



KITTEN CARE GUIDE



HEALTH NOW AND ALWAYS

Tailored nutrition for their healthy development

Congratulations on your new family member! Bringing home a new kitten is wonderful, but we know it can be a bit hectic. That's why we've put together this guide with valuable information on **nutrition, training and health care**.

We're so excited for all of the new experiences you and your kitten will have together. From playtime to nap time, from kitten to senior years, we know there are many **important life stages** ahead, each with their own **unique nutritional support requirements**. That's why we created our formulas based on a cat's age, breed, lifestyle and special needs.

We include important nutrients like easy-to-digest protein and omega-3 fatty acids to help support your kitten's growth and development in a kibble that's an ideal size, texture and shape for smaller mouths.

Your kitten's environment is very important and should support your pet's need for hunting, hiding, climbing, playing and sleeping. Our kitten formulas provide the energy levels needed for **healthy growth and development**.

We know you have many options when choosing the right food for your kitten. Thank you for your support of Royal Canin and sharing our passion for healthy and happy pets. Please contact our Customer Care team at 1-800-592-6687 with questions and comments or visit our website www.royalcanin.com to learn more about our company, partners and diets.



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This is an exciting time for you, but it can also be a time of adjustment for your new kitten. Your new pet will be leaving the security of their mother and littermates, and will experience a multitude of new sights, sounds and smells.

To help you with this transition, the team at Royal Canin has gathered essential information to assist in welcoming your new pet home.

Choosing a Veterinarian

It is important that your new kitten has an initial check-up and regular follow-up care, so choosing a veterinarian before your new kitten comes home can save time. Here are a few tips for helping you choose a vet:

PROXIMITY

Choose a veterinarian that's close to your home for safety, security and convenience.

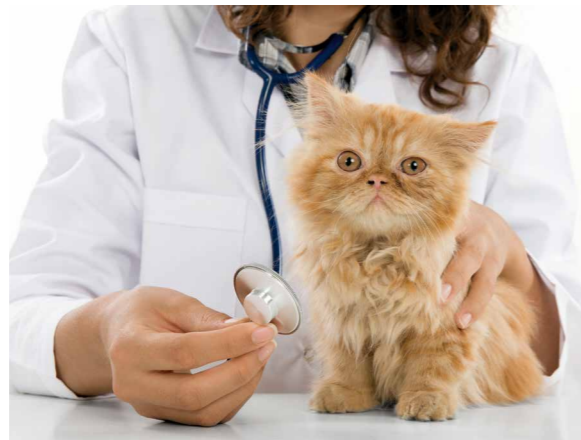
HOURS

Many veterinarians have extended evening or weekend hours. Make sure your vet's hours of operation work with your schedule, particularly during your kitten's first few months.

EMERGENCIES

Does the veterinarian answer after-hours emergency calls or work with a local emergency clinic that's close to you?

- Ask family and friends for veterinarian recommendations
- Schedule a veterinary visit soon after bringing your kitten home
- Keep emergency veterinary clinic numbers handy
- Trust Royal Canin to provide nutrition for your pet's needs



Making Your Home Safe

Kittens are natural explorers; you will need to make sure the whole house is safe from anything the kitten could get into. By kitten-proofing now, you can avoid a lot of heartache later. Getting down to your kitten's eye level will enable you to assess potential hazards.

KITTEN'S FIRST THINGS

- 1 Hide electrical wires and block unused outlets
- 2 Limit access to balconies and decks
- 3 Put away all pesticides, weed and rat killers and all medications
- 4 Put away small items, such as rubber bands, pens, pencils, needles, etc.
- 5 Don't leave plastic bags or items made of foam lying around
- 6 Close the trash can lid and the toilet seat cover
- 7 Be careful with hot irons
- 8 Remove all indoor plants that are in reach of your new kitten
Many household plants are toxic to cats
- 9 Look for possible hiding places to minimize the risk of accidents
Kittens have a tendency to lurk in cupboards, drawers, laundry baskets, and get inside washing machines and dryers
- 10 Watch where you walk
Take care to make sure your kitten is not in the doorway when you shut doors

Check under the "Health Care" section of this booklet and with your veterinarian for a list of poisonous substances.



Take Care of These Basic Equipment Needs Before Your Kitten's Arrival

FOOD AND WATER BOWLS

Glass, crystal or pottery bowls are recommended. Choose a small one for dry kitten food and a bigger bowl for fresh water, which must always be available.

LITTER BOX

A covered litter box can help avoid spills, but not all kittens like covered litter boxes. Select a litter box that you know your kitten will use to encourage good litter box habits.

BEDDING

The kitten will choose its own place to sleep, but it is important to provide a warm, comfortable place where the kitten will feel safe, perhaps even the kitten's carrying crate.

SCRATCHING POST

Providing appropriate places to scratch will help prevent damage inside your home.

CAT TREE

Kittens love to climb high, and a cat tree helps to limit excessive rushing about and jumping on furniture while at the same time allowing the kitten to satisfy the need for exercise.

TOYS

Toys can be either bought or handmade, and it's best to move gently and avoid shouting when introducing your kitten to their new toys and surroundings.

To help prevent your kitten from being a nervous adult, play gently.



Your Kitten's First Nights

You are now responsible for your kitten's safety. Similar to its mother, your kitten will rely on you for confidence and protection.

