

# KITTEN CARE SHEET

## Introducing Your Kitten

When you get home let the kitten find its own way out of the basket/box and allow it to explore one room at a time. Make sure it knows where its litter tray and water bowl are and at first, I would confine them to the room where the litter tray is until they have used it. (The toilet and feeding area should not be too close together).

It is likely that your kitten may not eat, drink or go to the toilet for up to 3 days at first. It's also possible that whilst they have been litter trained they may not use the litter tray the first time that go to the toilet. This is all perfectly normal until they feel entirely safe in their new environment which can sometimes take up to a week.

Your kitten needs warmth at first - it will miss its mother and litter mates. Try not to overwhelm your kitten with too much attention, let it come to you naturally, remember you are a stranger to it. Talk to it and encourage it to play with a toy. Do not restrain your kitten and force it to sit on your knee. Patience with your kitten in the first few days will be well rewarded.

## Food and Drink

Dry biscuits should be available all day; we recommend Royal Canin (Kitten, Sensible, Oral and Hair & Skin varieties) or Hills Science Plan.

Wet food pouches can be given from time to time, your kitten has been used to Sheba Desire pouches in jelly or terrine, Encore Applaws or Hilife. Some wet food varieties may be too rich to for some kittens and may cause diarrhea, I would recommend avoiding anything in gravy. Fresh clean water must be available for your cat **at all times**. In our experience Bengals generally do not tolerate milk.

## Litter Training

Your Wildspotz kitten has been fully litter trained, however, the excitement of the new surroundings can sometimes cause a temporarily upset tummy. If this is the case, plenty of water and dried food should help.

A sanitary tray - litter tray must be available at all times and kept in the same place. Solid matter and wet lumps should be removed from the tray frequently and the litter renewed when necessary. The tray should be washed and disinfected frequently. Rinse thoroughly after disinfecting and allow to dry before use. Cats are very fussy and will not use a dirty tray. You can buy covered litter trays which provide privacy for your cat and hide the litter from your visitors. Your kitten has been accustomed to using wood pellet litter which you can purchase from any good pet store.

## Neutering/Spaying

We recommend spaying Girls at about 5-6 months (unless sold for breeding). It is best to wait until the boys are a little older – maybe 6-7 months. They will have developed their masculine good looks by then and it is also better from a health point of view. However, if you are mixing boy and girl kittens is might be prudent to neuter earlier rather than having any mistakes!

## Existing pets

When introducing your new kitten to cats and dogs you already have, it may take several days for them to accept the newcomer. It is best to introduce the kitten first of all to one room (containing food, water and a cat litter tray) until it has familiarised itself with the new surroundings. Then, you should supervise the introduction between the newcomer and other members of the household. Do not leave the kitten alone with other animals until you know they get on well. **DO NOT** separate your new kitten and existing cats; it will only slow the acceptance process.

It is very important that you make an extra fuss of your existing pets so they do not feel left out. When your existing pet is in the same room with you and your Wildspotz kitten, be sure to ignore the new kitten and praise and cuddle your existing pet. By doing this, it will make your pet feel secure and will help your pet to

accept and befriend your new kitten more quickly. If you fail to do this, it will make the acceptance process much more difficult and it will encourage unnecessary animosity from your existing pet(s).

## Hazards

All of the following have been the cause of **death** and **serious injury** to kittens and young cats: front and top loading washing machines, tumble driers, electric flexes that can be chewed, hot stoves, water tanks, garden pools, toilets with open lids (you don't want to fish your kitten out from the U-bend), hot baths, irons and the tops of storage heaters. Many houseplants are poisonous. Do not leave them where they can be chewed - just in case.

Be aware that your kitten will investigate open chimneys, open doors and windows. It can escape and disappear through the smallest crack and may get shut in a drawer or cupboard.

Use disinfectants that do **NOT** contain **Phenol** or **Cresol**. These are poisonous to cats. Most brands of household disinfectants contain them. (A quick test is to see if it goes white when added to water). Parvocide, GPC-8, Virkon, Peratol and Trigene are safe in correct dilution. Always dilute a cleansing agent according to the instructions and make sure disinfected items are rinsed and aired afterwards. To cleanse a soiled area use a biological washing powder and then rub with surgical spirit as this prevents the cat being attracted back to the same spot.

Take care that toys, or parts of them, cannot be swallowed. Plastic bags and rubber bands such as the elastic that goes around joints of meat are a hazard. Plastic does not show up on an X-ray and can be very dangerous if swallowed. Do not allow a kitten to play unsupervised with wool, string or thread, and beware of sewing needles and pins - kittens have been known to swallow thread with these still attached.

## Health Matters

It is essential that you register your kitten with your own vet within the first few weeks of ownership. The vet will then be able to confirm good health and register it for any future treatment.

### Vaccinations

Your Wildspotz kitten has had a full course of Nobivac Trio vaccinations for feline enteritis, feline herpes virus, feline calicivirus and has also been vaccinated for feline leukaemia (given at 9 & 12 weeks). Booster injections should normally be carried out annually.

### Worming

Your kitten has been wormed with Panacur at 6 weeks and a Milbemax tablet at nine weeks, I would recommend that you speak to your vets regarding future treatments but this would normally be done in about 3 months time.

### Flea Treatments

For flea treatment I recommend Frontline Spoton that is available from your vet.

### Grooming

Your kitten has been used to grooming using a soft brush.

## Insurance

Your kitten comes with 5 weeks free pet insurance. We strongly recommend that you continue the cover without a break to cover any unforeseen medical problems. Veterinary bills can be very expensive.

## Final Note

I do hope you have a long and rewarding relationship with your new kitten as it grows in to a magnificent adult cat. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I love to hear how kittens are settling in and getting on in their new homes so please keep in touch!

Best wishes,

Jo Slater