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Persian Kitten Care Guide

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Breed Characteristics

A long-haired beauty preferred by ancient royals for its stunning appearance and quiet temperament, the Persian is a wonderful companion. Gentle by nature, these cats are well suited to all members of the family. Persians have been described as a perfect house cat due to their quiet voices and their incredible capacity for sleep.

This breed usually become devoted lap companions to anyone who sits down long enough for a cat to climb on them! If they are exposed to visitors on a regular basis, they will readily cuddle with them, although do tend to show a preference for their own family members. They are social as kittens, and this characteristic persists into adulthood. Persians are not typically jumpers, preferring to expend no more energy than it takes to leap to a lap or a soft sofa.

Because their coats are so luxurious, they will need daily grooming to avoid knots. Leave it for even a day and the coat will develop tangles. Removing these will be uncomfortable for the cat, who will then associate grooming with pain and be more reluctant to allow it next time. This perpetuates a vicious circle which is difficult to break.

Bringing your kitten home

When you arrive to collect your kitten, you should bring with you a sturdy cat carrier. A kitten should never travel loose in a car due to the possibility of escape or it causing an accident by distracting the driver. It is illegal for a cat to be loose in a car at any time. This carrier will also serve as a safe haven when the kitten reaches its new home.

Select a quiet room that can be your kitten's for the next few days. This could be a spare bedroom, perhaps an unused bathroom, but if the latter, make sure it is well cleaned, and all cleaning fluids rinsed away with water before the kitten is put there. Also ensure that the toilet seat lid is down and baths and sinks are free from water. A spare bedroom is the preferred option.

Before you collect your kitten, you should make ready a litter tray, food and water bowls, and a soft place for the kitten to sleep. Make sure to place the food and water far away from the tray, for cats will not go to the toilet near where they are expected to eat and drink.

When you reach home, bring your kitten straight to this room, open the carrier and allow them to explore in their own time. Don't pull them out or make a huge fuss of them. Remember that this baby has just lost its mother, siblings and every familiar human, so naturally it will feel frightened and shy. Leave the carrier in the room as a safe haven for the kitten. This will be the only thing familiar to it in a new, scary environment, so don't worry if they retreat there and stay there. In their own time, they will explore the new territory. It is best to leave them alone so that they can do this without feeling too threatened.

Make sure that the kitten has fresh water down at all times, and the food that it is familiar with. Fill the tray with the litter given you at the time of kitten collection. This will be the type it is used to using. Even if you will not continue using this brand, please do not change them immediately. Wait a few weeks or even months to ensure they are happy and settled before creating more stress with the change.

It is best not to invite visitors round to cuddle your new kitten, as this will only add to stress in most cases. Allow them to get used to you and your family by entering their room one by one and engaging with them quietly and without a lot of fuss.

When they are happy and confident in this environment you can begin to open up your house to them one room at a time. Don't move the litter tray, as doing this will cause the kitten to have accidents as it searches for its toilet. It is a good idea to have a litter tray in every room your kitten has access to initially. At this young age, bladder control is poor, and they can't wait to go whilst searching for the tray. Over time, you can begin to remove these one by one.

What you will need

There follows a list of things you will need to care for your kitten:

Cat carrier: This is very important and ideally should be top opening as this leads to easier placement of the cat into it. Carriers come in a variety of styles from wire cages to plastic structures with metal grills on top and front, baskets with a lattice over the top, closed carriers where the cat cannot see out, and rucksack or trolley carriers. It is important to base your carrier purchase on whether or not your cat demands to see out and/or interact with its owners during travel. Get a carrier that is large. This means that as your kitten grows, you will not need to buy a new one. If you need advice on which type to buy, please ask.

