

Kitten care guide

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 **Petdirect**

More than a pet supply store. We're pet parents too.

We're 100% Kiwi-owned and operated, built by people who get what it means to welcome a new kitten into the family. That's why everything we do, from the brands we choose to the advice we give, is designed to give your kitten the best start possible.

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We'll be here with you each step of the way

We get how much of a leap kitten parenthood can be. From their first night home to their first zoomies around the house, we're with you both every step of the way.

Because at Petdirect, we get pet.



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Welcome to kittenhood!



If you've owned a kitten before, you know what's in store. If this is your first time, your home is about to become a play pen and your lap will make a great bed.

Whatever stage you're at, this guide will give you all the essential information for a healthy, playful kitten and a safe, happy home. You'll be able to give your kitten the care they need, for life.



Welcoming your new kitten home

All the fun. Exceptional value.

Gear up for kittenhood with the M-PETS essential range.



**Welcoming a kitten is a big adventure,
but it shouldn't come with a big price tag.**

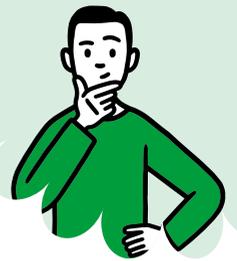
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Important questions to ask yourself



Make sure your home is ready before your kitten comes to share it.

Before you know it, your home will ring to the sound of little meows and quiet contented purrs. But first, make sure your home and your new kitten are right for each other. Proper preparation is better for everyone.

Home safe home

Kittens are very adaptable and can live in small apartments quite happily. Any home must have a safe place to play, climb and rest. If you're renting, speak to your landlord first.

Grooming and care

Grooming is essential for your kitten's health and comfort. The longer their coat, the more they need, from a regular brush to a professional groom. Know what your kitten's grooming needs are.

Lifelong cost

The average domestic cat's lifespan is 13-20 years. Consider the food, litter, vet bills, parasite treatment, insurance and vaccinations to appreciate that a kitten is a genuine financial commitment.

Born to play

Play and enrichment are essential for cats of all ages. It keeps kittens active and helps them develop. Provide toys, puzzle feeders and climbing towers. Short, frequent play sessions suit your kitten's energy levels and strengthen your bond with them.

Scratching is natural

Kittens scratch to care for their claws, to stretch and even de-stress. Give them scratching posts or pads early so they know where to scratch and where not to.

Choose responsibly

If you decide to adopt your kitten from a breeder, make sure they are reputable and can give you information about the kitten's health and history.



Your pawprint to kitten development

Bringing a kitten into your home is an important and exciting milestone. It's only the first of many as your pet grows into an adult cat.



Newborn to 6 weeks: The first purrs

Kittens at this stage rely solely on their mother until they are 3 or 4 weeks old. At birth, a kitten will weigh around 100 grams and will quickly begin to purr. Between 2 and 6 weeks, their eyes open and their sense of smell and hearing improve. This is also when they begin walking and their first teeth start to come in.

6 to 8 weeks: Growing strong

By 8 weeks old, kittens are usually fully weaned. This age marks the commencement of their vaccination program to help protect them from disease and illness. You should also ensure they are on a regular intestinal worming regime which usually starts as early as two weeks of age.

10 to 16 weeks: Welcome home!

Between 10 and 12 weeks, most kittens go off to their new home. Your kitten will start to come out of their shell and exhibit playful behaviour as they settle in. During this window, they will require their second and third booster vaccinations to stay protected. It is important to keep your kitten indoors for at least 6 weeks after you first get them home.

17 to 26 weeks: Reaching maturity

This age is an important milestone for desexing your kitten. It is generally recommended that pets are desexed between the ages of 4 and 6 months. Kittens will also require monthly worming until they are 6 months old.

6 to 12 months: The youth stage

From month 6 onwards, your kitten is in their youth stage. During this time, you should be worming your kitten routinely every 3 months. This is a great time to focus on dental care habits and ensure they are staying active and healthy.

12 months onwards: Adulthood

Your cat is now considered an adult. They will need to switch to a premium adult cat food to better suit their changing metabolism. While they have finished their initial growth, they still need regular checkups and consistent parasite prevention to thrive.