- 1 Your kitten's first night in their new home can be an adjustment. It may be normal for her to cry the first three or four nights, but be sure to check on her to ensure she is safe.
- 2 Remember to handle your kitten carefully and avoid rough or sudden movements
- 3 If you want to carry your kitten, the best way is to slide one hand, open wide, under the stomach, with the other under the rear end for bigger breeds—*do not slide both hands under the front feet*

Introducing Children

Children tend to smother the new arrival with attention. While an adult cat is perfectly capable of avoiding children when they don't want to be bothered, a kitten is not.

When you bring the kitten home, supervise young children and remind them to play gently to help keep both the kitten and children safe. Explain that the kitten is not a toy, and because the kitten needs lots of sleep, no one is allowed to wake the kitten just to cuddle or play.

Introducing Your Kitten to Other Family Pets

A poor introduction of your new kitten to your existing pets could cause a feeling of frustration and/or jealousy for your existing pet(s), so introduce your new kitten gradually and gently.

Isolate the kitten initially, and let them gradually learn the way around the house so they don't hide under furniture. Maintain your existing pet's privileges for the first few days, but for proper household integration, make introductions soon after your kitten arrives home.

CATS

An adult cat does not appreciate any invasion of territory and may show displeasure with threatening behavior, but do not allow any aggression. Try introducing the cats on neutral territory during play. Repeat the process until the cats no longer mind each other's presence. A gradual hierarchical relationship that you should respect will be established between the cats, but total acceptance may take several months.

DOGS

A well-socialized dog will easily accept your new kitten. Older dogs may be less tolerant, but a few introductions will soon make the dog more comfortable, and integration will generally take place quickly without major problems.

- An adult should always be present when children play with a kitten
- Introduce cats in a neutral area, over a period of time
- Take precautions to keep your new kitten from being frightened or anxious

Clipping Your Kitten's Claws

Kittens most often use their claws to mark territory. To avoid the damage that this can cause, without prohibiting natural instincts, it is recommended that you cut or have your vet cut the tips of the nails. *Before doing this yourself, ask your vet to explain which part of the nail you can cut without risk. Do not attempt to cut nails without a thorough understanding from your vet on how to properly do this.*

Clipping the nails is not painful for the kitten; however, your cat may not enjoy this procedure. Therefore, it is very important that you begin this practice at an early age so the kitten will trust and allow you to do so.

Nail clippers designed for kittens are ideal. Clip the white tip of the claw without ever going close to the edge of the pink triangle.

Choose a comfortable spot and you can place the kitten on your knees, holding your pet's body between your thighs. After each clip, it is a good idea to relax the kitten by regularly stroking.

Caring for Your Kitten's Teeth

Milk teeth appear from the third to sixth week and the second teeth come in after four months. Tartar tends to build up on your cat's teeth over time, so ask your veterinarian how to care for your cat's teeth. When you take your cat to the vet for routine check-ups, the veterinarian will be monitoring your cat's oral health.



Brushing and Combing

Kittens will start self-grooming from the fifteenth day of life, mainly with their particularly rough tongue, but also with their paws. The front paws are moistened with the tongue and serve as a washcloth, reaching as far as the ears. The back paws are very flexible, allowing the kitten to groom all of the back and also the ears.

Start brushing your kitten early to get them accustomed to the brush, and this ritual will quickly become a time of shared pleasure and companionship. In addition, a beautiful coat reflects not only good health, but also the care and attention you give.

- Choose your comb or brush carefully; a comb penetrates the coat better than a brush
- Always comb or brush your kitten in the natural direction of the hair first, and then against the hair to gently remove dead hair and eliminate small knots
- Areas behind the ears and neck are prone to forming knots and require special attention because the kitten isn't able to reach those areas herself
- When a knot is difficult, act gently and patiently rather than pulling hard and tearing out a tuft
- Finish the grooming with the tail, brushing along its length (with the hair and against the hair) for maximum volume



- Short-haired breeds include: *Abyssinian, American Shorthair, Burmese, Chartreux, Cornish Rex, Japanese Bobtail, Manx*
- Long-haired breeds include: *Balinese, Maine Coon, Persian, Ragdoll, Turkish Angora*

SHORT-HAIRED BREEDS

- With short-haired cats, a weekly brushing is more than sufficient
- Before brushing, you can massage against the hair direction with a “toothed” glove, which will eliminate dead hair and stimulate the skin
- Brushing is done with a soft brush, preferably one with natural bristles, so as not to damage the coat

MID- TO LONG-HAIRED BREEDS AND PERSIANS

- Mid- to long-haired breeds need daily brushing for a few minutes
- Regular brushing prevents the formation of knots and tangles and eliminates dirt and parasites
- A large-toothed metal comb is the most suitable tool for grooming these breeds
- Areas behind the ears and neck are the most prone to knots and tangles

HAIRBALLS

Brushing is not just a luxury; it’s a necessity.

Removing the dead hair that accumulates in the fur prevents your kitten from swallowing it. Too much licking can cause hair to build up in the stomach, resulting in hairballs that can cause digestive problems like vomiting, and be harmful to the kitten’s growth.

Adult cats that have recurring hairballs may benefit from a diet formulated to help promote digestive transit. This helps move ingested hair through the digestive tract to allow for elimination of the hair instead of regurgitation of the hairballs.

Bathing

The first bath should be a pleasant experience. Take extreme caution not to frighten your kitten.