Bowls for food and water: Never use plastic ones as these harbour bacteria and have been implicated in cat allergic reactions and the formation of feline acne. We recommend using stainless steel as they are easy to keep clean, are dishwasher safe and cannot hurt the cat. Ceramic dishes are also an option, although if your cat knocks these over and they smash, the pieces could cause injury. Steel has a longer life and does not carry the risk of injury. Because of the shape of their face, they will struggle to eat food or drink water at the bottom of a deep dish. Shallow dishes for food and water will mean that your Persian can eat easily. Your local pet shop may carry these sorts of dishes in the puppy section. 5-6 inches in diameter and no more than 1 inch deep is the size that works best in our experience.

Litter tray: These too come in a variety of styles. Shallow, deep, covered or uncovered, draining or self cleaning. Here, kittens will have had exposure to deep and shallow trays, both covered and uncovered. Our older cats prefer covered trays, but not all will. Find something which isn't too deep for your kitten to climb in and out of easily. If the tray comes with a flap, please remove it as cats tend not to use them for toileting when the flap blocks the entrance. Make sure that the tray is large enough for your cat to enter, exit and turn around in without being restricted.

Litter: Kittens here will have been exposed to Worlds Best, Golden Pine and a variety of others. Each kitten can have differing preferences for what they will use, but the above two will always be available. Please purchase the brand that the kitten has been using at their old home, as this will make the transition much easier. When you are ready to change to your own preferred brand, do this by gradually mixing the new with the old until the tray contains only the new type. Be warned that there is no guarantee the cat will use it. If they don't like it, you may be stuck with the old kind. It is not a good idea to use clumping clay litters as these can and do clump in a cat's stomach as they clean it off their coats. Cats can become seriously ill and possibly die due to intestinal blockages. Silica gel litters are excellent at absorbing odours, but they are rough on a cat's paws and silica itself has been strongly linked to cancer formation in humans when the dust is inhaled. Your cat will inhale litter dust as it scratches in the tray, so it is not worth the risk. Silica also causes respiratory problems and runny eyes, not something conducive to good health in a Persian.

Food: This will be discussed more in the Feeding section. As with the litter, remain on the old brand of food for a few weeks after taking your kitten home, and then gradually change.

Scratching post: When a cat scratches, it is removing the outer sheath of its claw. This is akin to humans cutting their nails, and is a necessary evil of owning a cat. It is a natural instinct that needs to continue for the health of the cat's nails. Purchase a scratching post to allow them to shed the claw without damaging furniture. This should be at least 2 ft tall, as a fully grown cat derives more satisfaction from scratching at a stretch. Again, buy a larger post now and you will not have to buy another when your cat outgrows the first.

Toys: All kittens love to play, and although Persians are lazy, they will still play long into adulthood. Buy toys such as ping pong balls, dangler toys on string... The list of what is available is endless. You could also make your own out of balled up paper or foil, bottle tops, pipe cleaners. Always supervise a kitten during play and do not let them chew on the toys as they could ingest parts of them and become ill. Never leave string toys lying around, as cats can and do chew and eat the string. If the string passes through and is hanging from their bottom, NEVER pull this, tempting as it may be. You will cause internal damage. This must be treated as a medical emergency, and your kitten will need to visit the vet immediately.

Bed: Some cats will use these. Most won't, so don't buy anything too expensive until you work out which type your cat is. Anything will do, from a blanket to a donut bed to an igloo that they can hide in. You will be given a blanket when you collect your kitten that mum and babies have slept on so that the kitten will have familiar scents in its new home. Try using this as the initial bed before making a purchase.

Nail clippers: your kitten will need its nails trimming every few weeks, and this can easily be done at home. We find that the scissor variety are much easier and more comfortable to use than the guillotine type. Do not use human nail clippers. These crush the claw rather than cutting it, and they can cause quite a bit of damage and pain for the cat.

Eye wipes: Pets at Home do the best type. You will need them to keep your Persian's eyes clean and free of infection.

Slicker brush and wide toothed comb: These are used for grooming. Combs with alternating long and short teeth work best, but any wide comb will be fine. Greyhound combs also work. There should be no more than ten teeth to the inch, otherwise you will strip your Persian's coat. For advice on show grooming, please ask.

