

introducing a new kitten to your home

Useful tips that you might find handy when adopting a kitten in your household!



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Taken away from her mother, brothers and sisters, your kitten will feel very lonely when she arrives in your home. In order to try and relieve this complete change of scenery, it is essential that you are perfectly ready to welcome your kitten into her new family. The weekend is a period of calm when family members are generally most likely to be available. With plenty of attention and love all around her, your kitten will very soon understand that you are now her master and her friend.

Discovering her new environment, new family members, and possible fellow pets is a very important stage in successfully integrating your kitten into her new home. So that your kitten will feel perfectly safe as soon as she arrives, it is a good idea that her belongings are already in place and you spend time to show her where these are. Remember that your kitten has just been brought into totally unknown surroundings. Control your enthusiasm, move gently and without shouting and avoid passing the kitten from hand to hand. Important items to have before bringing the kitten home:

- two dishes: a small one for dry cat food (an adult cat only eats 60 to 70 gm a day) and a bigger one for fresh water that must always be available
- A scratching post for the kitten to avoid damage in your home but need to show the kitten what it is for

- A comfortable bed although the kitten will eventually choose its own place to sleep
- Litter tray
- Toys

The first meals

One of the most important things to check with the breeder is what food your kitten is eating so you can continue with this food, or otherwise you will run the risk of inducing digestive problems. If however you wish to change the kitten's diet, it is very important that this is done slowly over a period of one week, each day reducing a small amount of the original and increasing the amount of the new food. Never give scraps during your meals, to avoid the habit of begging for food and stealing at the table. An unbalanced diet can also lead to obesity. Also make sure that your kitten always has fresh water available, and all leave her to eat in peace.

While a newborn kitten has a digestive tract suited to the digestion of milk, her digestive capacities are going to evolve until she can no longer digest lactose (milk sugar) when adult. For proper growth, she must receive balanced quantities of protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and trace elements in the form of a type of food that suits the physiological and digestive characteristics of the feline species. Due to its low awareness of different flavors, a cat does not call for great variety in her food.

The main advantage of manufactured foods is the certainty of giving your kitten all the elements necessary to her growth for a harmonious development without sudden spurts. They are prepared carefully, using the same ingredients and complying with the same health rules as in human food. These foods are also very much appreciated by kittens. Never feed meat on its own, although a strict carnivore, a cat living wild does not eat only muscles or liver. She also ingests the bones and offal of her prey, often herbivores or omnivores. Her diet is therefore fairly balanced. Wet commercial foods are 80% water and so this can become very expensive way to feed you kitten. Dry foods contain less than 14 % water, usually 8 to 10 %.

With concentrated nutritive ingredients, they are very economical and extremely practical. Dry foods keep your kitten happy, since she likes to nibble and eat her meal in several helpings. The kibbles are perfectly suited to this way of eating since they stay for a long time in her mouth and the kitten benefits from the brushing effect of the kibble on the cat's teeth. Cats eating dry foods have no more cases of urinary stones or cystitis than other cats. Good quality dry foods are just as effective in preventing urinary problems as wet foods. After her adult teeth have come through, the proportions of the different nutrients essential to the kitten's growth remain the same until she is one year.