

**Before bringing your cat home:**

Be prepared the day before you pick him up with all the food and supplies you need, listed below. Also you need to cat proof your house by picking up all small, breakable, or dangerous chemical items from within the cats reach, remember cats can jump and climb. Assign roles to each household member, maybe John will scoop the litter box, but Katie needs to feed him each day.

**The Car ride home:**

Place your Cat securely in a crate or carrier for the ride home. He should not be on the seats of your car or in your lap.

**What should I feed my cat?**

Cats should have water always available to them.

Cats eat a carnivorous diet but have adapted to kibble because they are no longer Lions in the wild and are now domesticated house pets. Kibble should include main ingredients such as “chicken” or “beef” or “salmon”. Ingredients should not include “chicken byproduct” or “chicken meal”, sugar, food dyes such as “Red 40”.

**What foods are bad for my cat?**

Chocolate, macadamia nuts and walnuts, grapes and raisins, avocados, alcohol, sugar and desserts, oils, cooked meat bones, too much dairy, fruit pits and seeds, human vitamins and medications, onions, garlic, raw meat and eggs, spoiled food of any kind, Xylitol (a type of chemical in food), yeast dough.

**Necessary Items for Cats:**

- Food and water bowls
- Food (canned and/or dry)
- Collar or microchip to identify owner
- Litter box( 2 for each cat in the house)
- Hard plastic carrier or foldable metal crate
- Cat bed or tower
- Brush or comb (depends on your cat's coat length and type)
- Non-toxic cleaner
- Variety of toys
- Variety of treats

### **Should I get my cat groomed?**

Cats naturally groom themselves with their special sandpaper like tongue. If your cat has fleas,ticks or any other ailment then he would need special shampoo or a visit to the vet to get rid of these bugs. To prevent this always give your cat the monthly flea and tick treatment even if your cat is an indoor cat.

### **How much exercise does my cat need?**

This all is determined by age, breed, and the cat's weight.  
If your cat is energetic and young you will need to play with him more.  
If your vet says your cat is overweight you might need to make play time longer.  
If your cat is older he might not have the same energy as the kitten next door.

### **What does my cat's body language mean?**

Scared: Tail straight up, hair standing up, arched back, ears perked up, loud whine

Aggressive: showing teeth, hissing

Happy: purring, rubbing against you

### **How can I tell if my cat needs to go to the vet?**

Take him to a qualified veterinarian as soon as you bring him home. He needs several rounds of vaccines between the ages of 6 and 16 weeks to keep him from getting sick. You will also need to bring your puppy back to the veterinarian for a yearly checkup. Remember to discuss with your veterinarian the best age to neuter or spay your kitten, as well. Finally, talk to your veterinarian about any signs of illness that you should watch out for during your kitten's first few months.

- He is not eating or drinking like he usually does, may be eating less
- Vomiting, not keeping any food down
- Limping on one leg, not putting weight on a leg
- Aggressively scratching and/or licking himself
- Loss of fur in patches

### **My Cat is not behaving:**

- People often say they don't see their Cat's true personality until several weeks after adoption. Your cat may be a bit uneasy at first as he gets to know you. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to the schedule you intend to maintain for feeding, walks, etc. This schedule will show your cat what is expected of him as well as what he can expect from you.
- After discussing it with your veterinarian to ensure your cat has all the necessary vaccines. Pay close attention to your cat's body language to be sure he's having a good time.
- To have a long and happy life together with your cat, stick to the original schedule you created, ensuring your cat always has the food and attention he needs. You'll be bonded in no time!
- If you encounter behavior issues you are unfamiliar with, ask your veterinarian for a recommendation.