A friend: If you have chosen to adopt a single kitten from Moonspun, do consider adding a second cat to your family. Kittens thrive in pairs and socialization is important for their continued development. Many are under the illusion that a second kitten will mean double the work, but this couldn't be further from the truth. Two kittens will play with each other rather than household items. They will run the energy out of each other, meaning that you won't have a restless cat waking you for attention in the middle of the night. They will enforce good behaviour by example, meaning less discipline over all is needed to ensure cats remain well adjusted. They will provide company for one another while you are out of the house, lessening the chance that your kitten could become bored, unhappy and destructive. Research has shown that cats in a multi cat household tend to be more people oriented and less shy than those in a single cat household, so having a friend will also boost your kitten's confidence, and encourage them to seek humans even more than they

already do! In fact, the only extra work on your part will be one more litter tray to scoop, two bowls of food to prepare rather than one, and more food to buy. Food is often a lot cheaper when bought in bulk, so the cost doesn't even double with the addition of a second cat. When you consider the reduction in chores that a second kitten brings, the extra small things are more than balanced, and your kitten's happiness is increased into the bargain!

Moonspun strongly advises kittens to be adopted in pairs if the home has no pre-existing cats.

Feeding

While with the breeder, the kitten will have been exposed to a variety of diets from raw food to high quality supermarket and specialist brands, wet pouches to dry kibble. This ensures that you as the new owner have as good a chance as possible to feed the cat on your chosen brand. All cats here are fed on Raw as their main diet, with very high quality wet cat foods such as Grau, Bozita, Macs, PetNatur, Catsfinefood, Tigercat, Lily's Kitchen, HiLife, Encore, Applaws, Purely etc given once daily to ensure they are accepting of these in their new homes. I do not feed Whiskas or Felix, and advise against doing so. These foods contain mostly grains, and as cats are obligate carnivores which means they can only digest meat and nothing else, all of these give no nutritional benefit and can and do lead to diabetes. Cats can live on this, yes, but it is the equivalent to feeding a human child McDonalds for every meal. These foods only have min 4% meat, so only 4% of what you feed is actually doing the cat any good.

Dry food is fed only as a treat at Moonspun due to its dehydrating affect. If you decide to feed dry, please make sure that fresh water is always available, and consider investing in a pet water fountain to encourage more drinking. Please be advised that the continual feeding of dry can lead to struvite crystals in males, a very painful condition which often requires surgery.

When choosing any food, look for one which has a high meat content, ideally from fully declared sources, and a low or no grain and vegetable content. Only feed foods marked as complete, no matter how good the quality. The complementary ranges lack vital nutrients, and if they make up more than 20% of a cat's diet, your new family member will be deficient in many vital nutrients. Remember that they cannot hunt to supplement their diets as outdoor cats do, so getting food right is key to their continued health.

People food is not good for cats. Please do not feed them from your plate or give them table scraps as it can lead to a whole host of health problems.

Raw food needs to be complete, just as tins or pouches do. Supermarket minces have a high bacteria count, and lack vital nutrition if fed unsupplemented. Always buy from a reputable company or, if making it yourself, ensure meat is freshly butchered, and use supplements to make sure the food is nutritionally correct. The ratio for home prepared raw is 80% muscle meat (this includes the heart), 10% bone and 10% organ such as kidneys. Be careful if feeding too much liver as this can lead to upset tummies.

You will be given samples of some of these foods when you collect your kitten. Please continue with the old brand for a few weeks until your kitten has settled into your home before considering a change. Gradually change the food by mixing the new in with the old until there is only new in the dish. Do this over a week or so as a sudden change can lead to your kitten having a bad tummy.

