

# THE FIRST 72 HOURS

---

This is perhaps the most stressful time for your new kitten. He is leaving the companionship of his littermates and all that is familiar to him. This is your chance to bond with him, giving as much attention and love as you are able. Your goal, during these first days, is to keep stress to a minimum! The following are ways to minimize stress:

When you get home, take your kitten to the room that you have set up for him. Hopefully, it is one where you will be spending a lot of your time in, rather than a bathroom or laundry room where the kitten feels isolated. Open the carrier and allow the kitten to come out to explore **when he is ready**.

Although the family will be excited to welcome their new member, this can be over whelming and frightening in the beginning. Explain to small children to use "soft voices" in the beginning. Do not introduce other pets at this time. Remember, your kitten is **not** fully vaccinated, and you stand the risk of your kitten becoming ill from germs from other pets in your household.

It is not unusual for your kitten to hide or avoid contact for the first 1 - 5 days. Be patient. Talk softly. Gently encourage interaction.

The kitten should be kept in this room for a period of no less than 1 week unless you are supervising him. In this way, he will learn where the food and litter box is. Also, it will be important for you to monitor if your kitten is eating, drinking, and using the litter box.

It is not uncommon for a kitten to be too scared to eat the day that he arrives in his new home, and, may not even eat the second day! Simply offer wet food several times a day until he begins to eat. Some kittens may wait until the house is quiet at night to eat. Food should always be available during this period. Place a small amount in the bowl to begin with so you can tell if he has eaten any. It is a good idea to use bottled water during the transition. Contact us **if your kitten does not eat after 1 1/2 days home**. We can offer some suggestions, or, you may need to return the kitten for observation. Note: your kitten is stressed so, it is not uncommon for them not to produce a bowel movement for the first couple of days.

Consistency is key now. This is **not** the time to change the brand of food or litter that your kitten knows. During the first week, try to keep his routine the same. We feed around 8 am, then at 6 - 7 pm. If you are offering raw meat several times a day, remember not to leave it out for hours that it can go rancid! Whatever he does not eat within about 1/2 hour, return to the refrigerator, and offer it again later. Any meat that has not been consumed after 2 days from being thawed, should be discarded. Water bowls should be cleaned daily, and litter boxes should be cleaned daily.

## VETERINARY ADVICE

You may choose to have your vet examine your kitten within the first 72 hours. If anything is discovered in that exam, you may treat it **at your expense**, or return the kitten to Indian Creek for treatment. **No additional vaccines** should be given at this time. Our cattery has been tested and is free of Feline Leukemia. To the best of our ability, we keep parasites to a minimum. However, should you discover anything in your diagnostic testing, we would like to know so we can follow up on our end. Occasionally, veterinarians have had "false positives" to tests or have misdiagnosed illnesses at a great expense to our clients. We welcome you to consult us before paying large veterinary bills, or changing your cats' diet to any prescription food.

Your kitten needs to return to your vet within 3 - 4 weeks for a second kitten booster. At this visit, be mindful of the vaccine that your vet is administering! Some veterinarians give the rabies vaccine at this visit, rather than the booster for Rhino/Calici/Parvovirus which is more important! We recommend that you delay the vaccine for rabies for several months. As a reminder, only **one** vaccine should be given at this visit.

## A FEW WORDS OF CAUTION

Your kitten has been litter trained. But, like small children, if he is "busy", he may not have time to look too far for a box. It is recommended that you place several boxes around to avoid bad habits. It is easier to prevent bad potty habits than it is to correct them!

Small children and other pets should always be watched closely when interacting with your kitten.

Kittens are clumsy and should be monitored if climbing to high places.

Kittens will "taste" everything. Know what plants are toxic and remove them.

Any cleaning solution ending in "ol" is toxic! This includes Swiffer wet jet solution! Cats walk on the wet floor and lick their feet!

Onions, grapes, and raisins are toxic to cats.

Cover wires and electrical cables that are in your kitten's environment.

This is **not** the time to take your kitten on a "road trip" to show family and friends.

**When in doubt, call the vet.** We are happy to offer advice, but, do not withhold Veterinary care while you are waiting to contact us. There is no substitute for trained, hands on care for your new friend.

We worry about all of our kittens when they leave the cattery. Please be kind enough to email us with photos and updates.

