

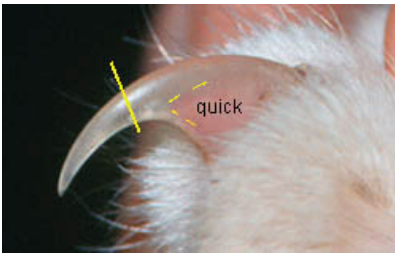
NUTRITION AND FEEDING

Introducing your kitten and/or cat to canned food is very important. The crucial period for introducing kittens to new food types is generally up to 6 months of age. That is not to say if you don't offer them canned food later in life they will not eat it, but it may take longer to become accustomed to it.

A canned food diet in cats actually helps them to lose weight and/or maintain a better body weight due to the increased protein and decreased carbs. You could certainly do canned in the morning and evening, and dry while you are at work.

Trimming Your Cat's Nails

- Start handling your kitten at a young age and playing with their paws
- Getting them used to being wrapped up in a towel helps as well.
- While holding the paw apply a small amount of pressure to the toe and same pad underneath the nail you are trimming. This will push the nail out and make it easy for you to see the quick and only trim the nail. If bleeding should occur, apply quik stop, flour or cornstarch.



Litterbox Tips

- The litter box must be kept clean. This means scooping urine and fecal material from the litter box daily and changing the entire box weekly.
- Use a litter box that is at least one and a half times the length of the cat from the tip of the nose to the tail. They need some room to move around in the box.
- Avoid having the litter box in noisy, drafty, high traffic, or other undesirable locations, including near washer/dryer, heating/AC units and other appliances that may suddenly turn on and off possibly startling the cat.
- If there are multiple cats in the household, you should provide a litter box for each cat plus one extra.

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For more great information about indoor cats check out "The Indoor Pet Initiative" by The Ohio State University

<http://indoorpet.osu.edu/>

KEEPING YOUR FELINE FRIEND HAPPY

Patton Veterinary Hospital



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SOCIALIZATION IN CATS

Socialization: the process during which a kitten develops relationships with other living beings in its environment.

Habituation: the process of getting used to and not reacting to unfamiliar stimuli by continuous exposure under circumstances that have no negative consequences.

Localization: the process during which the kitten develops attachment to particular places.

Why are these terms important? Cats that receive insufficient exposure and contact with people, other animals and new environments during their first two months may develop irreversible fears, which can lead to timidity or aggression.

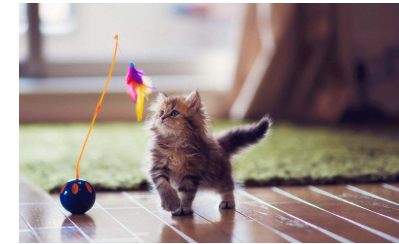


Expose your kitten to as many stimuli (people, places, and things) when they can most effectively socialize, localize, and habituate to these things. The first 1-3 months of life are the most critical periods of social development of the cat.



The Cat Carrier: Ways to improve your experience

- 1) Keep the carrier in an accessible place to your cats, not in the garage or basement where it only comes out when it's time for a veterinarian appointment.
- 2) Put a nice cozy bed or blanket inside. Every once in awhile place treats or fun toys in it to entice them to not only search for things, but allow them to associate the carrier with pleasant things as well
- 3) Take the top or door off occasionally to make its appearance look different and new
- 4) Once they get used to the carrier it is generally a lot easier to get them into it for veterinary visits. Once the cat is inside, try covering the door with a towel to reduce the number of visual stimuli which might make them nervous or scared. Feliway is also a helpful pheromone product which studies have shown to comfort cats, helping them cope with environmental changes and stressful situations.



Interactive toys are great because they help to stimulate your cat without ruining your furniture.

Play and Investigative Behavior

Play is a very important part of the feline world and kittens need the opportunity to play in order to learn vital adult skills in communication and in hunting as well.

Development: After weaning, kittens will start to hunt, chase, and stalk moving objects. Next is balance and agility around 10-12 weeks. Proper play and exercise should be encouraged.

Cats are very good at observational learning; they watch a behavior being performed by others and then try it.

Your cat should be provided with suitable opportunities and outlets for scratching, climbing, perching, and relaxing. These are natural behaviors which can lead to unwanted behaviors if these needs are not met. Scratching posts and cat towers are highly recommended.

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