You will need:

- **Adult cat food**
Transition to our range of science-led nutrition brands
- **Flea and worming treatment** To maintain their routine protection
- **New collar and bed**
Based on their full-grown size
- **Dental care essentials**
For long-term oral health.

Helping your kitten settle into their new home

Introducing your kitten to your home is a special moment for you. But for your kitten there's a lot to take in, so patience is key. Here's how to make them feel safe, secure and ready to explore.

Start small, quiet and calm

It's best to keep your kitten in one room at first. When they're more confident and relaxed, they'll show signs they want to explore, like scratching at the door or meowing. Then you can let them explore one new room at a time. First, choose a quiet out-of-the-way room like a bathroom or laundry. Make sure it's kitten-proof, the toilet seat is down and breakable or dangerous items are removed. See pages 25 to 26 for more details about hazards.

Make sure this room contains:

- A litter tray, placed away from food and water
- Soft, cosy bed or blanket
- Fresh water and food
- Toys and a scratcher for play.

Kitten tip! If you move house, repeat the one-room-at-a-time process to help your kitten adjust.



The first few nights at home

If your kitten is unsure or shy, don't worry, it's normal. The best place for small kittens to sleep is in their own bed, not yours, where you could accidentally squash them. Here's how to give your kitten a restful night:

- Gently reassure them if they cry
- Make sure their space is warm, quiet and safe
- Provide fresh water and a clean tray
- If they won't settle, give them a warm heat pad or leave their carrier in their room, they might feel more at ease in it.

Kittens need their comfort

Cats sleep a lot and kittens are no different, needing up to 16 hours sleep per day. Give them a warm, snuggly place where they can sleep. Supervise any children with your kitten and encourage calm voices and gentle hands.

Learn to read your kitten to see when they're tired and how they like to explore - some are confident, others like to observe from a perch.



Everything your kitten needs in their first weeks.

Pawfect Beginnings Kitten Starter Kit



Scan to shop now:



petd.nz/kg-kitten-starter-pack



Kittens and car trips

A sturdy and secure carrier is essential to keep your kitten safe, comfortable and calm in the car. Choose one that's well-ventilated, easy to clean and big enough for them to turn around in. In time, the carrier will be a safe space your kitten can retreat to. Help them get familiar with the carrier and follow these checklists:

Travel carrier checklist:

- Line the carrier with soft bedding and let your kitten enter it at home to help them see it as a safe space
- Spray calming pheromone spray, like Feliway, on the bedding before travel
- Reward your kitten with treats and praise when they enter the carrier
- On long trips, take regular toilet and leg-stretch breaks
- Gently place your kitten inside the carrier, be patient with them.



Car checklist:

- Secure the carrier in the backseat with a seat belt
- Cover the carrier with a towel to reduce stimulation
- Drive smoothly, speak softly and keep the car quiet.

Kitten tip! Some cats find car travel more stressful than others. Ask your vet or a reputable pet supplier about calming aids.

Shop cat travel essentials!
petd.nz/kg-travel-supplies



Introducing your kitten to the family

When you welcome your kitten into your family, remember to do it at your kitten's pace. Gradual introductions to all the new people, pets, smells and routines will help your kitten feel secure, confident and ready to be themselves.

Meeting the family

It's important to introduce your kitten to new family members calmly and one at a time. Read your kitten's body language. Sniffing, exploring and gentle purring means they're confident and curious. If they are slinking back, hiding, hissing or flattening their ears, it means they're distressed. Just take it slow.

Meeting other pets

Take these introductions slowly and make sure your other pets are properly vaccinated. Start with scent swapping by exchanging toys or blankets. When your kitten seems ready, allow short and supervised visits in a quiet space. Try to make the meetings positive.

Meeting the kids

Supervise the early interactions and make sure your children use quiet voices, gentle hands and don't chase or pick up the kitten if it's not comfortable. Let your kitten's body language dictate the pace to help form strong, trusting bonds.



New kitten checklist

Here are the essentials for a happy, healthy kitten. Make sure everything you buy or use is approved for kittens.

