



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR NEW KITTEN HOME.

### Picking up your Kitten:

It is best to pick up your kitten in person if this is at all possible. This way you can meet mom, likely dad, litter mates and see how the kitten has spent its first twelve weeks of life. We pride ourselves on how we raise our kittens - As members of our family - and we want you to experience the difference firsthand. Please bring a carrier with you. You may also want to bring an extra towel or roll of paper towels in case kitty has an accident on the way home. Don't forget a small dish and water for the trip home.

If your kitten is not paid for in advance, please bring the balance in cash. **We DO NOT accept checks.**

### Initial Housing:

Bringing home a new Bengal kitten is a stressful time for your new pet. These are some "tips" to get you both through these important first few days. When you first get your new Bengal kitten/cat home he/she will probably be frightened at being in a new place. After all your kitten has just left all of his brothers and sisters and the only home your kitten has known where everything is in its proper place for his or her eyes. Don't bring your kitten home and expect him to find his/her litter box, food, etc.

Put your kitten in ONE room with the door closed. Kittens need a safe place where they have their bed, food, water, and a litter box. This is a great place to put your cat when guests are over and there is risk of doors being left open, etc. A bedroom or even a bathroom with a litter box and food/water dishes so that your kitten can acclimate to a new situation and know where the litter box and food dishes are.

Do not place food and water dishes close to the litter box. Your kitten will not use his box if the food is too close. A safe distance would be about 4 or 5 feet away. It is a good idea to play with your new kitten so he/she can get to know you and feel comfortable and safe. When you let your kitten out in the rest of the house remember to have the litter box out where he knows where it is at all times at least until he knows his new home well. Just make sure it is safe and secure!

Get down on the floor and be at the kitten's level. Do not let your kid's race around with your kitten. He may be skittish and scared right now. Let him adjust to his new home before you try anything. If he meows a lot, just like when a baby would cry, check that he knows where the litter box is, and is not hungry or thirsty.



## **THE FIRST WEEK**

The first week in a new home is one of the most important times. You should try to balance giving your kitten some quiet time to adjust and quality time bonding with you and your family.

Start by giving your kitten his own space in the bathroom or laundry and make sure it is warm and draft free. We recommend the bathroom or laundry as it is easier to keep clean and it is small. For a kitten in a new home small space is safe space. Your kitten should have his food, water, litterbox, toys, and a nice warm bed in his room.

Take turns to visit your new kitten in his room and take children in one at a time while he is learning who you all are. After the first 24 hours you can let your kitten out of his room for a play with you and to explore. Have children help you to return him to his litterbox each hour so he can learn where his litterbox lives now.

During the first week when you go to sleep or leave the house during the day, place your kitten back into his room. The main purpose of this is for him to learn where his litterbox lives.

Spending time with him playing with kitten toys, feeding small treats, and giving affection will help him bond with you quickly. Overly excited or young children should be encouraged to sit quietly and use toys to lure your kitten, like fishing. Please discourage chasing and carrying while your kitten is adjusting, this behavior can cause anxiety which can result in litterbox mistakes, scared behavior (which can include lashing out with claws) and hiding away.



*Here are some of our most commonly asked questions.*

**IS THIS NORMAL?**

Why is he meowing a lot?

It is common for your kitten to cry for his litter mates for the first 3 days. Each time he cries go to him and give him comfort that you are here with him.

He hasn't eaten yet, is this normal?

Yes. it is normal for your kitten to not want to eat within the first 48 hours. Make sure you remove old food and replace with fresh food even if he isn't ready to eat yet. He will eat once he feels comfortable.

He hasn't used the litterbox yet, is this ok?

Yes. Keep him in his designated room until he has used the litter box for pee and poop. He is most likely to use his litterbox in private.

He has done a pee/poop in the wrong area, what should I do?

Don't rub his nose in it, don't smack or scald him. This doesn't work for cats and will cause anxiety which will result in more accidents. It is likely that he has forgotten how to return to his designated room, the door was closed or there is an old stain in that area from another pet. Return him to his room until he has used the litterbox again. In the meantime, clean the soiled area with your bottle of Odarid Pet Stain Remover. It is common for Bengals to prefer 2 litterboxes. One for pee and the other for poop.