Kittens should be fed 3-4 meals a day until the age of six months when this can be reduced to two larger meals. The general rule is to feed your kitten as much as it wants. It is growing rapidly at this stage and will use a lot of energy. However, keep a close eye on its condition, and if it begins to appear fat, consult your vet or breeder

for advice. If you choose to use one of the lower quality foods, they should be fed on kitten specific food until they are a year old, when they can move to the adult version.

Litter and litter trays

The basic rule of thumb is one litter tray per cat, plus one extra. Therefore, if you have two cats in your home, you would need three trays. Three cats, four trays and so on. Some cats will demand you stick to this rule, while others, particularly littermates, will be happy to use the same tray for all of their lives. It is important though to be prepared. Trays can easily be put away if not used, but an inappropriate toileting habit built up through discontent with bathroom arrangements can take months to break.

Place the tray in a quiet area that doesn't have a lot of traffic. Most cats don't appreciate being observed or disturbed whilst going to the toilet! If you have more than one tray, try and place them in separate locations. Keep the tray clean and free from waste. Cats are clean animals and will most likely not use a dirty litter tray, preferring instead to anoint your best rug. If using a litter such as Worlds Best, urine can be scooped from the tray as well as poo. If you are using another brand which does not clump such as Catsan, all of the litter will need replacing on a regular basis.

Note: Do not use clay clumping litters as these are harmful when ingested. Worlds Best is a natural litter and is not harmful if ingested.

Make sure to wash your trays regularly. How regularly depends on what type of litter you are using. Worlds Best requires less washing because all the waste stays in the litter and is removed by you. Non-clumping requires a wash about once a week. The urine sinks to the bottom and coats the tray, so regular cleaning is a must to avoid bacteria build up. Do not use cleaning fluids that turn cloudy when added to water, as these are poisonous to cats.

Do not disturb the cat when it is in the tray. Never shout at them when they are there either, as they will then associate it with a negative experience and may not use it again. If your cat suddenly begins to go outside the tray for no apparent reason, you will need to organize a vet visit. This is often a sign of illness.

Introducing your kitten to existing pets

Your kitten will already have had exposure to other cats and well mannered dogs, so provided your pets are well behaved and do not chase/attack the newcomer, there should be few problems. Start by introducing the most placid animal to the kitten first.

Dogs: Always put the dog on a lead when introducing a new kitten. Even if they are fine with your other cats, they may react differently to a newcomer. Allow the cat to enter the room where the dog is. Keep the dog by your side. Praise good behaviour such as when they look away from the kitten, lie down or generally show a disinterest. Correct unwanted behaviours such as barking, growling, lunging. Reassure the kitten if it appears nervous, but do not pick it up and force it and the dog, or any other animal for that matter, face to face. This will only lead to more fright and possible aggression. Only when your dog regards the cat as boring and disinteresting is it safe to allow it off lead. Supervise them closely when together for the first few weeks, and never leave a kitten and a dog alone together while you are out of the room.

Introducing a kitten to other cats:

This can often be a bit more tricky as many cats are very territorial. Start this process a few days after bringing your kitten home while it is still in its safe room. Swap the cats' bedding so that they can have a chance to smell the other whilst not feeling threatened by their presence. Feed cats on opposite sides of the safe room door so that they associate the sound and smell of the other with a pleasurable experience. When the kitten is ready, allow them into another room of the house and put the resident cat into the newcomer's room. This provides an excellent opportunity for mingling scents without threat. When both are comfortable with this, introduce your cats face to face with one another at feeding time. Many will be too interested in satiating their belly's hunger to fight and see off the other, and when they are fed, they are often too sleepy to be truly aggressive. Allow them to mingle for short periods only to begin with. Ignore hissing, spitting and yowling, and expect the occasional scuffle as they work out the pecking order. Only intervene if it appears as though one of them may be injured. Remember to give your resident pet lots of affection at this time, as they will be just as upset and unsettled as the kitten.

As the cats grow more sure of one another, extend the face to face times, gradually working up to when they can live comfortably together.

