

Kitten / Cat Shopping List

1. Kitten or Adult Cat Food
2. Food and Water Bowls
3. Litter Pan, Litter, Litter Scoop
4. Cat Carrier
5. Collar and ID Tag
6. Scratching Post
7. Toys
8. Comb and / or Brush
9. Bed
10. Lots of Love!

The First Day Home

Be sure and let your kitten or adult cat's first day at home be a quiet one. Allow him to get acquainted with his new surroundings. Keep children and other pets away from him until he has a chance to settle in. You might even confine him to an extra room or bathroom whenever no one is home.

Feeding Time

You need to buy food and water bowls that aren't easily tipped over. Remember that kittens (up to a year old) need *kitten food* and cats need adult food. It's best to mix wet and dry food. You can leave dry food available to your cat at all times, unless he has a weight problem.

Litterbox Training

Cats are clean animals by nature and have no problem using the litter box. Be sure and show your new pet where his litter box is kept. If he can locate it, he will be happy to use it. If you have a very large house, you may want more than one litter box, especially with kittens. (Small kittens have small bladders.) A cat can be offended by a soiled litter pan, so be sure to scoop it out frequently. The entire litter should be changed and box cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis. If your cat stops using the litter box, and it is clean, this may be a sign that your cat is ill. Be sure and contact your vet as soon as possible.



Collar, ID Tags, Microchips

Many cats will not wear a collar, no matter how hard you try. But if your cat does wear a collar, it should be a safety or breakaway collar. A safety collar has an elastic section so that if your pet gets caught on something, he can slip out of the collar. A breakaway collar will open and release the cat with enough pressure; with a kitten or small cat, you will want to see how much pressure it takes to open the clasp. If your cat has an ID tag it should have your name, address, and phone number on it, and be worn at all times. An alternative many are choosing now is a microchip, which has an ID number in a small chip injected under the cat's skin. The advantage of the microchip is that it cannot be lost. But to work, it must be registered, so that when the ID number is read, it connects with your address and phone number.

Toys and Scratching Post

Toys can provide your cat with hours of entertainment. When you buy your pet toys, use the same standards that you would with a child. Toys should not have parts that can come off easily and be swallowed. Remember, these toys have to survive cat-playing times.



If you see your cat scratching your furniture, pick him up while he's scratching and take him to his scratching post. The first few times he will be stunned, but soon he'll get the hang of it. (There are a variety of scratching posts. The corrugated cardboard or sisal wrapped one seems to be the favorites.) It also helps to keep your cat's nails trimmed. This is very easy to do, and your vet or an experienced friend can show you how it's done. If not done properly, nail trimming can be painful and cause bleeding.

Nap Time

Cats need a warm bed to sleep in, free from drafts. Cats prefer to be above ground, so place his bed on a raised surface. Cats love to be independent so don't be surprised if he ignores his bed and sleeps elsewhere.

A Healthy Cat

It's always a good idea to have a new pet thoroughly checked out by your vet. Kittens need to be vaccinated every three weeks until they are twelve weeks old. Even indoor cats need to be vaccinated. All SACR cats and kittens are up to date on their vaccinations, are dewormed, and have been tested for FIV and FeLV.

Diseases Your Cat Should Be Vaccinated Against

- ❖ Feline Panleukopenia: This is also known as feline distemper. This disease is highly contagious and most often fatal.
- ❖ Feline Respiratory Diseases: These include Rhinotracheitis, Calici, and Chlamydia. All display cold-like symptoms. Respiratory diseases are easily spread from cat to cat by sneezing.
- ❖ Rabies: Rabies is a fatal infection of the nervous system, which attacks all warm blooded animals (including humans). It's transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Since there is no cure for rabies, vaccination is your pet's only protection. In most jurisdictions an annual rabies vaccine is required by law.

When to Call Your Vet

You should call your vet if your cat exhibits any of the following symptoms:

- Dull coat which sheds heavily
- Loss of appetite for several days
- Lies or couches listlessly
- Severe diarrhea
- Persistent vomiting
- Red watery eyes or nasal discharge
- Swelling or lumps that do not go away
- Hides in dark places
- Strains when urinating
- Does not use the litter box
- Resists handling



Grooming

All cats, especially long-haired ones, should be brushed. If you do not groom your cat or kitten regularly, he may start vomiting hairballs. This can be solved through twice a week brushings.

To prevent or treat fleas, use a product such as Advantage or Revolution. *Do not* use an over the counter product labeled for dogs on cats or kittens. In severe cases you may need to take more serious action, like bathing with flea shampoo or taking him /her to the vet. If you decide to bathe him/her yourself, use caution not to get soap or water into the eyes or ears,.

Lost Cat Prevention

1. Keep your cat inside at all times. Cats can get fresh air and sun thru screened windows, weather permitting. (Screens should be checked regularly to be certain they are secure.)
2. If not microchipped, make sure your cat always wears his collar and tag(s). Even indoor cats should always wear their color and ID tag(s).
3. If you are expecting repair people, it is always best to close your pet off in a room away from the scheduled work or doors that are open or shut often.
4. Take pictures of you pet NOW!!! You should always have identification pictures on hand.



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