

## Teeth and teething

Your kitten will have a complete set of sharp teeth (and claws) when you get it home - as you will soon find out. As it loses its baby teeth from 12 weeks to 6 months old, it may need toys and teething aids to satisfy its chewing urges. Try to obtain several indestructible toys for constant chewing - and protect your ankles!

## Health checks

It is very important to keep a close eye on your kitten, as small changes can lead to bigger problems. Every time you groom or bath your kitten, check her for cuts, sores and lumps. If it is regularly checked, you will be able to spot a potential problem early on. **In particular look out for any lumps and bumps.**

Watch for scratching and check the coat for fleas or other problems, which could reflect a medical or dietary problem. Skin disorders can often be remedied by a change of diet.

Check that your pets urinate regularly and that their stools are firm, as any change could indicate a developing health problem. This can be difficult if your kitten is trained to soil outside, so changes in behaviour and feeding can be used as indicators of trouble, particularly if your kitten is lethargic or hunched over.

If you have any doubts about the most suitable products to use for training, feeding or general care, please ask a member of Pets Corner staff or contact your vet.

## Important Contacts

Pets Corner

  
or call us freephone on **0800 1696098**

Vets

Breeder

## Kitten Checklist

- | **Bed or basket** should be comfortable and secure, although kittens will sleep almost anywhere!
- | **Food and water bowls**, preferably ceramic or metal.
- | **Brush and comb**. Grooming time helps to build a trusting relationship between kitten and owner, and keeps the skin and coat healthy. Regular grooming can also highlight any skin problems or growths and can reduce the formation of hairballs.
- | **Worming tablets or cream** suitable for their age - always check the label.
- | **Herbal flea sprays or powders** suitable for your kitten's age and a **flea comb** if necessary.
- | **Cat scratching post** for entertainment and claw sharpening!
- | **Litter tray (open or hooded)** and suitable litter material and scoop.
- | **Toilet training aids and petsafe disinfectants** for cleaning up 'accidents'.
- | **Petsafe repellents or anti-chew sprays** to keep kitten away from unsafe areas or your best furniture!
- | **Catnip sprays or attractants** to tempt them to their own toys and belongings.
- | **Kitten crate** to secure her if she needs to be left alone at home.
- | **Car crate** or carrier for safe travelling.
- | **Cat harness or lead** for security out of the house and garden.
- | **Catflap** to allow access into or out of your home. To prevent other cats from entering try an electromagnetic catflap.
- | **Kitten books** - we stock breed specific books, those on training, behaviour and general care. It is best to learn as much as possible about your new pet.



Find out all about us at:  
**petscorner.co.uk**

If you have any questions about your pet or any points made in this leaflet, please contact us and we will be happy to help.

## Careguide Kittens



# Think twice!

A new kitten can make a fantastic pet. They have their own unique personalities and a great independent spirit. If raised properly you'll have a friend for life, and, more importantly a new member of the family!

Buying and owning a cat can bring many rewards into your life, but caring for and playing with them can be very time consuming.

If you are not 100% sure that you or your children will be able to give your pet the attention that it needs then please **think twice**.

## Are you kitten prepared?

**Is your home suitable for a kitten?** It needs space to move about and safe, secure areas to play where it can cause minimal damage to itself and your furniture etc.

**Are you able to spend time playing with your kitten?** If you will be out of the house for long periods of time nearly every day, it may become lonely and mischievous. Single cats need human company too.

**Can you afford a cat?** Not only do you have to set aside around £20 a month for food etc., there's the bedding, toys, scratch posts, pet carriers, flea & worm control, as well as cattery fees too! Vets bills can easily exceed £100 in times of trouble, and even regular health checks and vaccinations soon add up.

## Choosing your kitten

**There are many things to consider before selecting your kitten. The main considerations are listed below.**

**Pedigree or cross-breed?** Think of adult size, temperament, grooming requirements, hereditary illnesses or ability to train. Try not to choose on looks alone!

**Male or female?** A queen may become pregnant at least once a year, so must be kept away from males during her season, to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Males may stray many miles or become agitated if they are in the vicinity of a queen in season.

**Just 1?** Consider whether you could commit yourself to more than one kitten, not only financially, but also with time and care. Many people feel that having 2 kittens is the best option as they will keep each other company as they grow older, but single cats will thrive just as well with devoted owners.

**Cat & dog?** There is no reason why canine and feline cannot live together, as long as they are introduced sensibly and there is no preference shown towards either.

**Indoor or outdoor?** The decision for either usually depends on your housing - ie. tower block, or no garden, or for safety if you live near a main road. Considerations should also include risk of boredom for a single kitten if no one is home for long periods, and risk of injury or loss if allowed to roam. You could compromise by allowing them out during the day and keeping them in at night, or construct a mesh cat run outside your house where your kittens can play without risk.

**Spay or neuter?** It is possible to sterilise your kitten from the age of 6 months to prevent common problems, such as soiling inside your house or contributing to unwanted pregnancies. The operation will not affect the temperament or behaviour of your pet, neither will it gain weight if proper feeding and exercise are maintained.

**Pet insurance?** You may find that pet insurance is the best option to cover those more expensive vet's bills and treatments, although it will not cover the cost of annual vaccinations or any treatment costing under £30.

**Vaccinations?** It is recommended that your kitten is vaccinated from the age of about 8/9 weeks of age against Feline Enteritis and Feline Influenza, and more recently vaccinations against Feline Leukaemia and Chlamydia have become available. These diseases, although rare, are virtually incurable so initial vaccinations and annual boosters are a 'must'. Register with a vet as soon as possible for a health check and advice about your kitten.

## Feeding time

Your kitten should be fed a specific 'Kitten' or 'Growth' lifestage food for the first year of its life - longer if a larger breed. These types of food will have been specially formulated by leading nutritionists to benefit every aspect of your growing kitten. Diets without such modifications can lead to poor bone development, bad teeth and stunted growth.

Pets Corner specialises in nutrition. **Our staff are trained in all of our food related products to offer you the best advice on feeding to suit your pet, both in complete foods and treats.** We stock foods to cater for all ages and pet lifestyles - active, average or lazy / kitten, adult or senior. Not only can we select the healthiest, most natural diet for your pet, but when your cat is fully grown **we could save you around £300 per year!\***

Depending on the recommended daily feeding quantity for your kitten, divide the amount into several small meals throughout the day:

Up to 12 weeks - 4 small equal meals.

Up to 6 months - 3 meals - lunch smaller.

Over 6 months - 2 meals - larger in the morning.

Always supply plenty of fresh drinking water.

**Purchase animal-safe treats only.** Try treating with premium treats that do not contain excess sugar rather than human food or sweets.

## Playtime and toys

These should be used for entertainment and rewards. A kitten will respond well to you if you have its favourite toy in your hand. Playtime is an ideal opportunity to teach your kitten the basic commands you wish to use - but always make it short and enjoyable or your kitten will lose interest very quickly.

## Grooming and bathtime

Make all experiences a pleasure for your kitten! Use these sessions for handling and getting it used to you touching it all over. Try to avoid keeping your kitten still for too long. How it is handled the first few times can affect its behaviour in future situations - ie. during health checks, when at the vets or cattery/grooming parlour etc.

\*Feeding one 4kg cat 70g of Nutro Complete Cat per day (as recommended) from a 7.5kg bag costs £95.35 per year. Feeding the same cat 4 x 100g Whiskas Pouches per day (as recommended) costs £394.20. Correct on 28th May 2004.