

**Advice for the arrival of your cat.
Read about your return home**

The First Transport:

Make it as short as possible

For the safety of your cat, it is imperative that the cat travels in a carrying case on the ground, away from draughts.

Don't be tempted to open the carrying case when travelling or stopping.

Arrival at home:

*We advise adopters to give the cat/kitten only one room for the first few days, so that it can quickly find its way around its own corner.

Organise the room with a litter tray. It is advisable to put a drop of bleach at the bottom of the tray to encourage him to relieve himself.

Provide bowls for water and food (croquettes)

Provide a cat tree / scratching post. A cat must absolutely scratch on a suitable support.

*If it is an adult it is imperative that you do not let him/her go out for the first 3 weeks so that he/she can get used to you and make the place their own. As long as he doesn't really know his address he could get lost outside.

Beware of half-open windows and skylights (Velux). He can climb.

It is also necessary to have him sterilized before the first trip.

*If it's a kitten, don't let it out until it is old enough to handle delicate situations outside (8 months). It is also important to sterilize it before its first outing. Cats can breed at the age of 6-8 months.

*The transport basket, which is essential for car journeys, can be left at his disposal on the first day, it will make him feel safe.

Attention: some plants are poisonous, especially the Dieffenbachia.

*A cat must absolutely regurgitate the hairs it swallows when grooming. If he lives in a flat, provide him with catnip or even better: papyrus, less expensive, more durable and more appreciated by cats. This is essential to allow the cat to purge itself.

Feeding:

When you adopt, we give you a voucher for 1kg of good kibbles free of charge. We advise you to continue with good quality croquettes. We recommend the Royal Canin brand. For example, the Kitten are excellent for kittens, and the Fit 32, cleverly composed for adults. You can save money by buying them from websites such as zooplus or bitiba by buying them in large quantities.

*The croquettes from large supermarkets (Friskies, Brekkies....) are often very appetizing for our friends, but too heavily dosed with additives and mineral salts. The risks involved are urinary problems, kidney problems or hepatic (liver) problems

* If you still want to buy in supermarkets and hypermarkets, choose the Purina One mark. Their croquettes have been correctly classified in veterinary comparisons. If your budget is smaller, you should choose the Whiskas with chicken (always avoid the beef) they are of good quality but not as good as the Purina One. For the first few days, your cat/kitten may disdain the bowl. Be sure that this does not last more than a day, for example by offering him some good quality cat food in sachets.

*Many of you have asked us if cat food in tins/sachets is good for their health.

They do not correspond to a balanced diet and bring tartar, diarrhoea and other intestinal disorders. However, their high water content is an ally for cats who do not drink enough and sometimes avoid urinary problems. For the pleasure of an adult cat, you can offer him twice a week the equivalent of an 85g sachet for example.

Choose in supermarkets the brands Whiskas and Felix. Do not choose beef. A cat is a nibbler: it will eat small quantities many times, make sure that its bowl is always topped up.

Sweets and chocolates are dangerous for him. There are special cat treats, which are very popular.

Drinks

Only give them plenty of water. Cow's milk is never used, lactose causes stomach aches and diarrhoea in cats (there is special cat milk with reduced lactose content). When adopting a cat or kitten, the change of territory, the stress of discovery can cause some sneezing or diarrhoea. We advise you to buy Grapefruit Pip Extract in a chemist's shop. It is a natural bactericide and anti-fungal that will stimulate your kitten's immune system. Put 5 drops of EPP in your drinking water (10 drops if it is a large bowl of tap water).

Hygiene and animal care:

Clean his ears regularly with a specific veterinary product.

Clean his eyes with a compress and a special lotion, or specific veterinary wipes.

Brush him daily with a brush adapted to his coat.

Veterinary care:

Vaccination requires an annual booster vaccination throughout the cat's life.

Our cats are vaccinated against typhus and coryza. However, if you plan to allow your cat to go out, we recommend that you also vaccinate her against leucosis. Leucosis is a fatal disease that is very easy to catch, only one vaccine. This vaccine is expensive (60 euros group with the other vaccines) but it can ensure a long life for your pet. An annual booster shot is also necessary.