- After filling the bottom of the bathtub or sink with water at 96-98° F, place your kitten in it while calming the kitten with reassuring stroking and gentle talking
- Begin by moistening the kitten with a warm, wet washcloth or sponge
- Always use a special cat shampoo formulated for your kitten’s skin and hair (available in pet shops or from your veterinarian)
- Wet the back, making sure that you don’t pour water into the eyes or ears
- Wash your kitten’s coat, concentrating on the dirty parts, and rinse thoroughly with clean water
- Towel dry with a warm, clean cloth; you might want to use a hairdryer on a low setting to finish drying



Eating Behavior and Feeding Guidelines

There are several common feeding behaviors that cat owners should be aware of that can be utilized to enhance their cat’s overall health and well-being:

Smaller, more frequent meals are preferred: Many cats are grazers and prefer eating multiple small meals per day, with a shortened duration of each meal.

Environment can impact consumption: Many factors can influence a cat’s appetite, including breed, habits, activity level and instincts. Additionally, cats that are indoor exclusively can sometimes overeat due to a lack of opportunity to hunt, and boredom.

Cats savor more than flavor: Kittens and cats have significantly fewer taste buds than dogs or humans. While flavor can have an influence on cats’ preferences, the aroma, texture, kibble size and shape are as important as the flavor in defining palatability for a cat. Over time, cats will prefer a food that meets a specific nutrient balance versus one that has flavors that humans think might be appealing.

MIXED FEEDING

The sophisticated instincts of cats play an obvious role in their behavior and nutritional needs. Cats can show an increased interest for different sensorial experiences throughout their lives that can be satisfied with mixed feeding. Routinely feeding a nutritionally complete and balanced wet food with the right complementary dry food can also help support healthy hydration and help achieve an optimal weight.

TRANSITION FOODS SLOWLY

Any sudden change in the type of food can trigger digestive upset (soft stools, diarrhea). Ask the person you obtained the kitten from about their feeding methods (number of meals per day, rationed or unmeasured) and types of meals.

A transitional period for changing from one food to another should be observed over one week by gradually mixing the new food with the old food until you are feeding the new food exclusively. This transition helps to minimize the risks of digestive upset, which can be harmful to your kitten’s proper development.

AVOID TABLE SCRAPS

To maintain a balanced diet, avoid feeding table scraps. Your cat will identify your meals with their own food and will continually beg to be fed. An unbalanced diet can also lead to obesity or nutritional deficiencies.

MAKE SURE FRESH WATER IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Whatever type of food you give your kitten, make sure your pet always has a bowl of fresh, clean water. *Most importantly, allow your kitten to eat and drink water without disturbing them.*



DON'T OVERFEED

Follow the guidelines recommended on the bag, as this will help prevent problems with obesity, which could affect the kitten later in life. If you think your kitten is over or underweight, consult your veterinarian for specific feeding recommendations.

The twelve-month growth period (fifteen months for Maine Coons) is the most important stage in a kitten's life. Not only are they learning future behaviors, but their body gradually takes on its shape and size. By the time a kitten reaches adult weight, they will have multiplied their birth weight by 40 to 50 times. Many factors, including breed and gender, influence growth. And good nutrition plays a major role.

Factors Specific to the Kitten

BREED

Like the majority of living species, the bigger the cat breed, the longer the growth period.

GENDER

The male is usually larger, with a higher growth potential than the female, and full growth to adult weight can take several weeks longer. Male cats will therefore be heavier than female cats.

GENES

The father and mother contribute equally to the kitten's genetic code. Size and any morphological feature can influence growth.

HORMONES

Certain hormones synthesized by the kitten influence growth. Early neutering or spaying does not affect the ultimate size (height, bone structure, musculature) of the adult cat; this is determined by genetics. However, neutering or spaying does affect weight gain and fat deposition.



The kitten's nutritional needs are specific during the first weeks of life and will change as the kitten grows older. Royal Canin has nutritional solutions to address the different stages of growth your kitten will experience.

SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE VERY YOUNG KITTEN

- The kitten enters a dietary transition period called weaning
- The kitten gradually loses its ability to digest lactose and develops an increasing intolerance to it
- During this particularly delicate period, the kitten is susceptible to digestive disorders
- The milk teeth erupt from about two weeks to two months. The kitten makes the transition to solid food.

KITTENS LESS THAN FOUR MONTHS OLD

- From four to five weeks of age, a kitten can be introduced to solid food
- This food is first offered in the form of gruel, prepared with a little warm water or kitten milk replacer
- The quantity of liquid will then gradually be reduced until your kitten is only being given solid food
- Certain nutrients can support the immune system function of the young kitten

KITTENS MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS OLD

- After the second teeth have come through, the proportions of the different nutrients essential to the kitten's growth remain the same until your cat is one year old (15 months for Maine Coon kittens)
- The daily quantities of food for growth will vary and will be increased until reaching adulthood

SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE OLDER KITTEN

- The kitten's digestive ability improves and begins to be able to assimilate all nutrients
- As the adult teeth erupt, it's important to help protect the teeth from plaque and tartar buildup. A crunchy kibble can help create a brushing action during each meal.
- The kitten's bone structure begins to consolidate and muscle mass develops
- As growth rate slows, a kitten's energy requirements, although still high, decrease slightly

Food for the kitten and for the adult cat must take into account change as the kitten grows older. Complete and balanced foods are able to guarantee the nutrition necessary for your cat's well-being, whatever age, breed or level of activity.

