



## Congratulations on the purchase of your New KITTEN from Passion for Pets

With the right care and attention you can expect to enjoy many happy and rewarding years together with your new family member. In order to help you through this early stage, we have prepared the following information. The information below is by no means all you will need to know about your new family member and we highly recommend getting further information through reading, talking to your vet and by raising questions with our staff members.

### FEEDING

As your new kitten is still growing and developing, it is important that it is fed correctly to provide it with all of the nutrient requirements it will need to grow into a happy and healthy cat. This is why all growing kittens should only be fed foods that are "complete and balanced" as these foods are designed to supply the animal all of its nutritional requirements.

It is also essential that you do not change the kitten's diet for at least the first 6 weeks of the new life with you.

Changing the kitten's diet quickly or frequently can lead to stomach upsets and diarrhea.

Generally, kittens aged between 6 to 12 weeks should be fed 2-3 small meals a day.

**Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ grams of Hills Kitten pellets with 3 teaspoons of Hills Kitten wet formula.**

**Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ grams of Hills Kitten pellets.**

**Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ grams of Hills Kitten pellets with 3 teaspoons of Hills Kitten wet formula.**

We recommend you use a stainless steel bowl for the kitten's food, as they are easy to clean and keep hygienic. They are also hard wearing and can withstand the rigors of a young animal. Always ensure your kitten has fresh water available at all times. We recommend you use a ceramic bowl for water to keep it cool and prevent your kitten from knocking it over. Kittens should stay on a kitten growth based food until they are 12 months old when they stop growing. **NEVER feed your kitten milk or human milk products.** Most kittens are lactose intolerant and these products can make them ill. Please note, Kittens often suffer from Travel Sickness, so a trip home may result in mild vomiting. If your kitten vomits once settled in at home, please contact us. Also note that it is not unusual for a new kitten to develop diarrhea once they reach their new home. Do not change your kitten's diet unless advised by a professional. It is important to keep a close eye on your kitten during the first few days in your home and if the kitten becomes inactive or lethargic or vomits, please call us immediately for advice on what to do.

### INITIAL PURCHASES FOR YOUR NEW KITTEN

When you first make the decision to take a new kitten home, you will be excited and emotional. This is great time for all concerned, however it is important to remember that you have also agreed to become this animal's new parent and that means you will need to provide for your new pet. Below is a short list of products you should consider as you take your new kitten home. We have put together this list as an easy guide for new owners of kittens to help them organise their kitten's new home. Most of the items you see on this list you will require almost as soon as you get home. Due to the importance of these items, a Passion for Pets staff member will run through this list with you prior to you leaving the store. If you have any questions regarding these products, please do not hesitate to ask. Feel free to use this list as a checklist for your new pet.

### ITEMS FOR YOUR NEW FAMILY MEMBER:

1. KITTEN's FOOD both dry and moist
2. Soft comfy Bed
3. Climbing & Scratching Pole
4. Collar with Bell
5. All Wormer - Advocate
6. Flea Treatment
7. Stainless Steel Feeding Dish
8. Ceramic Water Bowl
9. A Kitty Litter Tray
10. Kitty Litter & Litter Scoop
11. Toys (3 is a good amount)
12. Pet Carry Case for vet visits etc,
13. Grooming Equipment, eg. Brush
14. Cleaning Items, eg. Shampoo or powder
15. Car Harness
16. Fishy Treats, and last but not least...
17. A good Book.

## **INTESTINAL WORMS**

Most kittens carry intestinal worms that have been transmitted from the mother when the kitten was very young. As intestinal worms are only killed during certain stages of their life, it is important that you follow the worming program as described on the product you are using. This may involve several doses over a period of weeks then months. Some intestinal worms can also be transmitted from kittens to humans, particularly children so it is essential that the worming program is followed completely. All kittens sold from Passion for Pets have had at least one round of worming treatment however due to the life cycle of intestinal worms; it is possible for your new kitten to still be carrying worms. As a guide, kittens should be wormed for intestinal worms every 2 weeks until 12 weeks old, then every month until 6 months, then every 3 months for the rest of their life. We recommend you use an intestinal wormer such as Aristopet Cat Worming Paste. Please see your health certificate for details of worming dates.

## **VACCINATIONS**

Vaccination programs are important to the good health of your kitten and assist to develop the immune system. Vaccinations help to guard against the many diseases that kittens are prone to. All kittens sold at Passion for Pets have had their first round of vaccinations (at 6-8 weeks) and a card will be given to you showing you what has been given to your new pet and when. Please take this card along to your vet and continue the course of vaccinations. Ask your Passion for Pets' staff member when your kitten's next vaccination is due.

