



Kitten Basics

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Food Bowls should be made out of stainless steel or ceramic, NOT plastic, and should be washed daily. Cats dislike deep, bowl-shaped containers, so be sure to choose wide, shallow-sided dishes. Traditional saucers are fine, although they may result in spills.

Toys should be safe and are an important part of your pet's supplies. A variety of unique toys are available from pet stores, but rolled-up paper, ping-pong balls, toilet-paper tubes, kitchen towels, etc., will just as easily entertain cats. Cardboard boxes arranged in a tunnel formation offer inexpensive entertainment for your cat. Be sure to avoid giving your cat shoelaces, balls of yarn, or fabrics that can be unraveled as these can cause severe digestive complications if swallowed.

Dental Care is an important part of your kitten's health care. Plaque (a sticky, colorless film) forms continually on the teeth. If the plaque is not removed, a cement-like substance called tartar builds up on the gum line. The build up of tartar and plaque may lead to periodontal disease, in which bacteria infects gum tissue and the roots of the teeth. Untreated, this causes the gums to recede, the teeth to loosen and eventually fall out. Diseased mouths can also cause or worsen other conditions such as heart, kidney, and respiratory disease. Your veterinarian will check your kitten's teeth regularly. Between professional cleanings, you should brush your kitten's teeth once daily (3X per week if not possible daily). Even though the baby teeth will fall out, it is good to get our kitten used to having his or her teeth brushed before becoming an adult. **ASK US FOR A FREE TOOTH-BRUSHING DEMO AT YOUR NEXT VISIT!**

Nail Trimming can be done once a month to prevent overgrowth of your kitten's nails and "quicks" (blood vessels in the nails). Trimmed nails will prevent them from getting caught on things.

Grooming is an important element of bonding between kittens and their owners, especially early on when they miss their mother's attention. Gentle petting or soft brushing while talking to your kitten will accustom him or her to human companionship. Grooming also provides an opportunity for you to get a general check of the kitten's coat, skin, eyes, ears, and so on. It also prevents the hair from getting matted and will eliminate the need for therapeutic clipping of the cat's fur.