CATS WITH SENSITIVITIES

- Sensitivities of variable severity at certain periods in a cat's life are due to a variety of factors: changes in environment, diet, the seasons or special features related to each individual cat
- Digestive sensitivities may lead to disorders like soft stools
 - Highly digestible proteins limit the concentration of residual proteins in the intestinal tract that sometimes aggravate these conditions
 - Nutrients like beet pulp and fructooligosaccharides promote a balanced intestinal flora
- Feline oral and dental sensitivities can result in bad breath and the buildup of plaque and tartar
 - Daily brushing of your cat's teeth is the most effective solution, but choosing a diet with dental health benefits can also be a convenient way to promote oral hygiene
- Sensitive skin can result in dandruff, a dull coat or other reactions
 - Nutrition can help maintain healthy skin and promote a soft, glossy coat
- Cats may spend hours each day grooming and tend to swallow hair, which can form hairballs in the stomach and intestines that are difficult to get out
 - Diets with specific fiber blends can help control hairballs



SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE SPAYED OR NEUTERED CAT

- Within 48 hours of spaying or neutering, kittens will eat more and may experience rapid weight gain, which can lead to obesity and many other health concerns
- Monitoring food intake and weight gain is very important in both young and adult cats
- Consult your veterinarian regarding ideal body weight and condition for your cat

LONG, HEALTHY LIVES

- Cats can live up to 20-25 years
- The effects of aging may start to be felt in the joints that have been stressed throughout the life of the cat
 - A combination of glucosamine, chondroitin and omega-3 fatty acids (EPA and DHA) maintains healthy joint function and helps to preserve mobility
- Digestive, mobility, oral and skin sensitivities can develop at any point during a cat's life



The essentials of your kitten's education take place during the period from birth to the age of six months. In fact, most behaviors are acquired by the age of three months, thanks to the mother's dominant role, as well as siblings.

The kitten learns in two different ways: by imitating the mother's actions, and then learning by means of experimenting. If the kitten finds the response pleasant, they tend to favor the action.

FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT

A favorable environment includes surroundings where your kitten socializes easily and becomes familiar with people and the surroundings. If the kitten has been raised with the mother, it is advisable for them to stay there until weaned. Education will be more complete, and your kitten will transition more easily into their new home.

A kitten that has been handled by several people from a very young age will be more curious and open to life. Similarly, familiarity with different noises of everyday life allows the kitten to be comfortable in the new home environment.

UNFAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT

If the environment in which the kitten has developed is low in stimuli, it is advisable to bring your kitten into contact with other cats at eight weeks old (provided the other cat is fully vaccinated).

The kitten needs to understand, before the kitten's weapons (claws and teeth) are fully developed, that there are boundaries.

The kitten needs to be socialized—gentle handling by different people, exposure to noises and contact with other animals.



- You are responsible for your kitten's education and socialization
- Kittens need a stimulating environment
- It may take longer to train a kitten that has not been properly socialized

To live in harmony, it is essential to understand the organization of your kitten's territory and basic activities. Once territory is defined, your kitten will spend most of the time sleeping. When not sleeping, the main occupations will be grooming, playing, hiding, eating and cuddling.

A cat's territory is exclusive, and quality is more important than space. Your kitten will identify your home as their territory. Inside your home, the kitten organizes life around four key areas. You must respect this organization without disturbing it, or you risk causing certain behavioral problems in your kitten.

- ❑ Avoid feeding your kitten in the same rooms where you eat
- ❑ Kittens like to nap near heat sources
- ❑ The litter box should be far away from the kitten's eating area

EATING AREA

Keep the eating area away from the litter box and avoid your kitchen or your dining room, so your kitten does not confuse your plate with their dish.

PLAY AREA

This is the biggest area and must be conducive to playing, racing about and climbing up high.

REST AREA

Your kitten prefers to rest in a warm spot; a space near a safe heat source (such as a sunny window) is best.

Being close to you is always important, so the kitten's bed should not be too far away from your living area.

LITTER BOX

From five to six weeks old, a kitten will use the litter box, often spending a lot of time covering the stool. If this lesson has not been learned, place the kitten in the litter box. Dig a hole with the paw, and then show the kitten how to cover what has been excreted. Repeat this exercise once or twice and the kitten should start to do this on their own.

The litter box should be distant from the food dish and your living area. As a suggested rule, have one more litter box than you have cats.



EXERCISE

- Exercise is essential for your kitten's well-being
- Exercise provides a means to channel energy into positive activity rather than using that energy for destructive purposes
- Favorite exercises are those that allow your kitten to climb, perch, jump, sharpen the claws and play with toys

PLAY

- Playing is a major part of the kitten's socialization
 - Playing encourages exploration of the surroundings and develops physical capabilities
- For the cat, playing and hunting are two closely linked activities, and a toy is often identified as the prey
- Your kitten's natural hunting instinct may lead to aggressive behavior
 - If your kitten becomes aggressive, stop playing with them immediately and do not play again until they have calmed down

SLEEP

A kitten has two distinct sleep phases:

Deep Sleep

- Until eight weeks old, your kitten is in a state of deep and almost continual sleep in which hormones essential to growth are secreted
- At two months old, the continuity of sleep decreases and your kitten alternates between light and deep sleep

Light Sleep

- From two months old, the sleep rhythm will gradually change towards that of the adult cat—more than half a day on average, split into several periods throughout the day
- During light sleep, your kitten sleeps with one ear listening and is attentive to the slightest noise
- Light sleep is generally followed by a deep sleep, in which your kitten is completely relaxed

IMPORTANT: *You are advised never to wake a kitten during deep sleep.*



ROOSTING

- Your kitten loves being up high—being at the same height as your face makes them happy, and they can rub against you, as with an equal
- If your home does not have enough places that are high and safe, try to make some by changing your surroundings a little or by providing a cat tree

Your Kitten's Personality

These tests are simple and will help you to become familiar with your kitten's personality.

