

GENERAL INFORMATION IN CARING FOR YOUR NEW SIAMESE KITTEN

Congratulations on the purchase of your Siamese kitten from B & D Siamese Cattery! Just as a point of interest, we would like you to know that most catteries sell their Siamese kittens at \$800 - \$900 for pets, and usually \$1,500 or more for breeding rights. Pet stores sell unregistered Siamese kittens for around \$800, and registered kittens for \$1,200 and up. At B & D Siamese, we are trying to keep our kitten prices competitive, and hopefully keep our clients coming back for future adoptions! We hope you will find the following information helpful in the adjustment period for both you and your new baby kitten.

Please keep in mind that it could take a week or two for your new baby kitten to adjust to it's new home, so please be patient. It can sometimes be a little traumatic for a kitten to be removed from the loving care of it's mother, and also from being separated from it's siblings. Try to give your kitten lots of love and attention, as this will help the transition to a new home – hold and carry your kitten around the house with you as much as possible at first. Think of it like a small child going to kindergarten for the first time – some kids are eager to go and love the socialization of meeting other kids and seeing new places, and others are scared, cry and don't want to go to school cause they don't want to be separated from their families. They eventually adjust and learn to get along in their new environment. Some kittens have no problems and adjust in just a few days, and others may need a week or two to adjust, so remember, lots of love, attention and patience! If you have other pets at home, please remember to allow time for them to adjust as well, since it can sometimes be stressful and cause some jealousy issues with pets that are already established in your home. Give everyone equal amounts of love, treats, toys and attention, so that everyone gets through the transition, and try to be patient with all your pets during this adjustment!

Your kitten has been eating a blend of Purina One and Pro Plan Select For Kittens, Wellness Kitten, Blue Buffalo or Iams Kitten, plus good old Purina Kitten Nurturing Formula (yellow bag); and has also sampled an assortment of Friskies, Purina One, and Fancy Feast canned cat food (they seem to like the chunks or shreds with gravy better than the pate). For the dry food, I try to stick with the brand of foods that are healthy formulas, preferably with no poultry by-products, nor artificial colors and preservatives, and the least amount of ground corn possible. *(Then, of course, I try and find what is most affordable for the number of cats that I have!)* For adult cats, Purina makes several different types of dry cat food now, which include the regular line, Purina Naturals, Purina One, Purina Pro Plan (which is their top of the line), and also Purina One Beyond which has chicken #1 and no by products or corn; all of which are very good. Wellness, Iams, Blue Buffalo are also good quality, low grain, foods. I have learned to watch the labels on cat food, and it's surprising what you can find, even on some of the expensive brands! If you don't want your cats eating things like poultry beaks and feet, don't buy cat food with poultry by-products. If you want your cats coat and skin to be more healthy and less dry and flaky, don't buy cat food with too much corn or grains. Artificial colors and preservatives have been linked to some health related issues, and most common brands of cat food contain both. So, learn to watch your labels!

For canned food, I try to stick with the shredded, sliced, chunked, filets or carved canned cat food, as they have a gravy with the chunks of food, and the kittens seem to love the gravy. Plus, this type of food does not have such a bad odor. Friskies, Purina One, and Fancy Feast are some of the favorite tasting canned cat foods, as well as Fancy Feast and Natures Recipe plastic trays, and can be found at Wal-Mart, Meijer, Giant Eagle, Kroger, PetSmart etc. I usually try to stick with the turkey, chicken, and beef flavors, and I try to stay away from too much fishy foods, as most veterinarians say **too** much fish is not good for a cat's urinary health. Also, it is not necessary to give canned cat food every day, unless you really want to. Our adult house cats **never** get canned food, I usually reserve it as an extra treat for pregnant and nursing mother cats, plus young kittens when they are learning to eat solid food. Cats can become very spoiled about getting canned food, so this is completely up to you. It is usually pretty hard to make them go without canned food when they get older, if they have been used to having it every day! You can try gradually cutting down on the canned food, by letting them have a little less each day, and then cutting back to every other day and so on, until you have cut it down to none. The gradual method is the easiest on the cats. Your kitten has been getting some wet food regularly, so it would be good to continue this for a bit when it goes home with you, so that the extra "treat" can make the transition a little easier for some kittens – gives them something to be excited about since they don't have mom or siblings around anymore.

