

KITTEN INFORMATION

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 period!

Your kitten has been eating a blend of Purina One and Pro Plan Select For Kittens, Wellness Kitten, Authority Kitten, Nutro Max Cat for kittens, Iams or Blue Buffalo Kitten, plus good old Purina Kitten Nurturing Formula (yellow bag); and has also sampled an assortment of Friskies and Fancy Feast canned cat food. I try to make sure your kitten has sampled a variety of tastes and foods, so that no matter what you choose to feed your new kitten, it will be able to adjust easily – plus I always send home a bag of what they have been eating so that you can blend it (for that first week) with the food you are choosing to purchase. By the time that is gone, your kitten should be fine switching over to the food you have chosen to use. It is also a good idea to blend bottled water with your own tap water for the first week, til your kitten adjusts to the new water. For the adult 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. For adult cats, Purina makes a type of dry cat food called Purina Naturals in an olive green colored bag; Purina One Naturals in a yellow and white bag; Purina Healthful Life; all of which are very good, plus there is a new Purina now called Purina One Beyond which has real chicken as #1 and no by products or corn – this a really great! Or there is also a brand called Natural Life, or Authority brand that is not too costly. Plus Wellness, and Taste of The Wild are just some of the other great 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 ground corn. Artificial colors and preservatives have been linked to some health related issues, and most common brands of cat food contain both. So, watch your labels if you want your cat to eat healthy!

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 and Fancy Feast are usually the best tasting favorites of the cats, along with Fancy Feast and Natures Recipe plastic trays (shreds or chunks of meat and broth) 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 for young kittens when they are learning to eat hard 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. Just put a small amount of canned out on top of the hard food if you feel they are a little homesick and not eating as well as they should be – this will usually perk them up!

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 with Swheat Scoop cat litter, as it is healthier for kittens 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, I have switched them over to using regular clay or clumping type litter, so your kitten will have used both types by the time they go home. This way you should be fine with whichever type of litter you choose to use. For the clumping type, I usually buy the Scoop Away “Complete Performance” or “Multi Cat Plus Crystals”, as those seem to clump the best, and controls odor the best for multiple cat households. My other choice is Fresh Step Scoop “With Dual Action Crystals”, plus Tidy Cat Lightweight is great too! Litter choice is really up to you – if you only have one or two cats, the Swheat Scoop should work great – 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.

It is ***imperative*** that you have your cat spayed or neutered, 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. Also, this will help ensure that all of your kitten’s records will be on file at your own vet’s office.

For the first couple of weeks, 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 know your baby can 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 the kitten knows it’s way around your house now, and will be able to find the litter box by itself.

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 (especially when our babies are all grown up) and also to hear stories!!!

Betty & Denise
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