- Get to know your kitten's personality through play
- If your kitten is slow to react, they may be afraid or indifferent
- If your kitten is nervous, they may not have been properly socialized

NOISE TEST

Clap your hands loudly with the kitten seeing you

- If your kitten acts curious while staying calm, they have been brought up in a full and stimulating environment
- If the kitten runs away, they must quickly be exposed to the noises of everyday life so they become accustomed to the sounds of your household

ALUMINUM FOIL BALL TEST

Roll a ball of aluminum foil in front of your kitten

- A slow reaction may be expressing fear or great indifference to outside movement

SOCIALIZATION TEST

Observe your kitten from a distance

- A properly socialized kitten will run to play or rub up against you
- A nervous kitten that tries to run away when approached may not have been properly socialized or has a more timid personality
 - It is essential to provide toys and play with your kitten



Your Kitten's Communication



LANGUAGE WITH PEOPLE

- Your kitten is very sensitive to your body language and postures, though they cannot understand your language, apart from certain words
- Cats can understand what you are feeling (sorrow or joy) and even anticipate what you are going to do
- Your kitten is continually communicating with you through a full and explicit body language of great variety

IMPORTANCE OF WHISKERS

Never cut the whiskers. A cat uses them for the tactile exploration of their surroundings, and to communicate with other animals.

FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

The shape of the eyes and the position of the ears are accurate indicators of what your kitten wants to express.

Neutral Cat

Ears upright and open, eyes round

Angry Cat

Ears straight and twisted to the sides, eyes puckered

Aggressive Cat

Ears down, pupils round and dilated

Happy Cat

Ears open and forward upright, eyes half-closed, pupils in slits

Sounds

Purring

Kittens start to purr when first feeding from their mother, and it expresses huge satisfaction as well as total dependency. By purring, your kitten is showing contentment.

Growling and Hissing

These are signs of intimidation and can be used in an attack.

Meowing

There is a wide variety of meows, each with its own meaning, and you will learn to recognize them by observing your kitten.



MOVEMENT

Lightly Touching

With this movement, your kitten is connecting with its territory by depositing hormonal secretions from the glands under the ears against your ankles and showing you that your kitten feels good and includes you in their territory.

Rubbing Against You

When your kitten rubs its head or tail against your legs, your pet is happy. Your kitten feels good being close to you and wants to share their scent with you.

Kneading

A kitten is expressing intense pleasure when they tread their knees for long periods and is also revisiting the joy of feeding from their mother by using the same push-pull movement as used to stimulate the flow of milk. The copied movement indicates that the kitten is content.

Rolling on the Ground

When the kitten rolls on the ground as soon as they see you, they are showing submission. This position is only assumed with people with whom the kitten is totally relaxed; this act of submission is associated with an earlier moment of relaxation.

Tail-Waving

When the kitten waves their tail, your pet is expressing irritation. If you are stroking your kitten when the tail waving starts, stop immediately. Your kitten is telling you that they don't like what you're doing.

TERRITORY MARKINGS

Your kitten's habit of marking territory is a natural behavior and means of communication made by depositing scents, hormonal secretions or scratch marks. Territorial marking is intended to inspire fear and make any intruder go away.

Scent Deposits

- Marking with urine and/or feces is by far the most common deposit
 - Males primarily do this in response to stress (transport, intrusion of another animal, etc.)

Hormonal Secretions

- Specific hormones known as pheromones play a major role in a kitten's sexual and territorial behavior
- The kitten marks a place another animal has rubbed against in an invitation to share territory and as a sign of acceptance

Scratch Marks

- It is not known if the scratch marks are possibly combined with secretions coming from glands next to the paw pads; regardless, they mark territory
 - Such markings, which may also be a form of exercise, can sometimes turn catastrophic when the cat is afraid



The first visit to the veterinarian is not a simple consultation, but an in-depth examination. This complete health check-up will confirm the exact state of health of your new companion and will assure you there are no hidden concerns.

In the event your kitten was given to you, this may be the first visit and a time for the necessary vaccinations and checks. Your vet will complete your kitten's health record and will give you useful advice on grooming and specific behaviors common to your pet's breed.

Ask your veterinarian if you need to bring in a stool sample or any paperwork from the purchase or adoption.

IMPORTANT: *It is wise to obtain a written document from the seller stating the purchase or adoption policy. This document could prove very helpful in the event your veterinarian should discover a pre-existing condition or genetic defect.*

Care of Nose and Ears

CLEANING YOUR KITTEN'S EARS

The basic rule is to touch the ears as little as possible. If there is an obvious looking discharge, you need to consult your vet for a precise diagnosis and a recommendation for the appropriate treatment and ear solution.

