



Kitty Harbor's Guide To Your New Cat

Starting your new cat or kitten off on the right paw is essential. The following provides suggestions for getting your new cat settled in your home and some basic health care information.

SUPPLIES FOR YOUR NEW CAT

Before your new family member settles in, you'll need to stock up on a few essential supplies. High quality pet stores like Mud Bay, Next To Nature, or All The Best Pet Care should have everything you need. Mud Bay and Next To Nature are located very close to Kitty Harbor on California Ave.

Cat Food

At Kitty Harbor we often feed a mix of foods that have been donated. When selecting a high quality cat food, check the ingredient list on food bags to make sure a named meat source is the first ingredient. You should try to avoid foods with corn or corn gluten, animal by-products, wheat, soy, brewers rice, and ethoxyquin. What you want to see in the ingredient list are named fish and meats, high quality grains like brown rice, barley, oatmeal, and plenty of vegetables.

Other Supplies

Food, bowls, a litter box, cat litter and a litter scooper are important supplies to have for your new pet. We recommend Litter Purrfect brand litter available at Costco. Make sure your pet always has access to plenty of clean drinking water. And of course – have lots of toys and a scratching post to keep them busy and happy!

Scratching

Providing a scratching post will prevent most cats from scratching in other places. Some cats may prefer a cardboard scratching post or a rope one. You may have to try a few before you find your pet's favorite. Clipping your pet's nails will also help with scratching. Pressing on your cats foot pads will cause them to extend their nails. Clip the sharp part of the nail, only in the white part (the very tip) – not the pink. Ask us or your vet to show you how to do it if you've never done it before.

VET CARE FOR YOUR NEW CAT

Most cats and kittens adopted at Kitty Harbor have had only a basic health checkup with a veterinarian when they were fixed. However, it is impossible for us to provide a guarantee on the health status of your pet. Following are some treatments that your cat may have received, as well as medical issues you should know about. If you notice any of the following, or have any other medical concerns, please contact your veterinarian.

When you take your new pet home, we recommend you take it to a veterinarian for a check-up within the first 72 hours. All adult cats and kittens over 2lbs have already been fixed before they leave Kitty Harbor. If your new kitten is under 2lbs, and hasn't been fixed yet - you will need to send us the paperwork from the vet or give us a call when you get them fixed. Most vets recommend fixing a kitten between 3 to 6 months of age.

Forming a good relationship with a veterinarian will get your new cat off to a great start. South Seattle Vet provides excellent, low-cost care and is located at 11033 1st Avenue South in downtown Seattle. If you live in the West Seattle area, we also recommend Lien Animal Clinic, which is located at 3710 SW Alaska St.

Vaccinations

All cats receive the vaccine FVRCP or are determined to be current based on previous records. We do not vaccinate for FeLV, FIP, FIV or Rabies. You are responsible for obtaining boosters and other follow-up vaccines from a veterinarian.



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Intestinal Parasites

We administer a general dewormer (strongid-T) to all cats which treats roundworms and hookworms. Animals found to have other parasites such as tapeworm, Giardia, or coccidia are treated as needed. On your first veterinary visit, we recommend you take a fresh stool sample to check for internal parasites and to determine if any additional deworming is needed.

Fleas/Ticks

We treat any cat found to have fleas and/or ticks with Advantage or Revolution. Your cat may need continued treatment as directed by your veterinarian.

Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

URI is almost always present in shelter environments just as colds are common in children at daycare. Your cat may have had URI or been exposed to it while in our care. URI is caused by a variety of organisms that cause symptoms such as sneezing, eye and nose discharge, congestion and lack of appetite. Moving into a new environment often creates stress and can cause a cat to show signs of URI. If you notice any of these symptoms, consult with your veterinarian about treatment and possible risks to other household pets.

Panleukopenia (Feline Distemper)

Panleukopenia is a very infectious, deadly disease that is very similar to canine parvovirus. Kittens and younger cats are most at risk, and common symptoms are lethargy, decreased appetite, vomiting and diarrhea, although some cats may die without any warning signs. The incubation period is 3 – 10 days, which is one of the reasons we recommend keeping new pets isolated from other pets in the home for 1 week. If your kitten or cat shows any signs of these symptoms, please see your veterinarian immediately. Following your veterinarian's vaccination recommendation is essential to fully protect your kitten or cat against this deadly disease.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) / Feline Leukemia (FeLV)

We test all cats for FeLV and, in certain cases, FIV; however, false negatives are possible in young or recently exposed animals. We recommend re-testing in 30 days or as directed by your veterinarian.

Ear Mites

Cats are checked for ear mites and treated with ear cleaning and appropriate medication as needed. Additional cleaning and/or follow-up treatment may be required at your own veterinarian.

Hair Loss

Cats are usually screened for coat problems and tested for parasites, ringworm or others conditions if warranted. However, it is impossible for us to guarantee any animal to be free of these skin conditions. Any observations of hair loss should be brought to the attention of your veterinarian.

Microchips

Cats are not microchipped before they leave Kitty Harbor, but we strongly recommend you do this at your veterinarian. Microchips help make sure your cat makes it home if it is ever lost.

Returns

Kitty Harbor accepts returns on cats within 4 days of adoption for a full refund. After 4 days, you may choose to surrender your pet back to Kitty Harbor. Please call us first so we can anticipate your pet's arrival. Please bring back all the paperwork your cat left with, along with copies of any new vet records.

Thank you for adopting from Kitty Harbor!