

## Handy Hints for Kitten Owners



**Food**-Because of urinary tract problems common in cats, we recommend Science Diet or other Premium brand foods.

**Litter**- Any dust-free scoopable or clay litter works fine. A pellet newspaper litter or "kaykob" is available for use after declawing.

**Grooming Tools**- A comb for grooming and a flea comb work great! Use them several times weekly and start when your kitten is young. This keeps them mat free and reduces hairball problems.

**Toothbrush**- There are special toothbrushes and toothpastes for cats. It's easier to start them as kittens rather than waiting until they are several years old.

**Nail Trimmer**- Any type will work. Trim front claws every 2 weeks.

**Scratching post**- You can make one by stapling carpets to a 2 x 4, or you can purchase one at a pet store. Rub your kitten's paws on it to introduce them and reward them when you see them using it. You can also spray catnip on it to make it more attractive.

**Toys**- Avoid buying toys with long strings or ribbons, as curious cats can chew them up and sometimes become obstructed, requiring surgery. Common household items such as milk carton tabs, paper bags (cut off handles), or rolled up tinfoil make good inexpensive toys.

**Squirt guns**- This a great tool to discipline kittens from afar.

**Laxatives**- There are many different brands that work fine. We have Laxatone® here at the clinic. Use ½ inch daily for 3 days, then once weekly. This is good to have on hand for long-haired cats.

**Treats**- No more than 2-3 treats daily as they also count in the daily calorie intake. Too many treats can lead to obesity.

**Beds**-Cuddler beds are nice and are easy to wash.