IMPORTANT: *When cleaning the ears, never use cotton swabs or a water- or alcohol-based solution. Ask your veterinarian for an appropriate cleaning solution.*

CLEANING YOUR KITTEN'S NOSE

Some cats may have dry nasal secretions at the edges of the nostrils. You can easily remove these with a warm, wet cotton ball or tissue.

IMPORTANT: *Consult your vet if your kitten has a dry or snotty nose.*

Permanent Identification

Cats may be identified by the insertion of a tiny microchip under the skin. Microchipping your kitten will aid in identification in the event they should get lost or be involved in a natural disaster. Veterinarians insert microchips, which contain information on both the cat and the owner.

Spaying or Neutering Your Kitten

These operations can be performed from the age of six months (and sometimes even earlier) and protect kittens from unwanted pregnancies or litters of kittens. Consult your vet for more information.

- Obtain a document from the seller regarding purchase or adoption policy
- The first vet visit is the time for vaccinations and checks
- Your vet can identify health problems



Vaccinations help prevent contagious and sometimes fatal diseases. Some are mandatory, while others are only recommended, and may vary according to the location, age, lifestyle and immune status of the kitten or cat.

Vaccinations are most effective when they are given at fixed dates, with booster vaccinations at specific times. The core feline vaccines include:

- Feline panleukopenia virus (FPV)
- Feline calicivirus (FCV)
- Feline herpes virus (FHV-1)
- Rabies virus (RV)

Depending on your cat's environment and lifestyle, other vaccines may be recommended by your veterinarian.

These vaccines are classified as noncore vaccines and are recommended for those cats whose lifestyle places them at risk of contracting the disease. An example of a noncore feline vaccine is:

- Feline leukemia virus (FeLV)

Generally speaking, kittens are vaccinated with FPV, FHV-1 and FCV starting at six to nine weeks of age. For optimal immunity, these vaccines should be administered at intervals of three to four weeks until kittens are 16 weeks old. Cats are given booster vaccinations as recommended by their veterinarian.

Rabies virus vaccines are usually administered between 12 and 16 weeks of age as a single dose, with revaccination occurring one year later. Adult revaccination may be annually or every three years, depending on local and state statutes.



- ❑ Vaccinations help prevent the spread of contagious diseases
- ❑ Initial vaccinations should begin between six and nine weeks
- ❑ Booster vaccinations are necessary for optimal protection
- ❑ Schedule regular veterinarian visits for your kitten or cat



WORMS

Your kitten should receive regular deworming treatments during the initial vaccination series.

Your veterinarian can make specific recommendations for routine deworming based on your cat's lifestyle (indoor, outdoor, etc.).

Two types of worms are frequently found in kittens:

Round Worms

- These worms lodge in the kitten's small intestine, where they form balls and can cause intestinal obstructions
- They can be detected by the presence of eggs in the kitten's stool or on anal areas

Tapeworms

- Tapeworms fix onto the walls of the intestine and cause bloating, diarrhea and sometimes damage to the coat
- Their presence can be detected in the stool; they look like grains of rice

Your veterinarian is a resource for treating these problems if observed

PROTOZOA

Only your vet can identify these parasites and prescribe the appropriate treatment. There are two microorganisms, which mainly infect kittens:

Giardia

Giardia fix onto the mucous membrane of the small intestine, causing diarrhea, incomplete digestion and a gradual loss of body weight

Coccidia

Coccidia are also parasites of the digestive system

- ❑ Kittens are more susceptible to parasites than adult cats
- ❑ Your kitten should receive regular deworming treatments



External Parasite Prevention

External parasites and infections found most commonly on kittens are fleas, ringworm, ear mites and ticks.

FLEAS

- The prevention of fleas is a much easier task than treatment
- Flea prevention involves using either oral or topical medications at regular intervals as recommended by a veterinarian
- Prevention should be given all year long but most importantly during the spring and summer months
- Kittens and adult cats can be sensitive to many over-the-counter medications, some of which may be very harmful

If your kitten already has fleas, the cat and environment may need to be treated in order to resolve the problem.

Treatment of the environment includes vacuuming or other actions, as recommended by your veterinarian; treatment of the kitten may include topical medications to kill fleas and oral medications to treat parasites the fleas can carry.

Please seek veterinary advice for proper medications and other products for environmental care. Do not use dog flea treatments for cats.

EAR MITES

- This ear infection is caused by mites living in the ear canal
- Usual signs of ear mites are the presence of an abundant blackish and waxy discharge and shaking the head or rubbing the head with the paw

- Treatment: follow your veterinarian's advice

RINGWORM

- In spite of the name, ringworm is not a worm, but a contagious fungal infection, which affects the skin
- It is resistant, widely spread and contagious. It can affect humans and almost all animals
- Treatment is long and complex, and you should follow your veterinarian's advice carefully

TICKS

- Ticks are picked up almost exclusively outdoors
- If you have a cat that goes outside, check regularly for ticks
- Ticks prefer to attach themselves around the neck and ears and can cause inflammatory reactions where they are attached
- When removing a tick, be very careful to remove the tick's head

For advice on removal and prevention, please contact your veterinarian.

- Flea prevention is easier than treatment
- Ringworm is a fungal infection
- If your kitten goes outside, check regularly for ticks



Even if you provide your cat with everything they need—regular grooming and veterinarian check-ups, an appropriate diet, lots of love and care—accidents can still happen. It's important to be prepared for these situations and knowing what to do may save your pet's life.