Feeding

- High-quality kitten food (wet and dry)
- Food & water bowls

Travel

- Cat carrier
- Collar & ID tag
- Harness and lead (optional)

Home and play

- Interactive toys
- Scratching post or pad
- High reward treats

Toilet training

- Litter tray, liners and scoop
- Cat litter
- Enzymatic clean-up spray

Grooming

- Brush, comb and nail clippers
- Cat toothpaste and toothbrush

Bedding

- Bed
- Blanket
- Comfort toy

Parasite prevention treatment

- Flea, tick & worming treatment

Important extras

Microchipping and registration

Usually done by your vet, this tiny chip under the skin helps to ensure a quick reunion if your kitten ever goes missing.

Pet insurance

Consider taking out a policy early to help cover unexpected vet bills and give you peace of mind.

Need help getting set up?

Book a free call with our customer care expert. Scan here or go to: petd.nz/kg-book-consultation



The purrrfect sleep starts here.

Every kitten needs a safe, snug spot to curl up after a big day of exploring. At Petdirect, we've carefully curated our exclusive Coco & Cooper and Pup & Purr collections to ensure your kitten gets the restful sleep they need to grow.



Whether they love to burrow into a plush calming bed or stretch out on a supportive mattress, our range offers the perfect blend of boutique style and ultimate comfort.

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Dr Genevieve Botha
VETERINARINA, BVSc



Feed your kitten's unique needs
with ROYAL CANIN® precise nutrition



Kitten nutrition

Feeding your new kitten

The essentials of kitten nutrition

Nutrition is especially important in your kitten's first year. To help them achieve the best growth and development, their nutrition has to be:

Complete and balanced

Rich in protein, fats, vitamins and minerals.

Higher in energy

Their rapid growth and energetic play means kittens need a higher energy food.

Formulated for kittens

Their bone, joint and brain development need the right levels of calcium, DHA and other key nutrients.

Stick to the same food at first

Changing their food too soon can upset their stomach. After the first week, you can gradually change them over to a new food by slowly mixing it with their old food.

Wet, dry or a mix?

Wet food, dry food or a mixture of both all have their advantages.

Dry food (kibble)

The harder, crunchy texture of dry food helps support dental health.

Wet food (cans or pouches)

The higher moisture content assists with hydration, while the stronger aroma can tempt fussy eaters.

Mixed feeding (wet and dry)

Combines the benefits of wet and dry and can help prevent picky eating in later life.

How to transition your kitten to a new food

Follow the guide below and if they show no negative effects, you'll have changed them over successfully.



Days 1-2
25% new food



Days 3-4
50% new food



Days 5-6
75% new food



Day 7
100% new food

Create your pet's profile

Tell us about your new friend and unlock personalised recommendations, to offers, tailored product recommendations, customised support and more.

Sadie Domestic longhaired

♀ Gender	Female
📅 Age	4 months
📊 Weight	1.3kg

Scan here to create a profile or visit: petd.nz/kg-add-profile



Freeze-dried nutrition, nothing but the best.

Crafted with New Zealand wholefood ingredients for whole-body health.

K9 Feline Natural™



Your cat's nutritional needs change as they age

Kitten

Up to 12 months

What kitten food provides:

- High energy
- Extra protein for growth
- DHA for brain and vision
- Calcium for strong bones.

Adult

1 to 6 years

What adult food provides:

- Balanced energy for healthy weight
- Nutrients for muscle tone
- Support for specific lifestyle or breed needs.

Senior

7 years and over

What senior food provides:

- Controlled energy for weight management
- Joint support nutrients
- Antioxidants.



Need help with nutrition?

Ask us about the right nutrition for your cat's breed or lifestyle. Scan here to book a free 15-minute consultation. petd.nz/kg-book-consultation



ACANA™

Love at FIRST BITE



A craveable recipe to nourish your kitten's healthy development.

Your growing kitten craves the protein and healthy fats that come from wholeprey animal ingredients. ACANA™ First Feast for kittens is packed with fresh chicken, eggs, and wild-caught fish — everything your tiny explorer needs to thrive!



