



## Caring for you new KITTEN

Kittens are curious, intelligent and faithful. There are many pedigree breeds recognized by the governing Council of the Cat Fancy. There are also non pedigree kittens available that range in coat type and colour which are equally rewarding as pets.

Most cats are kept as house pets with access to the outside, usually via a cat flap fitted to a rear door. However some cats are kept permanently indoors. These have special requirements and we are happy to advise you of those.

Cats are a **LIFETIME** commitment! The average life span of a cat is 12-14 years, where some have been known to live closer to their 20's.

### Choosing and buying your kitten

When choosing a kitten you must consider exercise and grooming requirements. You also need to consider the cost of feeding, health care, professional grooming, holiday care and day care for while you are working.

Your new kitten should be at least 8 weeks old, fully weaned and eating from its own dish.

A healthy kitten should be:

- Bright and alert
- Have no signs of discharge from eyes, ears, mouth and nose
- Have a clean anal area
- Have a glossy coat
- Be able to move about easily with no signs of lameness

### Housing

You should provide a sleeping bed/radiator bed or basket for your kitten to sleep in. There are many types of beds and beddings on the market. Just ask if you are unsure.

### Feeding and Water

When buying or receiving your kitten, their current diet should be explained to you. If it isn't, ASK THEM. If you decide to change your kitten's diet (whether to adult food or just a different brand) you should do it over a period of time, as sudden changes in diet can cause upset stomachs. At Jumanji Pets you will be able to find many different ranges of wet and dry foods to suit you and your kitten's needs. Ask if you feel you need any extra advice. Fresh water should be available at ALL times.

### Handling

#### Settling in:

When you take your new kitten home he/she could be very nervous. Make sure you spend as much time with him/her as you can, giving lots of reassurance as he/she adjusts to their new surroundings. Your kitten should be kept to one room for the first week to make sure he/she knows where everything is, to avoid having any accidents (like missing the litter tray). After the first week your kitten should be given the freedom to explore but not allowed to go outside until he/she is fully settled in. He/she will also need times of undisturbed rest. Introduce him/her to other pets and children gradually. Keep all doors and windows closed.

#### House Training:

Kittens are naturally clean and will normally use a litter tray. The litter must be changed regularly and the tray washed, disinfected and dried to avoid any bacterial problems. There are many different types and styles of litter trays as well as many different brands and types of litters available. Please ask which is best suited for you and your kitten!

#### Toys

Your kitten will love and appreciate toys. Not every kitten enjoys the same type of toy as another. You will need to try a variety of different types to find the one best suited for you and your kitten. Kittens and cats also have a natural urge to dig their claws into woodwork and furniture. Study shows that sharpening their claws is only a secondary reason to why they do that. The scratched surface leaves a highly visible mark that can be easily seen by other cats. In addition, cats have scent glands in their paws so that when they make scratching movements they leave odor cues that the cats can smell. The fact that cats leave scent marks by making scratching movements may be the reason that cats will continue to try to scratch objects even after they have been declawed. Therefore it's highly advisable to get him/her a scratch post to save your furniture from destruction.

## General Care

**Grooming**- all kittens will benefit from regular grooming, particularly if long haired. Just ask about a suitable tool best for your kitten's coat type.

**Worming**- should be done regularly. Depending on the brand you choose, will determine how often to repeat the process. Ask if unsure!

**Flea control**- to prevent fleas and other skin parasite you should treat regularly. Depending on the brand you choose, will determine how often to repeat the process. Ask if unsure!

**Vaccinations**- Are to protect from infectious feline diseases: feline enteritis, 'cat flu' and feline leukaemia. The first set of vaccines should be carried out at the age of at least 8-9 weeks old with a second set to follow 3-4 weeks after. Then yearly boosters will be required from a year's date after the second vaccine. If you intend to take your pet abroad he/she will need a pet passport. Please seek advice on how to obtain one if desired.

**Neutering**- neutering is advised in keeping away unwanted attention from other cats as well as preventing unwanted pregnancy. It can also bring down male testosterone levels

**Insurance**- registering with an insurance company will help to cover against unexpected veterinary bills in any emergency

- Pet Safe disinfectant
- Scratching Post
- Book on care specific to your feline breed

**For more information feel free to talk to any of the Jumanji Pets employees, we are here to help!**

0207 372 5693

## Shopping List

- Food (Jumanji Will Advise)
- Water/Food Bowls
- Food Mat
- Bed/Basket/Transportation Carrier
- Brush/Comb
- Collar
- Disc/ID tag
- Worming/Flea preparations (Shirley's Worming cream/Johnson's Flea treatment)
- Toys (laser/kong kickeroo/play balls/feather on wand)
- Treats/training treats (deli treats/Orijen/natures menu)
- Shampoo/coat conditioner (Tropical Clean/Pet head)
- Minerals/vitamins (Vionate)
- Litter (World's Best, Natures Calling)
- Litter Tray/Box
- Litter scoop/Liners