HANDLING AND TRANSPORTING

- Don't assume a cat won't bite or scratch
- Don't try to comfort an injured cat by hugging, and don't put your face near their head
- Wrap cat in a towel and always use a carrier for transport
- Perform any examinations slowly and gently; stop if the cat becomes agitated
- Before transporting, try to stabilize injuries—rolled magazines or newspapers can serve as impromptu splints to immobilize joints
- Pad the injured limb and splint generously with rolled cotton and gauze, if available, or improvise with pillows, towels, etc.

CHECKING VITAL SIGNS

- Use rectal, not oral, thermometers for cats. Newer human digital thermometers are best.
- Heart rate can be checked by placing a hand over the cat's chest
- Respiration can be measured by observing the flanks or holding a wet finger in front of the nostrils
- Measure both rates for 15 seconds, then multiply by four to get the rate per minute

Normal Vital Signs

Heart Rate:
160–240 beats/minute

Respiration:
10–20 breaths/minute

Temperature:
101°–102.5° F

Abnormal Temperatures:
Below 100° F
Above 103° F

Supplies for Your Kitten First-Aid Kit

- Bandaging materials: gauze, pads and rolls, rolled cotton and self-adhesive elastic wraps, tube socks for slipping over an injured paw
- Cotton balls
- Eye dropper
- Extra blankets and pillows
- Petroleum jelly
- Rectal thermometer
- Blunt-end scissors
- Towels
- Transport crate
- Tweezers



The following situations generally require veterinary attention. These action steps are designed to help you stabilize your pet while veterinary help is being obtained.

Bee or Wasp Sting

- 1 Apply cold pack.
- 2 Call your veterinarian.
- 3 In case of severe swelling or difficulty breathing, transport to clinic immediately.

Choking

- 1 Gently pull tongue forward and inspect mouth and throat.
- 2 If foreign object is spotted, hold the mouth open and attempt to remove it by hand, with tweezers, or a pair of small pliers. Take care not to push the object farther down the cat's throat.
- 3 If cat is not breathing, go to the nearest veterinarian.

Possible causes:

Foreign object (needle, bone, food, plant material) lodged in throat, esophagus or teeth; allergic reaction.

Bleeding

- 1 Arterial bleeding requires immediate veterinary attention. Arterial blood will be bright red, will bleed in spurts and will be difficult to stop.
- 2 Apply a clean cloth or sterile gauze to the wound.
- 3 Apply direct pressure for at least five to seven minutes to stop bleeding.

Don't apply a tourniquet unless absolutely necessary.

Heat Stroke

- 1 Place in cool shaded area. Immediately bathe cat with tepid water; do not use ice or very cold water. Do not leave pet unattended while soaking, even if conscious.
- 2 Monitor rectal temperature. When temperature drops to 103° F, dry your pet off.
- 3 Transport to clinic. Continue to monitor temperature. Do not allow animal to become excessively chilled.

Possible causes:

Excessive heat and/or lack of shade, overexertion, lack of water.

Limping

- 1 Attempt to localize injury through gentle inspection. Once localized, examine affected area to check for pain, heat, injury and swelling.
- 2 If a fracture is suspected, gently stabilize limb for transport. See Handling and Transporting Tips on page 25.
- 3 Cover any wounds with a clean cloth. See Bleeding.

Possible causes:

Broken limb or digit, injury to footpad, dislocation, sprain, muscle soreness.

Unconsciousness

- 1 In case of drowning, clear the lungs of fluid. Lift cat's hindquarters high over their head and squeeze chest until fluid stops draining.
- 2 In case of electrical shock, DO NOT touch the cat until they are no longer in contact with electricity source.
- 3 In case of airway obstruction, gently remove the object. See Choking.
- 4 If cat is not breathing, go to the nearest veterinarian.

Possible causes:

Drowning, electrocution, trauma, drug ingestion.

Vomiting

- 1 Examine vomit for blood or other clues as to cause.
- 2 Gently press on stomach to detect any abdominal pain. Withhold all food and water until a veterinarian has been consulted.
- 3 If poisoning is suspected, bring a sample of the suspected poison, preferably in its original packaging, to the veterinarian.

Abdominal pain, enlarged stomach and unproductive vomiting are serious signs. Call your veterinarian immediately.

Possible causes:

Poisoning, abdominal injury, motion sickness, disease, overeating, fear, brain injury, parasites.



Vomiting is commonly caused by the ingestion of harmful substances, and there are many items that are known poisons to cats. Make sure these items are locked up so your kitten can't get into them.

For more information on poisonous substances, or for an item that isn't listed here, please consult **ASPCA's Animal Poison Control at 1-800-548-2423** (fee charged for certain services).

Symptoms

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Difficulty breathing
- Salivation
- Abnormal urine
(color, aroma or odor, frequency)
- Weakness

If your cat should ingest harmful chemicals, contact a veterinarian and poison control center immediately.

