

# Kitten Care

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## Feeding

Your kitten has been raised on a high quality, **raw beef with bone** diet with an added supplement. We use and recommend Blueridge Beef since it is derived from healthy, government inspected cows, and processed where human grade beef is processed. Visit their site to locate a supplier nearby. Alternately, Darwin's brand of raw (purchased online, not available in stores) offers auto ship delivered to your door, conveniently packaged in individual packages. Raw is offered twice daily. **We do not feed any dry kibble since new evidence was reported last year indicating that the process used to create the kibble has been linked to cancer. Rather, as an in between snack, we use Dr Marty's freeze dried (not reconstituted) in place of kibble.** We have done extensive research to ensure that our kittens are receiving a nutritionally balanced diet. It is our opinion that your cat should be on a high-quality vitamin supplement for life, in order to plug up any holes in the nutritional value of whichever diet you should decide to feed your kitty. In a marketplace where products are always "NEW AND IMPROVED" and subject to recall, we wholeheartedly endorse NuVet Plus as well as Kitty Bloom and believe them to be superior to other products on the market. Both supplements are derived from natural sources and are made in a US pharmaceutical plant. Most vitamins sold in pet stores are manufactured in China and are derived using synthetic chemicals. We stock and offer for sale both vitamins that we use and recommend. To educate yourself on good feline nutrition, you will find useful information at [www.catinfo.org/](http://www.catinfo.org/) as well as [www.felinefuture.com](http://www.felinefuture.com) and YouTube videos produced by Mercola.

You may want to offer a home cooked food for your kitten. In a large pot, place fresh skinless chicken, 2 bouillon cubes, and enough water to cover. Simmer until meat can be removed from the bones. Remove ALL bones. Add 2 eggs and cook slightly. Remove from heat. Cool. Add vitamins (specifically NuVet) and a small amount of uncooked oatmeal to thicken. Refrigerate.

Remember, cats are carnivores, and all dry and canned foods are inferior to a raw diet.

Because a new environment is stressful, offer several feedings a day for the first 2 weeks. At four months, reduce the raw feeding to twice daily. Ensure fresh water is always available. Please contact your veterinarian or me if your kitten does not eat for more than 1 1/2 days when you first bring it home.

When selecting your bowls, always use ceramic, glass or stainless steel. Plastics retain bacteria that can lead to several health issues including dermatitis. We highly discourage automatic feeders and waters. These become a breeding ground for bacteria. We have found drinking fountains to be more sanitary as well as convenient.

## Treats

Treats that we use at shows and at home are Whole Life Pure Chicken and Wellness Pure Delights, both being natural treats. Regular infant strained baby meat is also a welcome. Some cats love fresh yogurt. Remember, cats are lactose intolerant, and should not be given regular cow's milk, but goat's milk is tolerated and enjoyed.

## Litter

Your kitten as well as all of our cats are using the Breeze litter system. It is dust free, controls odor and is easy to clean up. Alternately, we have used and recommend litter crystals, specifically Fresh Magic or Precious Cat. Litter crystals have many advantages: environmentally friendly, chemical (perfume) free, anti-bacterial, great odor control, clean, lightweight, easy clean up, and more! Precious cat contains herbs that attract the cat to the litter box! Crystals absorb urine on contact and dehydrates feces to reduce bacteria and odor. These litters are safe for kittens. They are not flushable. If you are having litter box issues, you can contact a cat behaviorist online at [www.preciouscat.com](http://www.preciouscat.com). Most clients who report litter box avoidance issues are using natural, organic litters such as Sweet Scoop, Worlds Best, Yesterday's News, crushed Walnut shells, and others. While these litters may be environmentally friendly, the kitten will not recognize them as litter. To them, it is the same as piles of papers, plastic bags, baskets of laundry, etc. They do readily take to clay scoopable litters such as Tidy Cat, Fresh Step, and scoop away. Remember to confine your kitten to "A" room with the litter box to acclimate him to any new potty.

## Litter box

When bringing home a kitten, always keep him or her confined to the room where you intend to keep the litter box when you do not have the time to supervise. We recommend a large, deep box for your kitten. Some cats will use a hooded one, but many will not. If you decide on a hooded box, keep the lid off until your cat is comfortable with his new "potty". Boxes should be cleaned daily. An automatic box may be scary for a kitten, but if you would like to try one when he is older, we have heard great things about the Litter-Robot. To avoid poor potty habits, please refer to Roxanne's Rules.

## Toys

Bengal cats are very serious about their toys! These cats are active, intelligent, curious, and athletic. You will want to select toys that are safe and sturdy. Remove any strings, eyes, or feathers from "low end" toys. Our cats love balls, toys that make noise, and sturdy catnip filled soft toys. We like the quality of Yeeoww brand toys. Cat wheels are also a big hit. Sisal toys and sisal claw posts also hold up well. If you are local, you can buy cat trees direct from the manufacture at <http://www.pointerhill.com/>.

As a word of caution, please “cat proof” your home before bringing in your new pet. Bengal cats are attracted to water. Remember to leave toilet seats down, bathtubs drained, and washing machine and dryer lids shut. Electric cords and outlets, hot stoves, reclining chairs, and toxic indoor plants are potential hazards. Restrict your new cat from area that contains your “valuable” china. Also, Bengal cats love high places!

## **Vaccinations and Veterinarian Recommendations**

(Please share with your Veterinarian)

While anatomically the Bengal is like any other domestic cat, there are some recommended protocols that are unique. Please, never lose site of the fact that these are hybrids! Consider that many/most domestic breeds have been around for thousands of years, even back to Ancient Egyptian times. Through natural selection, most cats bring some natural immunities “to the table”, so to speak. The Asian Leopard has none of these. Therefore, the Bengal, who is only about 35 years young, has a very slow to develop immune system. For that reason, we recommend a conservative approach.

In most cases, your kitten was vaccinated for Panleukopenia, Calicivirus, Rhinotracheitis and Chlamydia using a Live vaccine at 10 weeks. The normal protocol would include one more booster at fourteen weeks, and then one year. Boosters are recommended every three years after that.

We are a FeLV/FIV Negative cattery. Bengal cats appear have a natural immunity to Feline Leukemia, and therefore should not be vaccinated for the disease. (There have been a few documented cases of FeLV positive Bengals. Those cases are rare, and believed to be in “Bengals” far removed from the leopard, or mixed breeds). Additionally, if vaccinated, your cat could show a “false positive” for future testing. \*\*\*Vaccinating for FeLV/FIV or FIP will void your health guarantee.

Law requires rabies Vaccinations. Kittens may receive a single dose of a killed vaccine after 14 weeks of age. A booster may be administered at one year, then every three years after that. Some Bengals react poorly to the rabies vaccine, Therefore, if your kitten is not at risk, we suggest you postpone the rabies vaccine until 6 months or older.

\*\*\*Note- we do not recommend, “Stacking” vaccines: rabies should not be given in conjunction with other boosters or at the time of surgery. Failure to comply will void your health guarantee.

\*\*\* It is of utmost importance that you INSIST that your vet does not use Ketamine as an anesthetic for any procedure. We prefer Isoflurane.

Please remember that your health guarantee will be voided if you decide to declaw your kitten. For information on declawing refer to <http://www.ora-animalsrescue.org/catcare3.html> and <http://maxshouse.com/>.

We stock and distribute NuVet Plus supplements & Kitty Bloom.