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HEALTHY MUSCLE & BONE



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RECOMMENDED BY VETS**

Kitten health



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Vet care and costs

Owning a kitten is a long-term financial commitment and vet costs can be a big part of that. You should plan ahead for scheduled vaccinations and check-ups, but unexpected costs will still appear, especially for adventurous animals like cats. Vet care in New Zealand isn't government-funded, so you need to factor in the cost.

Pet insurance eases the burden

It's a good idea to insure your kitten from day one, because of their curious nature. Before you sign up, check for any breed exclusions.

The benefits of pet insurance:

- Financial help with sudden, or large vet bills
- Peace of mind in a stressful moment
- Lets you focus on your kitten's health, not the cost.

The benefits of planning ahead

From routine check ups to sudden vet bills, planning ahead can ease the worry at a stressful time. Pet insurance, wellness plans or even a savings account will be very useful when you need access to money.

Vet health checks

Regular vet visits are essential to ensure your kitten is healthy and growing properly - plus, you can catch any problems early. The more your vet knows about your kitten, the better, so tell them about any changes in behaviour, appetite or energy levels.

Visit the vet within the first week

The best time for your kitten's first vet visit is within their first week of living with you. This will confirm they're healthy and let you set up their vaccination, microchipping and parasite protection plans.



Kitten's first vet visit checklist

The first vet visit is a key moment for your kitten's ongoing health and their relationship with your vet.



You need to be prepared, so bring all these items with you:

- All records from the breeder, adoption or rescue centre your kitten came from
- List of any questions you have for the vet
- Notes on what food and treats you give your kitten and the amounts
- Any medications provided before adoption
- Secure cat carrier. Line it with a towel that smells like home, cover carrier with another towel
- Small treats or toys for distraction.



Tips for a stress-free vet visit

Here's how to keep the first vet visit and the journey there as calm as possible:

Help your kitten get used to their carrier

Leave it open at home with soft bedding inside. Reward them when they enter it.

Take them on short, calm car trips beforehand

This helps make travel less scary.

Practice gentle handling at home

Touch their paws, ears and mouth to familiarise them with the vet examination.

Drop by the vet clinic for casual visits

This helps it become a familiar, friendly place.

Vaccinations at a glance

Follow this timeline for the ideal vaccination regime:

6-8 weeks

First vaccination

10-12 weeks

Booster vaccination (vaccines are given 3-4 weeks apart, and they may need another booster depending on when they started)

16 weeks

Final vaccination

Ongoing

Some vet practices will do a booster at 6 months old or when they reach 1 year old and then annually.

Understanding desexing

Desexing your kitten at the correct age has positive benefits for their health, behaviour and prevents unwanted litters. It also helps encourage responsible ownership.

How desexing helps:

- Prevents unwanted or unplanned pregnancies
- Reduces the risk of certain cancers and infections
- Reduces roaming, spraying, marking and vocalising in cats
- Females avoid going into heat and unwanted male attention
- Males often show calmer behaviour and are less territorial.

Busting common desexing myths:

“Females need one litter first.”

- ✗ **False.** Early desexing can lower the risk of mammary cancer and doesn't harm their wellbeing.

“Desexing changes their personality”

- ✗ **False.** Your kitten will still be their playful, affectionate self, just with fewer hormone-fuelled behaviours.



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Every ingredient matters



Your kitten's wellbeing starts with a nutritious & balanced diet

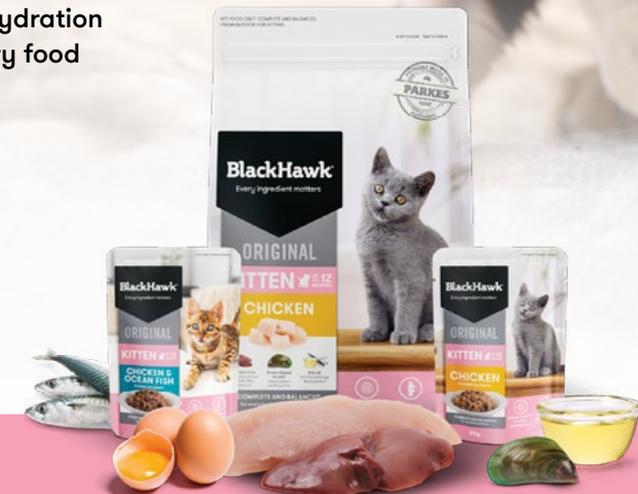
Provide variety and added hydration by combining Black Hawk dry food with our Kitten Wet food.