Make sure you keep his food and water as far away from his litterbox as possible. Cats don't like to toilet where they eat. Multi-cat households need to provide one tray per cat PLUS one more.

If the behavior continues you should see your vet to rule out any medical conditions that could be causing discomfort.

**Things to remember:**

Vaccinations:

You will be given a health record with your kittens current worming and vaccination information. You should take this health record with you on your visit to your vet's office. A reminder to schedule your first visit as quickly as possible.



Discuss with your veterinarian whether you want to vaccinate for feline leukemia and what other vaccinations that you would like to give. If your kitten is only in the house, some vaccinations may be unnecessary. However, if you need to board your cat out, or go for walks on a leash, or contact any other cats, these vaccinations would be a necessary precaution.

For information on feline vaccine protocols, please review vaccine information located online below to make educated decisions with your veterinarian.

#### Nail Care:

We never recommend de-clawing. Most people do not realize that it mutilates the bones in the cat's foot, by clipping the bone, not the nail. There can be unforeseen behavioral problems in cats that are de-clawed. Most cats can be trained with the word "no," or slapping a newspaper against your hand, or even a spray bottle of plain water when you want to teach them a certain behavior. Trimming your cat's nails will reduce the amount of damage caused by scratching before and after training begins. I have found it very easy to trim their nails when they are napping. If you are gentle, they won't even know you are doing it. Their claws have been trimmed approximately once a week. You can trim them when they become sharp (you'll know). They don't grow as fast once they are older and once a month is sufficient as an adult.

#### Nail Trimming Instructions:

Before trimming, get your cat used to having his paws handled and squeezed. Begin by gently petting the cat's legs and paws while giving it a treat, making this a pleasant experience. Gradually increase the pressure so that petting becomes squeezing, as you will need to do to extend the claw. Continue with treats until your cat will tolerate this kind of touching and restraint. This may take longer with cats that have rarely had their legs or paws handled.

Purchase some 'scissor-like' nail clippers from a pet store and trim your cat's claws as necessary. When your cat is relaxed and unafraid, gently press on the toes until the claws extend. Use the nail clippers and cut only the tip of the nail (white part), taking care not to damage the vein or the quick (pink part). The nails can be trimmed weekly, keeping the trimmer perpendicular to the claw as not to crush the nail. If you are hesitant to cut your cat's nails, consult your vet who will clip them for you and show you how to do it at home. It is sometimes easier to have one person hold the cat while the other clips the claws. When they are kittens, the nails need trimming more often (weekly) than when they are adults (monthly). Bengals love to climb, and they love high places. Make sure you have some sort of cat scratching/climbing furniture.



#### Cat Litter:

They are used to the clumping litter. The rule of thumb for the number of litter boxes is the number of cats you own plus one. If you have 2 cats you should have 2 litter boxes. They love to dig in their boxes. You may consider a covered box to keep the litter contained in the litter box as Bengals love to dig in the litter. World's best cat litter that you can buy at Petco or PetSmart is a corn-based litter and you can flush it. Since it is corn based, your kitten will not get sick from being in the litter box as they will want to clean him/herself after they get out of the box (no chemicals) in World's best cat litter... Your kitten can and more than likely will get a running stool from the other types of litters. To avoid it all just use "The World's best Cat litter" save yourself the headache.

#### Indoor/Outdoor:

Do not let your cat roam loose outside. The average cat lifespan is 16 years. The average lifespan of a cat that goes outside is THREE YEARS. Get the idea? Your kitten can and will get stolen, hit by a car or come in contact with diseased cats. If they stay in the house all the time, they will not ask to go outside. If you do want to let them out, do so only under supervision. This means train them to use a halter and leash. Contrary to popular opinion, they do not need to go outside to play and hunt. Just play with them indoors. They do like to munch on grass. You can buy Kitty grass at pet stores.