For some kittens and cats, this process is unnecessary. Some kittens are confident enough to ignore the territorial aggression of another cat. Older cats occasionally take a real shine to a kitten. You will need to study them closely and do what feels best at the time. If no aggression is observed, then allow them to run together, but do supervise closely, as things can change quickly.

Handling your kitten

While with us, the kittens are taught that hands are not toys and should not be bitten or scratched, but, just like human children, they will test these boundaries when you bring them home. This will not become a habit if you do not encourage it. If a kitten attempts to bat at your hand or nibble it, give them a soft tap on the nose, withdraw your hand and end the game. This is exactly the discipline mum will have been giving them for the last thirteen weeks when they exhibit an undesirable behaviour. When they calm down, return to stroking them, repeating the above actions as many times as necessary until they get the idea. It might be cute at this stage, but when they have reached full growth, it will not be so cute, will hurt a great deal, could lead to infection and will result in you having a potentially difficult to handle cat. This will make things much more difficult for vets and other professionals who need to work with them.

When picking up your kitten, be gentle and slow. Sudden movements will frighten them.

Try to support their feet, especially the back ones. Cats feel very insecure when their feet are not on something solid, and they will normally wriggle and scrabble until they find a safe foothold. This can lead to accidental scratching of the human and a panicky cat who does not like being picked up for a cuddle.

Do not allow children to be rough and pull the kitten's tail, ears or other parts in play. A bad experience on a continual basis at this stage will most likely make your kitten wish to avoid people, or at the very least, be nervous of them.

Touch and examine all over your kitten at least a few times a week. Look into their eyes, tilt their heads, examine their ears, open their mouths and run a finger around the gum line. Feel their bellies and pick up their paws. Kittens will be used to this when they come to you, and if you maintain the routine, they will not feel stress when the vet does the same thing or when you clean their eyes, ears or teeth.

Behaviour and Training

Start to get the kitten used to what is expected of it now rather than waiting until bad habits are ingrained. Think of your kitten as a fully grown cat when you decide what you will and will not tolerate.

A tiny, exploring kitten on your worktops may be cute, but do you want an adult up there? It will shed masses of fur indiscriminately onto dishes, food, cookers etc. it may steal from dinner plates, and has the risk of walking across a hot surface such as your cooker, and burning its paws badly.

A kitten climbing your leg may make you smile, but an adult cat will not when it sinks its much larger claws into your skin to pull its heavier weight up your body.

These are just a few of the unwanted behaviours we see.

To discourage bad behaviour, give the cat a firm “no,” and remove it from the unwanted item/area, or prevent the unwanted action. Do this as many times as possible for the kitten to get the message.

Grooming

Your Persian will need to be groomed and bathed on a regular basis.

Grooming must be done on a daily basis. Begin by brushing the coat with the slicker brush from head to tail. Make sure to pay special attention to the armpits, the underbelly, behind the ears and the back of the back legs, as these are the areas most prone to knotting up. This should remove a lot of dead hair.

Next, take a wide toothed comb and comb against the grain of the fur, from tail to head. Take the coat in small sections, flicking each hair up and away from the body as you work. Please ask and I will show you how to do this. Remember to do the tail as well.

Finish by taking the cat on your lap and cleaning the eyes with an eye wipe. Be gentle when you do this, and work from the nose out to the edge of the eye. Always praise the cat, as it takes a lot of trust for them to allow you to do this and not attempt to get away. If the nose needs cleaning, do this with another wipe. Never use the same wipe on both eyes, as it could transfer infection. If the eye is producing copious amounts of fluid, is very crusty or looks red or swollen, chances are that the kitten has an infection and needs to be taken to the vet for treatment. If you clean the eyes each day, you will greatly minimize the chances of this happening.

Clipping the cat's nails should be done every few weeks. Only clip the clear hook of the claw. Never cut into the pink triangle as this will lead to bleeding and a sharp pain for your kitten. They will then associate the event with a bad experience and will be more difficult to clip next time.