Balanced nutrition for growth

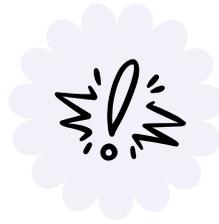


Supports brain and eye development



KITTEN

Hidden hazards: What's unsafe for kittens



Before your kitten arrives home, it needs to be free from hazards. There are many common things that are dangerous and even fatal for kittens. They explore the world with their paws, teeth and noses, so you need to find the hazards before they do.

Plants to avoid

Many common plants are harmful to kittens if eaten or even chewed. Check your garden and indoor plants for:

Most dangerous plants - Lilies

Lilies are extremely toxic to cats. Just a nibble, pollen or water from the plant can cause fatal kidney failure. Keep lilies out of reach entirely.

Other dangerous plants:

- Peace lily
- Tulips (especially bulbs)
- Chrysanthemums
- Aloe vera
- Ivy
- Hydrangea
- Azalea and rhododendron
- Daffodils
- Pothos
- Tomato plants.

For more information, or if you're not sure, check with your vet or the NZ Animal Poisons website: poisons.co.nz

Chemicals and cleaning products

- Bleach
- Toilet bowl cleaners
- Floor disinfectants
- Laundry detergent pods.

To avoid paw to mouth transfer of cleaning chemicals, let washed floors dry completely before your kitten walks on them and always store cleaning supplies up high or in latched cupboards.

While your kitten is learning and exploring, keep garages and sheds locked and inaccessible.

Always keep these hazards out of their reach:

Rat poison and slug bait Even trace amounts are extremely toxic

Antifreeze/ Coolant Its sweet smell attracts animals, but it's deadly

Fertiliser and compost Both of these can contain mould and harmful bacteria

Sharp tools or nails Kittens can injure their noses or paws on anything sharp.

Dangerous foods to avoid



Many foods that are safe for humans can be toxic to kittens. Even if they beg or try to steal from your plate, you mustn't give it to them. Even a bite can be dangerous.

These common foods are harmful to kittens:

- ⊗ **Onions and garlic** Whether raw, powdered or cooked, these will damage red blood cells.
- ⊗ **Chocolate** The theobromine in chocolate is toxic to kittens.
- ⊗ **Grapes and raisins** These can cause kidney failure.
- ⊗ **Coffee and tea** The caffeine in these drinks affects the heart and nervous system.
- ⊗ **Milk and dairy** Most cats are actually lactose intolerant.

Kitten tip! Kittens are good climbers, so keep snacks safely stored away.

In case of emergency

If you suspect your kitten has eaten something toxic or is vomiting, drooling, lethargic, having seizures or diarrhoea:

- Contact your vet immediately
- Call your nearest after-hours animal hospital
- Call Animal Poisons Hotline on 0800 869 738



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Protecting against parasites

Despite their small size, parasites can be very dangerous to kittens and can even spread to humans. Fortunately, parasites are simple to prevent. It's also much easier than treating an infection.

Fleas: more than just an itch

Fleas can cause intense itching, skin infections and even anaemia, or lack of red blood cells, in kittens. They also spread tapeworms. Because fleas multiply quickly, preventing them is far easier than treating an infestation. Here's how to prevent fleas:

- Use a flea treatment suitable for your kitten's age and weight. Follow a regular schedule with this treatment
- Vacuum and wash bedding often to remove flea eggs from your home
- Make sure you treat all pets in the house, because fleas spread fast.

Dealing with ticks

Found in warm coastal areas, long grass, bush and farmland. There are many tick treatment products available.

