

ENTERTAINMENT:

Cats have natural hunting instincts that are exercised when they play (pouncing, stalking, etc). It is important to provide your cat with toys so it can satisfy its drive for this activity. It is fairly easy to entertain a cat with simple, fun toys. A bored kitten is a naughty kitten. Using catnip as an attractant on the toys, bedding and items to be used by your cat will make acceptance of these items more likely.

SCRATCHING:

There are various reasons why you should offer your cat a scratching spot in the form of a post, toy or carpet area:

- To sharpen claws
- To stretch and exercise
- To mark territory
- To assert authority

Left with no alternative, your cat will probably use the furniture, curtains or the best carpet to fulfill these needs. There are many different varieties of scratching poles incorporating houses, tunnels, pompoms and platforms which your cat can call their castle.

COLLARS & NAME TAGS:

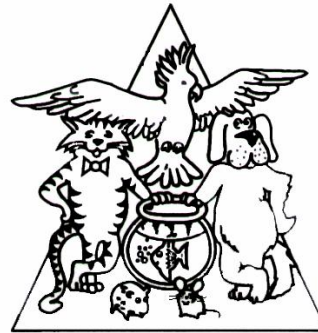
All cats should wear a name tag attached to the collar for identification, particularly if you allow your cat the freedom to roam. A cat collar needs to have an elastic section so the cat won't strangle itself if the collar is caught while climbing. *Pet City* recommends microchipping your cat as well.

WALKING ON A LEAD:

Cats can learn to walk on a lead. The most practical method is the cat harness, which goes around the chest and belly and can be more secure than a collar alone, without the choking effect around the neck.



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Kitten Fact Sheet



The following is a guide to maintaining your new kitten in good health and to make the often stressful and confusing settling-in period as streamlined as possible.

Always remember you have acquired a living animal (with specific needs and emotions) at a very vulnerable and impressionable age. The way you approach daily routines and problems now can influence your kitten's health and responses as an adult.

We will be pleased to advise you further if you require more information.

VACCINATION:

An initial course of vaccinations is required to fully protect your kitten. These are due at 6-8 weeks of age, 12 weeks of age and sometimes 16 weeks of age. Your *Pet City* kitten will already have started this course and future due dates are listed in your veterinary vaccination card. This is an important document and should accompany your kitten to all veterinary visits and catteries. **Until that final vaccination your kitten should not be venturing into the outside world and certainly not come in contact with other cats whose vaccination status is unknown.** Be aware that it takes 10-14 days after each vaccination for maximum protection to be achieved. The diseases vaccinated against are: Feline Enteritis and Feline Respiratory Disease (cat flu). A vaccine against Feline Leukemia Virus is also available. Discuss this option with your vet. Annual boosters are necessary for the rest of your kitten's life.

INTESTINAL WORMS:



Worming throughout life is essential for all cats. Using an appropriate **all-wormer** in either a tablet or paste form (we recommend Drontal or Troy All Wormer) according to your kitten's weight every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age (second vaccination time), then every month until 6 months of age (desexing time) and then every 3 months for life. Your *Pet City* kitten is currently up to date with worming and future due dates are listed in your history card.

HEARTWORM:



Although primarily a problem in dogs, cats have been shown to be infected with heartworm. Discuss preventative tablets (usually monthly) with your vet.

FLEAS:



If fleas become a problem at home you will generally see the adult fleas or find flea dirt in your kitten's coat (small black specks of dried blood left behind by fleas feeding). This can also prove deceptive as cats groom themselves thoroughly, making flea detection difficult. Your *Pet City* kitten has been treated for fleas and consequently you will not be inheriting a flea problem from us. However the flea life cycle is predominantly an environmental problem, so if you have or have had other pets at home, ensure all precautions are taken to prevent flea outbreaks. *Pet City* staff can help you with a total flea eradication program. Always use a flea treatment appropriate and safe for your kitten's age and size.

FEEDING:

Feeding your kitten a balanced, high quality food is essential to ensure a healthy progression into adulthood. It is always best to continue the previously fed diet during the initial stressful relocation period to avoid stomach upsets. Your *Pet City* kitten has already been settled in on the premium range of cat foods (Nutrience, Hills Science Diet or Eukanuba) and you will have been advised on your kitten's feeding requirements. Monitor your kitten's weight and body condition and feed appropriately. Small, regular meals are of greater value.

Should you decide to alter your kitten's diet at any stage, do so slowly over four or five days. Gradually phasing out the current food and mixing in the new diet.

Encouraging your kitten to chew raw brisket bones, chicken wings, chicken necks, or conducting a tooth brushing routine will ensure your cat retains a full healthy dentition into old age.

HOUSE TRAINING:

Familiarize your kitten with a litter tray. Using an appropriate litter material (such as Breeders Choice), will make life easier and more hygienic. Regular toileting behaviour along with diet and exercise, will reduce the likelihood of Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) posing a problem later in life.

The emphasis should always be on restricting your cat to your property, if not strictly indoors. Incorporating a cat door and/or an external cat "aviary" with facilities for sun bathing, toileting and climbing would be ideal.

GROOMING:



As cats groom themselves regularly, fur balls will be a potential inconvenience and may cause vomiting and constipation, particularly in long haired breeds. Laxatives (Cat-lax or Laxapet Gel) will aid in the easy passage of swallowed hair, in conjunction with regular brushing and combing. Alternatively you can feed your cat a premium Hairball formula food.

DESEXING:

Males and females can be desexed from 6 months of age. There are positive health benefits to be gained from desexing at this age, such as a much lower incidence of mammary (breast) cancers and uterine disease in females. Unwanted litters of kittens, less wandering, fighting and competition, and less territory marking (urine spraying) are major advantages.

~ *Pet City* strongly recommends that you desex your animals. ~