New kitten checklist

What to buy, how to get your home ready and what to do in the first weeks. Tick each item off as you go.

Kitten's name

Arrival date

Breeder or shelter

Their phone

Before the kitten comes home: what to buy

- [ ] The food the kitten eats now (ask the breeder or shelter)
- [ ] Litter tray and the litter the kitten already knows
- [ ] Sturdy, well-ventilated carrier
- [ ] Tall, sturdy scratching post
- [ ] Toys, including a fishing-rod toy
- [ ] Breakaway collar with an ID tag (optional)
- [ ] Wide, shallow food and water bowls
- [ ] Litter scoop and bags
- [ ] Bed with a soft blanket
- [ ] Hiding places and a high spot to rest
- [ ] Brush, comb and nail clippers
- [ ] Pheromone diffuser for a nervous kitten (optional)

Get your home ready

- [ ] Block gaps behind cupboards and appliances
- [ ] Secure windows; no access to balconies
- [ ] Remove lilies and other toxic plants
- [ ] Keep hot drinks and candles out of reach
- [ ] Prepare one quiet safe room for the first days
- [ ] Keep the washer, dryer and toilet lids closed
- [ ] Tidy away cables and blind cords
- [ ] Lock away medicines, cleaners and chemicals
- [ ] Put away toys with small parts or strings
- [ ] Litter tray in a quiet spot, away from food and water

Pickup day and the first weeks

- [ ] Ask for a blanket that smells of the kitten's first home
- [ ] Open the carrier in the safe room; let the kitten come out
- [ ] The same food at first, in small, regular meals
- [ ] Few visitors, a quiet home, the same routine
- [ ] Open up the rest of the home step by step
- [ ] Strap the carrier in with a seat belt for the drive
- [ ] Let the kitten come to you; don't pull it out of hiding
- [ ] Show the kitten its litter tray, bowls and bed
- [ ] Don't wake a sleeping kitten to play
- [ ] Introduce other pets slowly, swapping scents first

Notes

Pettify pettifyapp.com

Keep it on your phone too: Pettify builds a care plan from your kitten's breed and age and reminds you of what's due.

General checklist based on Cats Protection, International Cat Care, RSPCA, ASPCA and Feline VMA (AAFP) advice. Vaccines, deworming and parasite prevention are your vet's call.

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Kitten's name _____

First vet visit

- [ ] Register with a vet clinic near you
- [ ] Book the first health check
- [ ] Get the kitten used to the carrier at home
- [ ] Save the nearest emergency clinic's number
- [ ] Bring the papers from the breeder or shelter

Ask the vet about

- [ ] Vaccines your kitten needs
- [ ] Spaying or neutering: pros, cons, timing
- [ ] Microchip and keeping its details current
- [ ] Indoors or outdoors, and when
- [ ] Preventing worms and fleas
- [ ] Food: which one, how much, how often
- [ ] Claws, grooming and teeth
- [ ] Insurance and the cost of care

Your own questions for the vet

Documents and records

- [ ] Sale contract or adoption papers
- [ ] Microchip number, registered in your name
- [ ] Local rules on microchips and registration
- [ ] All papers in one folder, with photos on your phone
- [ ] Vaccination and deworming record
- [ ] Pedigree papers, if the kitten has them
- [ ] Pet insurance: decide before the first vet bill

House rules everyone agrees on

- [ ] Which rooms are off-limits
- [ ] Kids leave the kitten alone when it eats, sleeps or hides
- [ ] Play together every day
- [ ] Scoop the litter tray every day
- [ ] Hands and feet are not toys: play with a wand toy
- [ ] Reward what you like; never punish
- [ ] Get it used to brushing, paws, ears and the carrier

Who does what

Feeding _____

Litter tray _____

Play _____

Vet visits and records _____

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