



## **Getting a new kitten**

It's an exciting time when you have made the decision to find a new feline member of the family. Here are some handy tips and some advice about what to look for and how to prepare.

### **What to look for:**

#### **The parents**

- Have you met one or both parents?
- Are they both friendly and confident?
- Do they have health or behaviour problems?
- Do you want a long or short haired cat?
- Is the kitten happy and confident with new humans and human interaction in general?

#### **The breed**

- Have you researched your breed?
- Are there any breed specific behaviour/health problems

#### **Environment**

- Is the kitten in an inside home or outside area? Will this be the same in their new home?
- Is the kitten confined or able to explore?

### **Preparing your kitten:**

#### **Get to know your them!**

- If possible, make regular visits to the breeder as they are growing
- Try to make these positive and rewarding experiences

#### **Scent blanket**

- If possible, give a blanket to the breeder which smells of your home to allow your kitten to acclimatise to it before they arrive at their new home.

#### **Carrier**

- Familiarise your kitten with your carrier if possible
- Ideally choose a carrier which has:

- Slatted sides
- Can be taken apart
- Entrance/exit both on the side and the roof
- Ensure there is only one animal per carrier
- Check the weight limit of the carrier compared to the expected adult weight of the cat to save having to buy another carrier later.

### **Preparing the house:**

#### **Litter tray**

- Allow one tray per kitten and one extra
- Place the tray in a low traffic area
- Make sure the tray is large enough to turn around in, when fully grown
- House the tray away from food and water
- Try to maintain at least 3cm clean litter depth
- Try to continue the same litter as the breeder for a short period at least

#### **Scratching post**

This should be:

- Taller than kitten fully stretched



- Near to preferred sleeping area

### **Food and water bowls**

These need to be in separate areas

Ceramic, glass or stainless steel

For kittens, food should be:

- Little and often
- At least 3-4 times a day

Water

Some may prefer still water in a bowl whereas others may prefer flowing water

If your cat prefers flowing water, consider a fountain water bowl.

### **Bedding**

Position your kitten's bed:

- In a quiet low traffic area
- Somewhere considered 'safe'
- High or Low – depending on your kitten's preference – or several in different places.

Ideally provide more than one bed to allow choice

### **Routine**

Find a routine and stick with it! This applies to feeding routines as well as their play routine

### **Anti-anxiety products**

These are readily available and can help with transition period as they reduce stress and anxiety.

Common products are:

- Feliway
- Pet Remedy

These can be used in combination

### **Healthcare**

#### **Vaccinations**

Don't forget your kitten will need vaccinating at approximately 9 and 12 weeks of age.

Call us on 01626 835002 to arrange an appointment for your kitten's vaccinations.

#### **Insurance**

We would recommend that all cats are insured with 'lifetime' insurance. We can introduce you to 4 weeks free insurance with Petplan, however we would always advise ongoing insurance cover with a company of your choice.