HOUSEHOLD/CHEMICALS

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Antifreeze
- Anticoagulants
- Aspirin
- At-home perm solution
- Bleach
- Boric acid
- Brake fluid
- Carburetor cleaner
- Chocolate
- Dandruff shampoo
- De-icers for melting snow
- Deodorants
- Deodorizers
- Diet pills
- Disinfectants
- Drain cleaner
- Dry-cleaning fluid
- Dye
- Fire extinguisher
- Foam
- Fungicides
- Furniture polish
- Gasoline
- Hair coloring
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Kerosene
- Laxatives
- Lead
- Lye
- Matches
- Metal polish
- Mineral spirits
- Mothballs
- Nail polish and remover
- Paint
- Paint remover
- Phenol
- Photographic developers
- Pine-oil disinfectants
- Prescription and non-prescription medicine
- Rat poison
- Rubbing alcohol
- Shoe polish
- Sleeping pills
- Snail or bug bait
- Suntan oil with cocoa butter
- Tar
- Turpentine
- Windshield washer fluid

*This list is not comprehensive of all poisonous substances



Remove all indoor plants that are in reach of your new kitten, as many household plants are toxic to cats. A list of common harmful plants, and other items harmful to your kitten, is below, or ask your vet for a complete list.

Systems Affected by Toxic Plants

LOWER G.I. TRACT

- Alfalfa
- Amaryllis plant and bulbs
- Beech
- Bird of Paradise
- Black Locust
- Box
- Castor Bean
- Crown of Thorns
- Daffodil plant and bulbs
- Daphnia
- English Ivy
- Euonymus
- Honeysuckle
- Hyacinth plant and bulbs
- Iris
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Nightshades (including tomatoes)
- Pencil Cactus
- Poinsettia
- Potato (green parts and eyes)
- Precatory Bean (Rosary Pea)
- Snow-on-the-Mountain
- Spurge
- Tulip plant and bulbs
- Wisteria plant and bulbs

UPPER G.I. TRACT

- Caladium
- Calla Lily
- Christmas Rose
- Dumb Cane
- Elephant's Ear
- Four O'Clock
- Jack-in-the-Pulpit
- Philodendron
- Skunk Cabbage

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

- Almond pits
- Apple seeds
- Apricot and cherry pits
- Foxglove
- Hydrangea
- Larkspur
- Lily-of-the-Valley
- Monkshood
- Oleander
- Peach pits
- Yellow Oleander

NERVOUS SYSTEM

- Belladonna
- Bleeding Heart
- Buckeye
- Cardinal Flower
- Chinaberry
- Coriaria
- Datura
- Golden Chain
- Henbane
- Indian Tobacco
- Jessamine
- Jimson Weed
- Marijuana
- Mescal Bean
- Moonseed
- Morning Glory
- Periwinkle
- Poison Hemlock
- Rhubarb
- Tobacco
- Yew, all varieties
- Water Hemlock

Highly Toxic, Possibly Fatal Toxic Plants

- Daylily
- Easter Lily
- Yew, all varieties



Taking Your Cat to the Vet

At Royal Canin, our philosophy is to put cats and dogs first. We know that most cats do not receive regular veterinary care because many cat owners are unaware of the need for annual visits. That is why Royal Canin is partnering with our industry experts and influencers to drive awareness of the need to take your cat to the vet.

DID YOU KNOW?

66% of cat owners would take their cat to the vet more often if it was easier*

According to the American Association of Feline Practitioners, there are several things cat owners can do to make visits to the veterinarian more stress-free:

Understand your cat's behavior.

The veterinarian's office is unfamiliar and has sights, sounds and smells that can cause your cat to feel anxious or fearful. Cover their carrier with a towel to help block the sight of other animals and dampen the unfamiliar sounds. Respect your cat's need for time to acclimate to the new environment.

Get the best carrier for your cat. Secure, stable, hard-sided carriers that open from the top and the front, and can also be taken apart in the middle, are best for your cat.

Help your cat become comfortable with the carrier.

Place the carrier in a room at home where your cat spends most of their time and equip it with familiar soft bedding and special toys.

Take your cat to a cat-friendly practice. These veterinary practices have made specific changes to decrease stress and provide a more calming environment for you and your cat.

Keep peace in a multi-cat household. Leave the returning cat in the carrier for a few minutes to see how all of your cats react to unfamiliar smells, and separate if there are signs of tension.

*The 2017 Royal Canin survey of cat owners was conducted from June 26-27, 2016, with 2,009 participating cat owners. The survey was fielded using the Research Now online opt-in consumer panel. At the time of the survey, participants were required to reside in the 50 states or District of Columbia and be at least 18 years of age or older.



Your Pet's Health and Immunization Record



PET'S INFORMATION

Cat's Name: _____

Breed: _____ Color: _____ Sex: _____

Owner: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

License Number: _____

Pedigree Number: _____

Cat's Birth Date: _____ Date Acquired: _____

Where Acquired: _____

Veterinarian's Name: _____

Veterinarian's Phone: _____

Breeder's Name: _____

Breeder's Phone: _____

Notes: _____

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH EXAM DATES

Rabies					
Rhinotracheitis/Calicivirus/ Panleukopenia					
Feline Leukemia Virus					
Deworming					
Fecal Exam					
Pet Weight					
Body Condition Score					
Muscle Condition Score					
Other					



What Makes Royal Canin Different?

- Nutritional philosophy **based on the science of nutrients over ingredients**
- Product philosophy of **precise nutrition for breed, size, age and therapeutic condition**
- Founded by a veterinarian, Royal Canin continues to **collaborate and partner with leading veterinary colleges and universities**, breeders and other pet experts to better understand pet health nutrition
- Royal Canin Healthy Pet diets are **manufactured exclusively in company-owned plants**
 - **100% satisfaction guaranteed**

Want to learn more? Visit www.royalcanin.com



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