

TRAINING AND SOCIALIZING YOUR KITTEN

The prime socialization period in kittens is between 8 -12 weeks of age. Exposure to a variety of things in a positive manner will result in a more well-balanced cat, preventing inappropriate behaviors, anxiety, and fear.

- Introduce your kitten to new people, places, objects, and situations only when you can control the experience.
- Do not let your cat sniff feces or play with any cats that might be unhealthy or aggressive.
- Use treats, praise, touch, and play, to reward/reinforce positive behaviors and new situations.
- Under direct supervision, socialize your kitten with children.

It is very important to get your kitten used to being handled. Gently play/massage your kitten's ears, mouth, muzzle, and paws. This will help acclimate your kitten to nail trimming, teeth brushing, vet visits, and grooming in the future.



Training your kitten is a significant factor in preventing unwanted behavioral concerns. Teaching your kitten to act appropriately in all situations will ensure safe and enjoyable times for you and your kitten.

- Start training young. 8 weeks old is a great time to start!
- Make sure to have at least one litter box per cat and that your kitten knows where it is located.
- Be sure to offer your kitten interactive toys, scratching posts, and cat trees to outlet their energy in a positive way.

FEEDING YOUR KITTEN

As your kitten adjusts to the new environment, a change in food may be desired. It is best to gradually change food over about seven days whenever a diet change is made. We highly recommend having scheduled feedings with appropriately measured out food instead of free feeding. Kittens should be fed a diet labeled for kittens until they have stopped growing. Clean, fresh water should always be available.

Meals should be spaced out evenly throughout the day. As a general rule, you should try to stick to the feeding regimen as follows:

- Feed 3 –4 meals daily until your kitten is 12 weeks
- Feed 2-3 meals daily until your kitten is 6 months
- Feed 1-2 meals daily once your kitten is 6 months

Proper feeding and exercise will keep your kitten healthy. We try to avoid putting the emphasis on pounds, as numbers can be misleading. We encourage you to get your hands on with your kitten to really judge their actual size without being distracted by the length of their coat!



*Reference your list of harmful/toxic foods if you are ever unsure of something that your pet has ingested.



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