

Preparing to Take Home Your New Kitten

There is some preparation you need to do before you bring home your new kitten. Use the following list to make sure you are ready and have all the basic equipment before bringing the kitten home.

Food and Water Bowls: You will need to provide your kitten with separate bowls for food and water. These can be plastic, porcelain or stainless steel. We recommend three, a separate bowl for dry cat food, a water bowl, and a shallow plate (saucer) or bowl for canned cat food.

Cat Food: You will need to be prepared to purchase kitten food. However, you need to follow the instructions from the breeder about what type of food the kitten has been eating and on what schedule as changing diet abruptly can make the kitten sick. A good breeder will usually send you home with starter food and feeding instructions so that you can have time to find the proper food after you have the kitten home.

Litter Box: You will need to provide your kitten with a Litter Box. Buy a plastic tray or one that is covered with a "hood" to stop the kitten from making a mess around the litter tray area. There is variety of litter and litter trays to choose from in the market.

Cat Litter: You will need Cat Litter for your Cat Box. Most any kind will do when they are a bit older, but for very small kittens we recommend "Yesterday's News".

Carrier: You will need a cat carrier for the visits to the vet. Make sure that you buy a large enough carrier so that you will not have to change it when your cat gets bigger. Always place a cloth or a blanket in the carrier before putting your cat in so that he or she will feel warm and comfortable. You can also give your cat her favorite toy to keep her busy and happy while in the carrier.

Scratching Post: It is important that your cat has a place to sharpen her claws. It is better if you provide the kitten with a scratching post at an early age so that she gets used to it. This will stop the kitten from scratching the furniture and your carpets.

Toys: Toys must be safe. Avoid small size toys that your cat may swallow or sharp edges that your cat may cut herself while playing. There is no need to spend a fortune in cat toys. Sometimes the simplest toys can keep your cat busy for hours. Cats play with balls, furry mice even rolled pieces of paper. Make sure you have enough toys to keep your cat busy at all times. Boredom is one of the first causes of misbehaving.

Vet: It is important to take your kitten for an examination and second round of vaccinations shortly after you bring the kitten home. The breeder should provide you with the kittens vet records and when the next visit is due, which will normally be within 14 days of acquiring the kitten. You need to locate a Vet of your choice or request recommendations from the breeder. Once you visit the vet he/she will be able to advise you regarding health matters and vaccinations.