bought as to how much they need to be fed on a daily basis. Over feeding can cause obesity or tummy upsets.

Feeding biscuits will also help reduce the build-up of tartar on their teeth.

If you are going to give your kittens treats save them for training or rewards, to prevent them from having too much.

Kittens DO NOT need to eat human food and starting this will cause bad habits that can be very hard to break.

TOILETING:



Hopefully your kitten will be toilet trained before it comes home with you, they are quick learners.

Try and use the same or a similar type of litter that the kitten has been used to, as this will encourage them to use the one you have brought for them in their new home.

Cats like quiet safe spots when using their litter trays, so try and avoid busy areas and NEVER put it next to their food or water bowls.

When they are settled into their new room pick them up and show them where their litter tray is to help prevent accidents.

Cats are clean animals so make sure their litter trays are cleaned on a daily basis, if it is dirty they will go somewhere else in the house!!

NEVER punish a kitten for missing the litter tray as this will cause a negative impact for them associated with the litter tray and they will never use it.

If they aren't using it there is a good reason so try changing to a different type of litter, change the tray or location to see if this helps.

SLEEP:

These are 2 very important factors in a kitten's life and should be done at a slow pace.

Introducing your kitten to new things and different types of people and animals will help reduce stress and anxiety, as they will see it as a positive experience.

Playing with your kitten will also help you bond and spend quality time together.

There are so many toys out there for kittens and cats now that it can be daunting, but you don't need to spend a fortune to keep them happy.

Generally, 'fishing rod toys', balls or toys that make a crinkle sound cats love to play with, cats also like toys with 'catnip' in them.

Cats also love cardboard boxes; toilet rolls with treats in them for the kittens to find are the ones they love the most.

Cat scratch posts are also great for cats to play on, scratch their nails on and watch the outside world.

NEVER leave a kitten alone with a toy that has rope hanging from it or they can chew bits off of as this can be dangerous for them.

It is also important to rotate the toys so they don't get bored.

People also think that it is fun dangling your fingers and toes at your kitten to play with, this a big NO, NO!!

It will encourage negative play with you and as they grow up and become cats their nails will be sharper and more painful.

When this happens we tend to tell them off, it can cause the relationship to break down and be confusing for the cat as they are only doing what comes naturally to them.

If your kitten is becoming too rough, NEVER punish them. Just tell them 'no' gently and ignore them or distract them with a toy for a short while. You should then reward the behaviour with a treat.

VACCINATIONS, FLEA AND WORMING:



All kittens will need to be vaccinated and have flea and worming treatment for the rest of their lives.

Kittens will have 2 vaccinations around 9 weeks and 12 weeks and then a yearly booster. A kitten/cat should not go outside until they are fully vaccinated.

Flea and worming treatment will depend on what your vet recommends and sells and what regime you would like for your cat.

This can all be discussed with your vet at the kittens first vaccination and health check.

MICROCHIP:

Microchipping is now a legal requirement when owning a cat and if your cat doesn't have one you can be fined.

You can microchip a kitten at their first health check or when they are neutered, but they mustn't go outside before this.

NEUTERING:

Kittens can reproduce from as young as 6 months!!

So we recommend neutering them at about 4 months before the hormones kick in, especially if you have a couple of kittens and they are brother and sister.

Neutering cats can help prevent some cancers, spraying, fighting and wandering off. Mostly though preventing unwanted litters.

INSURANCE:

Getting pet insurance is also a great way to help you financially if your kitten/cat becomes unwell or has an accident or injury.

If you are good with saving money you could also open bank account for them and put money aside every month if anything does happen to them.

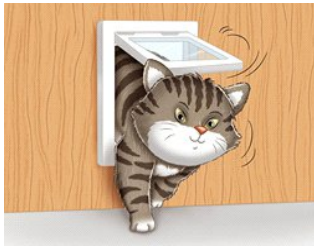
CAT CAGES:



There are numerous cat cages to buy but the best ones for vets are the ones that you can open from the top. This way we can easily access your cat without having to pull them out of a small door in the cage.

To help your kitten get used to going into the cage, leave it open somewhere in your house so the kitten has access to it at all times, they may even use it as a bed. This way when they need a visit to the vets it's not a scary cage for them to go into and less stressful for you trying to get them in.

INDOORS/OUTDOORS - CATFLAP TRAINING:



Deciding whether your kitten will be an indoor or outdoor cat is totally up to the owner's preference.

Indoor cats are obviously safer but you will need to ensure they have the mental and physical stimulation they would otherwise get by going outside.

Lots of interactive toys, placing cat scratches or hammocks by windows so they can watch the world go by, or putting cat friendly video's up on your television or iPad.

If you are letting your cat go outside it is recommended that you keep them in at night to help prevent accidents or injuries as cats are most active at night.

There are lots of safety outdoor solutions now like 'Catios' put on the back of your house or you can enclose your whole garden with special fencing, so the cats can go outside but can't climb over the fence. This way they have the best of both worlds.

Kittens learn to use cat flaps quite quickly.

You can just have a simple one or a microchip cat flap, which is great as a microchip one only lets your cat in and out the house. This stops other cats coming in and our cat will feel safe in its own home.

To start the training hold, open the cat flap door and encourage the kitten to walk through, when they do reward them with a treat.

Once the kitten is comfortable doing this then partially hold the door down and encourage the kitten to come through and they will need to push against the door slightly to get through, once this has happened reward them with a treat and praise them.

Lastly leave the door down and encourage the kitten to come through the door, reward them with a treat and praise them.

References: Cats Protection League uk.