

Handy Hints for Kitten Owners



- **Food-** Urinary tract problems are common in cats, we recommend Science Diet or other premium brand foods because of this. This is especially vital for male cats.
- **Litter-** Any dust free scoopable or clay litter works well. A pellet newspaper litter is preferred after declawing.
- **Grooming a cat-** A comb for grooming is a great tool for cats. Many cats are self-groomers and brushing them may not be a priority as an owner. However, this is important for cats that meet certain conditions such as long hair or overweight, as well as during high shedding periods.
- **Nail Trim-** There are smaller nail trimmers for cats. Claws should be clipped regularly for all cats, indoor cats will require nail trims more frequently.
- **Scratching posts-** Scratching is a natural behavior for cats. It is important for cats to have a healthy outlet such as a scratching post. These can be purchased or made using carpet around a wood post. You can help peak your cats' interest by using cat nip on the post and rewarding when used.
- **Toys-** Cats should avoid toys with long strings or ribbons unsupervised as these can be consumed and cause an obstruction. Common household items can be used as toys such as cardboard boxes, paper bags without handles, and rolled tinfoil.
- **Cat trees-** Cats are perching animals. They should have opportunities to perch high around the house. This can be accomplished with cat trees, platforms on walls, or simply having household furniture that they can hang out.
- **Beds-** Cuddler beds are a great option for cats. Cats enjoy having places to hide and many beds are made that have tops on them.
- **Kitten proofing-** It can help to think of your pet as a toddler. Crawl on your hands and knees to see things from their perspective and find nooks and crannies that they can hide in. Ensure household cleaning supplies and chemicals are secured away from the pet. Cats are also good and finding high places to climb and may learn to open cupboards.

- **Kitten's Grow-** continue to make sure collars and harnesses are appropriately fitted daily. Kittens grow fast and a collar that fits today may be too small tomorrow. You should be able to fit 1-2 fingers underneath the collar.
- **Plants-** Many plants can be toxic if consumed by cats. Ensure that plants that may cause problems are kept in a safe place that your cats cannot reach. When in doubt if a pet consumes a plant, call Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 764-7661.

