



Save-a-Pet

The non-profit pet place

NPO 031-774



**CARING FOR
YOUR
NEW KITTEN**



Food

Kittens at Save-a-Pet are fed Royal Canin Kitten pellets.

If you decide to change your new kitten's diet we recommend that you make a slow transition to avoid stomach upsets. Purchase a small bag of Royal Canin Kitten and slowly begin introducing the new food over the course of 7 to 10 days, progressively increasing the amount of the new food. Alternatively put your kitten on a diet of chicken and well cooked rice/pasta for a few days and then slowly introduce the new food.



Vaccinations

All kittens at Save-a-Pet will have had their first vaccination before homing. Any vaccinations following adoption are for your own account at the veterinarian of your choice.

Please take careful note of when your kitten's next vaccination is due. It is vital to complete a kitten's full course of vaccinations to protect against diseases such as Calicivirus, Influenza and Rabies.



Parasites

Your kitten will have been regularly dewormed with deworming tablets at Save-a-Pet and a record kept on his/her vet card. Deworming is recommended on the following schedule:

- Every two weeks up to the age of 12 weeks.
- Then every month up to the age of 6 months.
- Then every three months throughout adulthood.

It is important to keep external parasites such as fleas and ticks under control as these can lead to discomfort, skin problems and illness. Your veterinary clinic will be able to advise you on what products are on the market.



Identification

Your kitten will be microchipped at the time of adoption with an Identipet microchip.

Microchips cannot be removed or come off, and can be used to unquestionably prove that it is your cat. All welfare organisations and veterinarians keep microchip scanners and will scan lost cats.

Download the Identipet App through the Google Play Store or iPhone App Store to keep your records up-to-date as well as access to a panic button.



Introductions

It is important to always remain calm and in control when introducing your kitten to your pets at home. Keep your kitten in a small area (e.g. a bedroom) to start and progressively allow him/her to explore the home. Take items that smell like the kitten and allow your other pets to smell them. Then allow the animals to see each other from a distance (e.g. through a window or barred area). Once they are used to each other you can begin allowing interactions. Reward positive interactions with praise and treats. Always supervise play-time, especially between your dogs and kitten.

Scratching

Scratching is a natural behaviour for cats and cannot be stopped. Cat's cannot understand physical punishment and this can lead to further undesirable behaviours and a lack of trust. Rather redirect your cat's scratching away from your furniture by purchasing one or more scratching posts. Begin by placing the post near to where your cat likes to scratch and covering sections of furniture with unappealing texture (e.g. foil/double sided tape) or scents (e.g. citronella/orange). Make the post enticing by using catnip, treats and toys.



Litter Box

Your kitten has been using a litter box at Save-a-Pet and should continue to do so at home. Start off using the same litter that he/she is used to using and slowly switch to new types of litter if you do decide to change. If you have a multi-cat home, it is recommended that you provide one litter tray per cat, plus one extra, as cats may not like sharing and mess elsewhere in the house. A dirty litter tray may also put them off using it, so be sure to keep it clean for your kitty.



Play Fighting

Allowing your kitten to play fight with your hand may be tempting, but it can become a problem as he/she gets bigger and stronger. If you see your kitten getting ready to pounce on you, distract it with a loud noise or hiss. Should he/she become too rough, say “Ouch” and place the kitty on the floor, not playing with it for a few moments. Rather encourage your kitten to play with toys such as balls, teasers and stuffed toys.

Please feel free to contact Save-a-Pet if you have any concerns or questions – 041 372 1780