Deworming is done once a month for six months for kittens, then twice a year when the cat is an adult. Cat owners often underestimate the importance of deworming, especially if the cat has an outdoor life. Some worms will feed on your pet's blood as well as their tissues. Think about it carefully by keeping a deworming calendar (CF At the end of the health booklet, a few pages are dedicated to it) Elimination and prevention of external parasites: use pipettes bought from a veterinarian.

Sterilisation:

When he is about seven-eight months old, remember to have him sterilized, we give you a good discount for this purpose.

*For a house cat: Sterilization avoids the urinary marking behaviour in males, as well as the strong smell of urine. For the female it is also important to have this operation if you do not want to be woken up in the middle of the night by the lady's love cats

*For a cat that has access to the outdoors: the sterilisation of the male avoids fights between males, thus avoiding contagious contact and blood-borne diseases (leucosis and AIDS). The sterilisation of a female cat also prevents her from becoming sexually infected with leucosis and AIDS.

It also prevents the cats from going too far away and getting lost forever.

*Feline overpopulation: Don't let your cat have kittens that you don't know what to do with and that end up in the shelter. It is useless to make her have a litter before her sterilisation, it is a false idea, she risks infections, difficulties for the birth and various complications

Behaviour:

Start by showing him his corner.

Do not disturb him when he sleeps or eats.

If he hides under the furniture for the first few days, don't force him to come out. Instead, try to attract it gently with sweets (ham and chicken) or cat food. It may take a few days before it feels at home, give it time: it will come!

As you go along, give him access to the rooms he will be allowed to visit. If you tell him “yes” once for a room, it will be "yes" for life, the cat will take the "yes" for granted, and will not understand why the next day it is "no"..

When he explores the house on his own, don't pay him any attention, because if he feels he is being watched, he will turn back. Ignore him unless he asks for your attention (meowing for example).

Never forget that a cat is a territorial animal (it is very strongly attached to the place where it lives). Any modification (moving house, going on holiday, changing furniture) must be done gently.

A cat with access to the outdoors will be able to express all its natural behaviours, let off steam and satisfy its curiosity. A house cat will have a calmer life and some arrangements will have to be made to allow him to maintain a certain activity: toys, games, scratching posts, a cat tree at the height of a closed window to see what is going on outside. A house cat will need more attention from the family. There is a very good book on the personality of felines:” Un chat dans la maison: de Claire Bessant “(aux editions Nathan). You can even find second-hand copies on aAmazon for only a few euros. It's a complete, interesting, accessible and ethical book.

Mixing with other animals:

During the first days, reserve a room for your cat/kitten. And using their blankets, toys, litter box, bowl, allow each of them to smell each others things.

Then put them in contact with each other with caution.

When a dog meets your cat/kitten, keep him on a leash and let him sniff it.

If you are not sure of the agreement between you dog and cat, do not leave them alone together without supervision. Do not neglect any affection you may have for your pets before your cat/kitten arrives (risk of jealousy).

Don't force them to get along immediately, let them get to know each other at their own pace, always under supervision for the first few days.

With the Children:

It's important to teach your children the do's and don'ts of being with a kitten/cat.

*Do not pull the cat's tail, ears or hair.

*Do not make threatening noises

*Do not make any sudden movements

*Let him eat, sleep, or play alone when he does so.

*Learn to respect him and not do to him what we would not like to be done to us

Toilet training

The kitten/cat is clean from a young age. If litter accidents happen regularly, it is because some details are not suitable for him i.e. the location of the litter box or used litter.

Never clean 'litter box accidents' with bleach as this will encourage your cat to start again. If problems persist, your cat may be suffering from urinary problems, consult your veterinarian. Note that a neutered cat does not 'mark' its territory.

Keep in mind that if your cat/kitten becomes ill within 10 days of adoption, please call us and we will tell you what to do, either we will have a specific treatment for your cat/kitten, or it can consult OUR veterinarian, but please call us first!

If for any reason you can no longer care for your pet, please contact us. Never give your pet to people you meet on social networks, or through classified ads. The world is full of meetings with malicious 'good-looking' people. Cats risk being mistreated and kittens end up as reptile meals.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

By email: spa.brive@wanadoo.fr Or by our website: www.spabrive.fr or our Facebook: Spa Brive Official