Your kitten has been using a litter box for a few weeks now. As for cat litter, I use the scoopable type, or clumping type of cat litter. The baby kittens have learned to use the litter box with Swheat Scoop clumping cat litter, as it is healthier for babies to learn to use the litter box with this brand, since Swheat Scoop is an

all natural product made from wheat, so it won't hurt if they ingest a little. Believe me, all kittens go through that curious stage where they have to put their noses in everything or taste everything, so litter is most always ingested when it is introduced to young kittens! Once they got past that stage, though, usually by about 6 weeks old, I have switched them over to using regular clay or clumping type litter, since it is the most common type. I used to buy the Scoop Away brands, as it seemed to clump the best, and control odor the best for multiple cat households. My other choice was Fresh Step clumping. But the new Tidy Cat Lightweight is great, as it is so much lighter to carry! As is Fresh Step Lightweight Extreme. Litter choice is really up to you – if you only have one or two cats, the Swheat Scoop should work ok – but I have found the odor control is just not there for a larger number of cats, where the clumping clay types seem to have much better odor control.

Having your kitten de-clawed is another controversial issue. I would recommend talking this over with your vet, making sure you have all the information about the procedure, and also taking into consideration your kittens health and your family situations. I think it comes down to how you feel about having the procedure done. There is a new laser type procedure for de-clawing now, which is great, and promotes faster healing, although it is a bit more expensive. (Our vet only charges about \$30 more for the laser de-claw procedure, so I think it is well worth the money!) I would **highly recommend** this laser de-claw procedure, if you are considering have your kitten de-clawed, and please remember that 3 to 4 months of age is the time to do it, not when they grow up to adulthood, as it is much harder on an adult cat to go through this procedure! There have also been some controversial issues with the types of anesthesia used for surgical procedures. I have heard that you should ask your vet to use Isoflourine, (gas type anesthesia) rather than Ketamine, as some cats can have a reaction to Ketamine. However, my cats have had Ketamine for all of their procedures, and have never had any problems, nor has my vet reported any problems from the use of Ketamine for cats at their clinic.

It is **imperative** that you have your cat spayed or neutered at around 6 months of age, and I'm sure most vets will recommend the same. It is simply best for your cat's health, plus it will prevent any possible spraying problems from both the females as well as the males, if done around 6 months of age (don't wait too long!). A spayed or neutered cat will most likely turn out to be a more even tempered, happy, healthy, and lovable cat. Another must is that your Siamese should be kept strictly indoors, both for it's health as well as it's safety. Your kitten will be ready for it's first of two shots anywhere from 8 to 12 weeks of age, or 2 pounds or over, depending on your vet's policies. We have found it is better for this to be done at your own vet, so that the kitten gets the exact vaccine combination of your vet's preference - this usually prevents an extra third shot from being done. This also ensures all of your kitten's records will be on file at your own vet's office. They will receive worm meds before they leave my home.

For the first week or two, you might want to keep your new baby kitten in close proximity to the litter box, food and water, just to make sure the kitten can find it's way around your home; until you see them find the litter box without any problem. It is a little confusing for the kitten to go to a big new home, and not know the way around at first. Introduce your kitten to just a couple of rooms at a time, and give them a new room to explore every couple of days til they learn their way around. Even though your kitten is litter box trained, it will prevent accidents from happening if you keep your baby kitten confined to a separate area (like a bedroom, bathroom) when you are asleep or not at home to keep an eye on things. As soon as you notice that the kitten regularly finds it's way to the litter box completely on it's own, you can probably feel comfortable that they know the way around your house now, and will be able to find the litter box by itself.

Also, you might want to blend bottled water with your own tap water for the first week, til your kitten adjusts to the new water. Your kitten "goodie bag" includes a little bag of the blend of dry food they have been eating, and you can blend this half and half with whichever brand you decide to use – by the time this is gone, the kitten should have adjusted to the new food just fine. I have also included a can that you can use as a special treat, in case the kitten is a little homesick and not eating as well as they should – just put a spoonful or two out on top of the dry food, and this should get them interested in eating good!

We hope this information will be helpful to you during the "adjustment" period. If you have any other questions, or if there are topics that we have not covered here, feel free to call or e-mail! We wish you luck with the new member of your household! Don't forget, we love to get pictures and hear stories!!!

*Betty & Denise
B & D Siamese Cattery*