## **TOILET TRAINING**

Designate a quiet spot for your kitten's litter tray. After your kitten finishes its first meal, place your kitten into its litter tray and wait for it to use it. If your kitten keeps jumping out without using the toilet, keep placing it back into the tray until it has used it. After your kitten has used its litter tray, give it plenty of praise and affection. You will only need to do this after the first couple of meals, then, your kitten will go on it's own. Always ensure you keep the litter clean and replenish when necessary. Trays should be kept full of kitty litter. We recommend using litter beads as they absorb all urine and smell, keeping the litter tray dry and fresh. Litter beads are also biodegradable and one 2kg bag will last one kitten approximately one month when used with a litter bead scoop. Recycled paper pellets are a good litter choice as well.

## **FLEA CONTROL**

Fleas can be a problem for your kitten and your home if not kept under control. They can make life uncomfortable for your kitten, making them itchy and causing skin allergies. When your kitten has fleas it also means fleas exist in the environment (your home, kitten's bedding, etc). A number of products are available to keep fleas at bay and it is recommended that you use a combination of these products to provide effective flea control. Your friendly Passion for Pets staff member can advise you on the best products to suit your needs such as flea rinses, flea sprays, flea collars, flea bombs and flea combs. There are also "once a month" style products such as Advantage or Frontline. Ask your Passion for Pets staff member which products best suit your pet.

## **TOYS**

Ensure you have a range of toys available to amuse your kitten and assist in the development of clean, strong teeth. Scratching posts are a must! Kittens need to claw to keep their nails trim. Without a scratching post, your kitten will perform this natural task on your furniture and curtains. Catnip filled or scented toys are more attractive to your kitten, you can also buy catnip in a herb or spray form to renew your kittens interest in older toys (and scratching posts too!). Your Passion for Pets staff member will be able to show you what we have available in pure cat entertainment.

## **GROOMING**

Regular grooming of your kitten is essential to keeping their coat in good condition and preventing fur balls. We recommend grooming your kitten within the first few days of arriving home so they become accustomed to this activity. Slicker brushes are excellent for removing dead hair and combing through knots and thick hair. Rubber Brushes are great for shorter hair cats and can also remove hair from your carpet and furniture.

## **BEDDING**

It is important that the kitten has a warm dry place to sleep that is free from drafts. It is also important that the kitten has a bed that it knows is its own and can access when it needs quiet times to sleep. Your Passion for Pets staff member can advise you on a bed that is suitable to your kitten.

## **COLLARS AND TAGS**

If you intend to use a collar and/or tag, get your kitten used to a collar within the first few days of arriving home. An elastic collar should be used with kittens as they can get into tricky situations whilst climbing and the elastic enables the kitten to free itself. To ensure the collar is a comfortable fit, you should be able to insert two fingers under the collar. Obtain a nametag as soon as possible listing the kitten's name, address and phone number in case he/she is lost. Please remember not to socialize your cat with unknown cats until at least 2 weeks after its final vaccination to avoid risk of obtaining a transmittable disease.

## **REGISTRATION**

All cats and kittens should be registered with your local council. Some council's require kittens to be registered at three months (12 weeks) of age so it is important for you to contact your local council for information on when to register your kitten. Your details will be forwarded to the Local Council as Part of our Permit Requirements and they will contact you in due course. You can contact your local council direct to register your animal if you like.

## **MICROCHIPPING**

This is a simple, painless procedure carried out by a veterinarian prior to arriving at our store. All kittens sold by a pet shop are required to be microchipped by law. Microchips are used to identify your kitten in the event it is lost. Shelters, pounds and vets check all lost animals for a microchip by using a hand scanner. If the animal has a microchip, the number will be read and checked against the database for your contact details. It is important to remember that if you change your contact details, that you contact Pet Register or Central Pet Records to amend your details.

## **DESEXING**

Kittens can start breeding as young as five months of age. Unlike other animals, cats will only breed in the warmer months from September through to April. During this season both male and female cats will wander looking for a mate. This can result in your cat being involved in an accident, fights with other cats or even getting lost. We recommend if de-sexing, that this be done at around 5 months of age. This can also prevent male kittens from spraying on your furniture and becoming territorial. There are also many medical reasons why you should have your cat de-sexed. Your vet can tell you more about these. Our recommended vet offers discounted de-sexing to Passion for Pets' Customers.

## **CONTACT-US**

Passion for Pets wishes you all the best of luck with your new kitten. We hope that you get many years of love and enjoyment from your kitten. We love to hear how they are going so please do not hesitate to bring your kitten back to the store to visit as often as you can. We would love to have a photo of your new kitten to add to our photo collection and it also gives us a chance to catch up and hear how it is settling in. Please don't hesitate to contact Passion for pets should you have any questions at all.