Intestinal worms: a hidden threat

Worms live in your kitten's gut, so you can't see them. They are often picked up from soil, faeces or other animals. Some species of worm can spread to humans. Here's how to prevent worms:

- Give your kitten a worm treatment every 2 weeks until they are 3 months old
- At 3 months, give the treatment every month until they are 6 months old
- After 6 months, continue a regular worming schedule.

Busting common parasite myths:

"Parasites are only a problem in warm weather."

- ✗ False. Fleas survive indoors in winter and worms are a threat all year round. Consistent prevention is key.

"I can't see any worms, so my kitten is parasite-free."

- ✗ False. Most worms live in the intestines and their eggs or larvae are too tiny to see. Your kitten could still be carrying parasites. Routine deworming treatment is essential.



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WORLD'S NUMBER 1
SELLING flea, tick & worm treatment  FOR CATS

Teething and your kitten

Teething is a normal part of your kitten's development. Here's what to look for, how to help care for them and when to visit your vet:

Normal signs of teething:

- Extra chewing
- Mild drooling or gum bleeding
- Pawing at their mouth
- Grumpiness or less interest in food.

How to ease sore gums:

- Offer a kitten-safe chew toy
- Toys can be chilled in the fridge for extra relief
- Soften their hard food (kibble) in warm water before feeding.



The right dental care

Looking after your kitten's teeth is important throughout their life, not just during teething. To start good habits and prevent bad breath, gum disease and future dental issues, follow these steps:

- Brush your kitten's teeth every day with pet-safe toothpaste only - never human toothpaste
- Let your kitten taste the toothpaste first
- Gently brush a few teeth at a time
- Keep brushing sessions short and positive with a treat at the end
- Dental treats, water additives and regular vet checks help with long-term health
- Chews and textured toys can reduce plaque, but brushing is still essential.

When to visit the vet

- If you see double rows of teeth
- If gums are red or inflamed
- If there's ongoing pain and trouble eating.

Tough on worms. Gentle on kittens.

Elanco

Growing kittens need broad spectrum worm control for healthy development in those important early months.

Drontal™ Allwormer for Cats provides effective, yet gentle, broad spectrum worm control to treat common New Zealand feline intestinal worms; making it an easy way to care for your kitten's health.

Safe for kittens from 4 weeks of age.*

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Make Each Step Supreme

Life Stage Formulas



Also available for
adult and senior cats



Meat-First Formula

Designed with a meat-first approach, Chicken Supreme prioritizes animal protein as the primary ingredient, ensuring optimal nutrition for your kitten's growth.



Higher Protein for Healthy Growth

With higher protein levels, Chicken Supreme helps support healthy muscle development and overall growth, giving your kitten the nutrition they need to thrive.



100% New Zealand Chicken

Chicken Supreme is made with New Zealand chicken, a high-quality, growth hormone-free, and antibiotic-free protein source that supports your kitten's overall health and well-being.



Kitten toilet training and behaviour

Kitten toilet training

It's in your kitten's nature to use a litter tray. Setting up a routine early will help them follow their own nature and create good habits.

Start early for success

The day your kitten comes home is the right time to start their toilet training. Their first few days should be limited to one room, so put a tray in with them. As you give them access to more rooms, make sure their tray is in a quiet area for them - they prefer privacy. Here's how to choose the right tray:

- It should be shallow enough for them to step into
- Covered trays offer privacy, but ensure there is airflow
- Scoop the tray daily, or after solids. They're more likely to use a clean tray.

Kitten tip! If you have multiple cats, give them a tray each to prevent territorial behaviour and stress.

The right litter

Keep using the litter your kitten used at the breeders or adoption centre. Natural types of litter are best and you can gradually transition by mixing new litter with the old. Avoid crystal or clumping litters because kittens can eat the grains, causing health problems. Your vet or a reputable pet supplier can advise you.

Follow their routine

Kittens are creatures of habit and usually need their tray after eating, playing or waking up. At these times, put them in their safe space so they can use their litter tray in peace.

Expect accidents

While they're learning, it's normal for kittens to have accidents. Use it as an opportunity to learn by guiding them to their tray. Don't scold them, it only confuses them. Clean up with a pet-safe enzymatic cleaner to remove the scent and the impulse to use the same place again. Avoid any harsh or strongly scented cleaning products. You can use an odour remover if you need to.



