

Bringing Home Baby

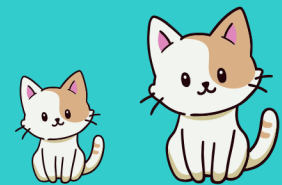
Owning a kitten is entirely different than having an adult cat. Kittens, while charming and lovable, can be exhausting and require a lot of attention to socialize them and keep them safe!

Kittens grow quickly. Your kitten will only be small for a short time, they reach their full size and are considered an adult at just one year! Enjoy this time and remember the bond you form now will last your cat's entire lifetime.



Did You Know?

The first year of a kitten's life is the equivalent of 15 human years.



Feeding and Litter Box

HAP will send you with the food that your kitten has been eating. You can transition your kitten to a new food by mixing the old and the new. See the Success At Home flyer for how to do this. Kittens should have nutrient rich food designed for kittens until they are a year old.

NOTE: The idea of kitties lapping up milk or cream is a myth! Cats are lactose intolerant and cannot digest any milk besides mama's or Kitten Milk Replacer from a pet store.

Kittens have a natural instinct to use the litterbox so your only job will be to show your kitten where the box is. Small kittens may need a box with lower sides. If your kitten has an accident do not punish her. Use positive reinforcement, such as treats and praise, until she gets used to using it on her own without any prompting.

Cat nap? Cats sleep 16-20 hours a day and are most active at night!



**HUMANE ANIMAL
PARTNERS**
DELAWARE

Kittens often climb or scratch in inappropriate places. When your kitten does this pick it up and remove it from the surface and place it where you want it to go (for example the scratching post). Use positive reinforcement for good behavior and a firm “no” when behavior is not acceptable. Cats do not like the feel of tape or aluminum foil so you can use these items to cover areas you want them to stay away from. Pet stores sell Pet Tape for this purpose.

This age is a great time to socialize your cat and to prepare them for visits to the veterinarian. Play with your kitten’s toes, ears and mouth to mimic a vet exam and nail trims. You may also want to leave your carrier with a blanket in the room so it is familiar to your kitten when it is time to go for checkup.

Play And Pounce Time

Everything in your home will become a toy for your cat. Curtains, potted plants, any item on any surface is vulnerable to attack. To avoid unwanted cat-astrophes put anything you don’t want knocked over out of kitten’s reach. Beware of small items that your kitten may swallow like hair ties and string. Provide your kitten with lots of toys that they can interact with such as spinners, wands or springs. Kittens will even play with straws or wadded up paper balls! Give your kitten at least two exercise playtimes with you to burn off their kitten energy. Playing hard before bedtime will help your kitten from keeping you up all night!

HANDS ARE NOT TOYS! Kittens will try to wrestle and bite your hands because that’s what they would do with their siblings, but don’t offer your hands as a toy if you don’t want your ten-pound adult cat doing the same thing when they get older. Redirect them to a toy instead.

Single Kitten Syndrome



Single Kitten Syndrome refers to a set of behaviors that result when a kitten was not socialized with other cats in the first few months of life. These kittens do not recognize normal cat behavioral cues that a mother cat or siblings would teach. Shelters will often put single kittens in foster homes together so they will know how to interact with other cats in their future homes .

Single Kitten Syndrome is also a reason we encourage adopters to get two kittens rather than one. Single kittens may bite, chew, or play rough because of boredom or anxiety. Having two kittens means they will not need to rely on their human to keep them entertained and out of trouble.