#### Cat Climbing Trees, Toys and Scratching Posts:

A Great Resource for kitty furniture (climbing trees and scratching posts) is overstock.com. If you ask anyone who knows about Bengals, they will tell you that Bengals absolutely love to be up high on top of things watching events from a safe perch. This could not be truer! If they do not have their own climbing tree, they will adopt one of yours, I promise! Scratching posts are an absolute must if you want to preserve your furniture. It is a moderate investment (\$100 or even less) and one you will both appreciate.

As for toys, I have not met a Bengal yet that does not love the cheap (\$.99) little fuzzy mice that rattle. All of our adults and kittens carry them around, toss them up in the air and catch them and hide them for later play time. Another favorite is a wand toy known as "Da Bird" We have found them at numerous pet supply stores for about \$8 or \$9. Of course, there is also the small rattling balls and the ones with bells inside. Very inexpensive toys provide lots of entertainment when you cannot play with them. If they have no toys of their own, they will adopt yours.



Exercise is extremely important for both you and your kitty's happiness! Just like a new puppy, if they have received enough play time chasing a toy with you (their new best friend) or rolled up piece of paper - they will not look for or find mischief. Mischief can be found on your shelves, tables, desks, furniture, etc. You will be a much happier kitty parent with a well exercised kitty and your kitty will enjoy the bonding time with you and greatly benefit (socially and physically) from the exercise. All that is necessary is ten minutes here and there at different times of the day and all will be right with the world!

#### Spaying and Neutering:

Your cat or kitten has not been spayed or neutered and will need to be within 6 months. The sooner the better to prevent hormonal behavior issues from getting started. As a reminder, unless your kitten was sold to you as a breeder you are required to have them altered before they reach 6 months of age. We will not provide your registration papers until you provide proof of spaying or neutering.

There are numerous reasons you should spay or neuter your cat! Let's talk about health reasons first...

Female cats that are spayed CAN'T get uterine cancers; their risk of mammary (breast) cancer is reduced by 25%; and they are less prone to urinary tract infections and hormonal changes. Male cats that are neutered CAN'T get testicular cancer, and they live 40% longer than their unneutered counterparts. Unneutered male cats respond to the "call of the wild" and their desire to wander is fierce. Unneutered male cats may become aggressive toward other cats, increasing their risk of injury, and becoming infected with feline leukemia and/or feline immunodeficiency virus.

Both male and female unaltered cats WILL SPRAY. This is one of the worst and most difficult smells to get out of carpets, furniture, and anything and EVERYTHING that they can and WILL spray. It is a natural behavior of un-altered cats. This will be prevented by altering cats or kittens at the earliest age available by your vet.

#### Pet Insurance:

Pet insurance is becoming a preferred choice of many pet owners. The first year of your kitten's life it is more likely to get into mischief that could result in unexpected vet bills. Check out the reviews on Healthy Paws.

All Around Awesome Bengals  
William Nixon  
Ormond Beach, FL  
386-316-5927  
386aaabengals.com  
WILLIESREEF7@ICLOUD.COM



#### Cautions:

Bengals are very curious. Please be very careful when getting something out of the refrigerator, or when opening a dryer, dish- washer, drawers, closets, etc. Your kitten will most likely try to go into whatever you have open. Be very careful not to lock them inside the refrigerator, or the dryer, or catch their paw in a drawer. Do not give your kitten full run of the house immediately. Do not move the litter box for the first couple of weeks: it will confuse your kitten. When/if you find it necessary to move it, place your kitten in it several times to establish its location.

Do not introduce too many people to your kitten at first. It can overwhelm your baby. After he/she is comfortable and confident in your home, gradually introduce new people.

Do not leave a down comforter on your bed for the first few weeks if your kitten is sleeping with you. A down comforter may feel like a litter box under his/her little paws and, consequently, may be used as one. Never take your kitten outside, even on a harness, until your kitten has had all of his or her vaccinations.

#### Keep in Touch!

We want you to know that you can count on us for support and advice during the entire life of your kitty - not just a week or two after you purchase him/her. If we don't know the answer to a question, we'll help find the answer. We love each and every kitten born in our care and consider everyone who takes one of our kitties' homes with them, to be a part of our Cattery family too. Family is always there for each other and in that sense, we will always be there for you.

PS. Send us lots of pictures and videos.