Your cat litter essentials checklist



Setting up the right litter station is one of the most important steps in welcoming your new kitten home. To help you keep your home fresh and your kitten comfortable, we've rounded up the essential tools for a stress-free clean-up.



Stainless steel litter tray

A durable and hygienic option that is easy to clean and won't absorb odours over time. *Pictured: Tidy Tails Odour Control Stainless Steel Cat Litter Tray*

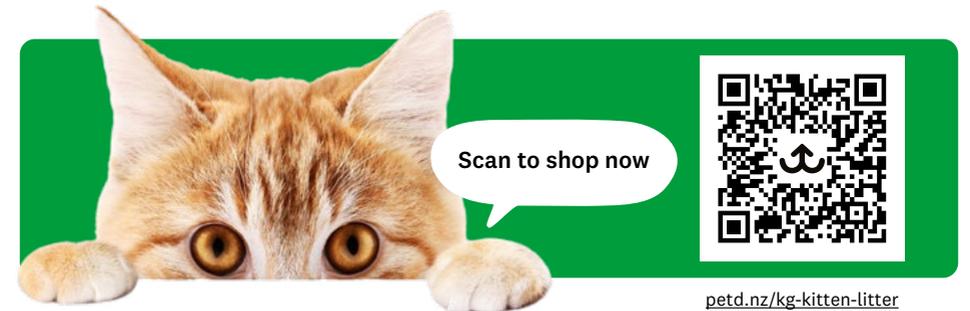


Litter scoop

An essential tool with a comfortable grip for quick and efficient daily tidying. *Pictured: M-PETS Large Cat Litter Scoop*

Kitten-safe litter

Choosing the right litter is a big step for a small kitten. To ensure their safety during the 'curiosity phase,' it's best to avoid clumping or silica litters which can be risky if ingested. Explore our range of **kitten-friendly options**, such as **Recycled Paper** and **Natural Wood Chips**, for a safe and healthy start.



Every cat needs a good scratcher

Cats of all ages will scratch, it's part of their nature and actually has health benefits. The earlier you start them on a proper scratcher, the better your chances of protecting your furniture, especially as they grow in size and strength. Scratching helps cats to:

- Keep their claws healthy
- Stretch their muscles and limbs
- To relieve stress
- Mark their territory - even as kittens.

The signs of a good scratcher

Height matters

Scratchers should be tall, sturdy and accommodate a cat at full stretch.

Nice and stable

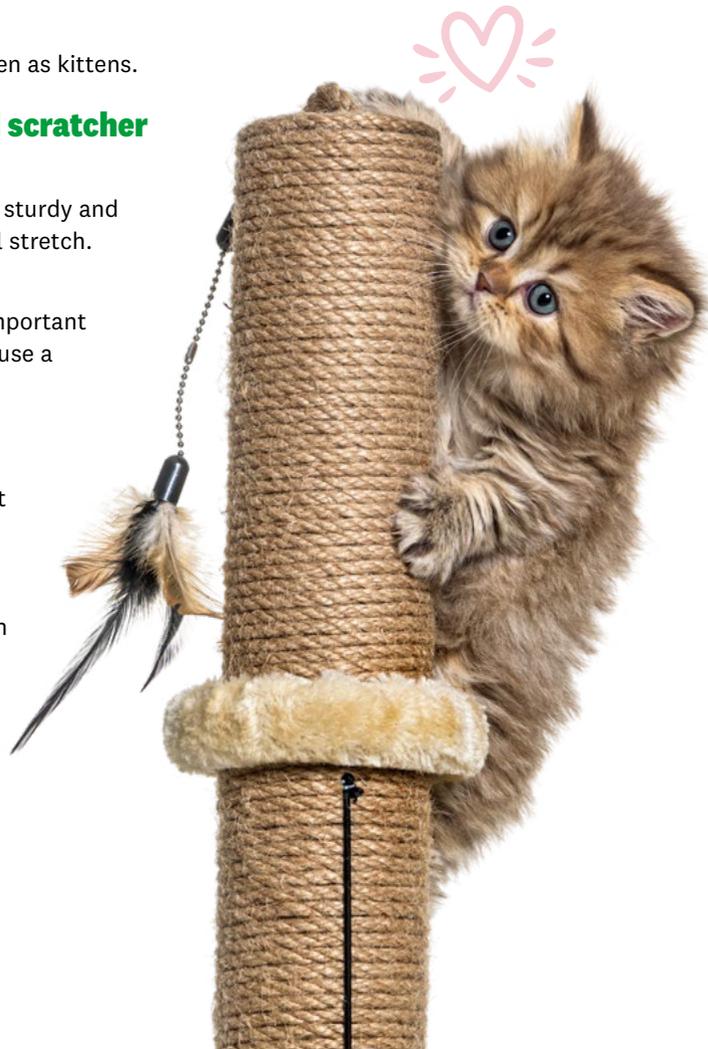
A strong, stable base is important because cats often won't use a wobbly scratcher.

