

Congratulations on your new kitten or adopted cat!
You will need a few things for an easy transition to your home.

FOOD

A good quality, high moisture, meat-based diet is essential for your new cat's health and happiness. An ideal feline diet contains a variety of canned or raw food in addition to (or instead of) dry food alone.



Pippi eats a wide variety of foods

Kittens need frequent feeding for the first six months of life to support their growth and development. Introduce an assortment of tastes and textures while young so your cat won't become a finicky eater.

FOOD BOWLS

Cat food bowls should be shallow and wide to accommodate whiskers, and made of ceramic, glass, or stainless steel. Avoid plastic food bowls—they can harbor bacteria or cause chin acne. Durapet saucers are easy to clean and have nonskid bottoms.

WATER BOWL OR FOUNTAIN

Water is crucial to feline health and cats are often poor drinkers. Make a water station somewhere away from their food (cats instinctively avoid water where they eat) or set up a water fountain such as the Drinkwell, where the moving water will encourage drinking. This can head off urinary problems caused by chronic dehydration.

COLLAR AND TAG

A breakaway collar and ID tag will identify your cat if she gets lost.

LITTER, BOX AND SCOOP

A high-quality litter will help keep your house free of unpleasant odors. We prefer plant-based clumping

litters made from wheat, corn or pine for their flushability and superior odor control. The box should be large and deep to keep the litter inside. A large strong slotted scoop such as the Litter Lifter will make cleaning faster. For more information see our handout, "Cats, Litter, and Litter Boxes."

STAIN/ODOR REMOVER

Bring this home before an accident happens. Urine Off is a great enzymatic cleaner that dissolves the source of stains and odor from carpets, floors, bedding, and clothing to ensure your kitty won't be drawn back to the same spot.

GROOMING TOOLS

Brushing is a great way to bond with your new kitty. Besides stimulating the skin, it removes loose hair and dander. Use a pin brush or a stainless steel comb for long-haired cats, and a FURminator, slicker brush or Zoom Groom rubber massager for short-haired cats. Use a scissors-style nail trimmer to keep nails short. Always have a jar of styptic powder on hand in case you nick a quick. A flea comb is an essential tool for finding fleas and removing them. Grooming wipes keep your kitty smelling fresh and clean without having to bathe.



BEDS

Cats will always seek something soft and warm. Give your kitty her own place and protect your stuff from cat hair with a soft washable throw, mat or bed. Older cats especially will like our Playa Pet heated pads, and self-heating thermal mats with space age technology. Kitty Caves are especially popular with kittens and shy cats for a safe and quiet refuge.

NEW KITTY CHECKLIST

CONTINUED

SCRATCHING EQUIPMENT

Scratching is an essential feline function. It provides exercise, marks territory and removes the outer sheath of their claws. Channel their scratching behavior to a scratching post or cardboard scratcher in your house. More is better! They can be inexpensive and will save your furniture. Posts can be simple or elaborate and provide climbing opportunities for indoor enrichment. One vertical and one horizontal scratcher works best. Phoenix driftwood trees are elegant and sturdy pieces that will last a lifetime, while Scratch Lounges offer reversible cardboard sides for double the use.

TOYS

Keep your cat happy, interested and active with a variety of fabulous toys. Anything with fur, feathers or movement will elicit his hunting instinct and contribute to his rich fantasy world. Wand toys let you interact with your cat, alleviating boredom and preventing obesity. Our favorite wand is the Da Bird feathers on a swivel that flutter like an actual bird! Laser toys are very amusing—cats will chase the little red dots until they're exhausted. Catnip toys are great too; about 60% of cats respond to catnip. Note that kittens take time to become sensitive to it, so it may not be interesting to a younger cat. Did you know that most cats love honeysuckle toys?



Nephthys hunts her favorite toy

Pet parents can encounter contradictory information about how to best care for their cats and dogs. At All The Best Pet Care, our pet care specialists are highly trained and have first-hand experience at resolving common health issues. Stop in for tips, suggestions and sound advice on how to help your new cat thrive.



TREATS

Cats love treats, and will actually come to the shaking of the treat jar. The best and healthiest treats are dehydrated meat or fish bits. They add high quality protein to your cat's diet and won't put on weight like carbohydrate based treats. There are many to choose from: Whole Life freeze dried meats, Wildside Salmon, Cat-Man-Doo bonito (tuna) flakes and many others made from beef, lamb, liver, cod and turkey.

CARRIER

A sturdy carrier is necessary for trips to the vet. Plastic carriers are inexpensive and easy to tote. Check out our selection of Bergan, Sherpa and Prefer Pet carriers.



The Best Food, Treats & Toys for Dogs and Cats
allthebestpetcare.com