The right materials

Sisal rope is durable and great for claw care. Carpet or fabric is fine, provided it looks different to your furnishings. A mix of materials gives your kitten the best choice.

Start them scratching young

Like many aspects of training, starting young helps embed good habits. To help your kitten learn where to scratch - and where not to - reward them with catnip, praise or dangling toys. Also, place the scratcher in places they like to play.



Save the sofa, get a scratch tree.



Multi level scratch trees

Ideal for adventurous kittens who love to climb and survey their room from a height. *Pictured: Pup & Purr Luna Cat Play and Scratch Tower*



Cosy hideaways

Integrated cubbies that offer a secure and private space for much needed kitten naps. *Pictured: Pup & Purr Kitty Kingdom Cat Climb and Scratch Tower*



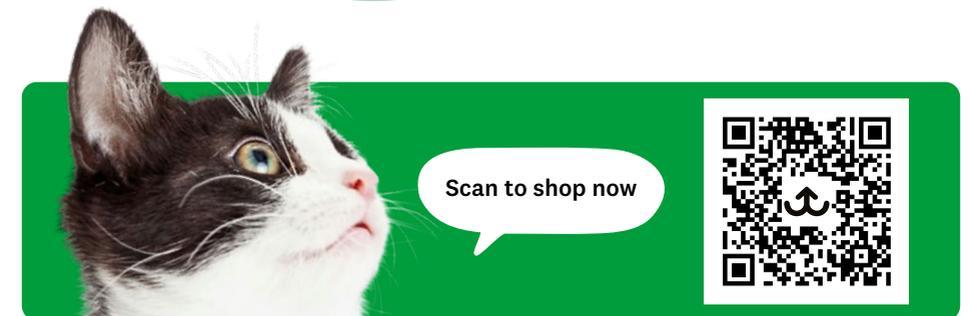
Interactive features

Built in pom-poms and textures to keep busy paws entertained and engaged. *Pictured: Pup & Purr Nala Cat Tree Scratcher with Hideaway*



Sturdy sisal posts

Heavy duty surfaces that encourage healthy scratching habits and protect your home. *Pictured: Pup & Purr Bella Cat Scratch Tower*



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**Healthy habits
develop early.**



Nipping bad habits in the bud

Kittens are always learning about the new world around them.

This means they're receptive to training to steer them away from bad habits early. Here's what to look for:

- Pouncing on hands or feet
- Biting during play
- Climbing curtains or scratching people
- Scratching furniture instead of their post.

How habits start

Most unwanted behaviours occur when kittens are either under or overstimulated, bored, or they get mixed messages from people, like using hands as toys. Give your kitten structure, play outlets, clear boundaries and messages:

Use toys, not hands

Wand toys, kickers or chew sticks let them use their natural behaviours without causing harm.

Keep play frequent and short
Roughly 5-10 minutes per play session is plenty.

Schedule regular play time
Your kitten will enjoy the consistency of regular play.

Rotate their toys

Your kitten will stay more engaged if you present different toys at each session.

Reward good behaviour

Praise your kitten for calm, gentle behaviour and be sure to avoid rough play.



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