To expose the claw for clipping, take the kitten's paw in your hand. Place one finger on the pad of a toe and your thumb on the top of the same toe. Press gently to make the claw extend. Hold it like this while you clip off the clear hook. Praise your cat with each clip for remaining still.

Bathing:

Persians will need bathing anywhere from every two to eight weeks. This depends very much on the coat of your cat. When it begins to look and feel greasy, it is time for a bath. The kitten will have been bathed whilst with us and will be used to water.

Place your cat in the bath with a non-slip mat under it. Set your shower to a temperature you consider to be warm but not hot. A cat's body temperature is a few degrees warmer than ours, so what feels warm to you will be cool to them. Never wash a Persian in tepid water. Due to the coat volume and the amount of water it holds, they chill very quickly when wet. Make sure the bathing room is warm and free from drafts.

Begin by thoroughly wetting the coat right down to the skin. This takes a surprisingly long time. Even when you think it is wet through, it is often still dry next to the skin. As this is where most of the grease is, it's important to get this layer wet.

Next, apply a cat shampoo. There are many different types specially formulated for cats. Do not use dog or human shampoo. In times of need, human baby shampoo is mild enough to be used, but not on a regular basis. Smooth this onto the coat rather

than scrubbing as you would do with your own hair. If you do this you will knot the coat, and those knots are impossible to get out again.

Allow the shampoo to sit for a minute or two before rinsing off. Ensure that you rinse thoroughly, as any shampoo left on the coat will cause irritation to the skin and will make the cat look more greasy than when you started.

You may also wish to apply conditioners or texturisers. Please ask for advice on these, as there are so many that are suited to different coat types that it would be impossible to advise on any but an individual basis.

When your cat has no more soap left in the coat, use a hand towel to blot excess water from the fur. Then wrap them in a large bath towel and hold for about ten minutes, or as long as the cat permits. I usually use this time to clean eyes and ears, reassure the cat and have a good cuddle. The towel draws off much of the water, and will make the next stage quicker.

Unwrap the towel and spread a dry portion on your lap or on a table. Use a hairdryer (this **MUST** have a cool setting) to dry the rest of the coat, combing the fur forward as you do. This exposes the undercoat, which is often the most difficult to dry. Make sure the cat is totally dry otherwise the coat may curl and knot.

Play

Kittens are playful creatures, and anything makes a good toy, whether it's your toes or feathers on a string. Do not allow a kitten to use any part of your body as a toy. Please see the section on handling your kitten for more details.

For kittens, play is an important way to bond with their owners and other furry companions. Cats will stalk, pounce, chase and wrestle each other all in fun, and you should not intervene unless it appears as though the play is turning into a more serious fight.

Play with your kitten on a daily basis. As it will be an indoor cat, it needs lots of stimulation to stay active and happy. Have lots of toys that you can rotate to keep the variety exciting and appealing to a cat who could easily become bored. Encourage the chasing and pouncing of dangler toys rather than your feet or hands. Give them toys they can play with on their own such as balls, mice etc. It is a good idea to reward your kitten with a small treat when a play session has finished. In the wild, they would engage in these behaviours when hunting, and would obviously eat their prey at the end. By giving a treat, you maintain the natural cycle and avoid frustration which could be misdirected as aggression towards others. It is also a good way to let your kitten know that your play with them has finished.

Neutering and Vet Visits

The kitten will have had two full vet checks before it leaves us. Unless any health problems show up in the meantime, they will not need to return to the vet for a year. However, it is always good to have money set aside in case of emergencies. Your cat should go to the vet at least once a year for its annual vaccination and a thorough check-up to ensure that they are still healthy.

When you bought the kitten, you signed a contract stating that the kitten would be neutered before the age of six months. This can be done at any time from the moment you take them home. Early neutering is quite safe. The operation for a boy is less invasive due to the position of the testes. Most spay operations are performed via a flank incision (a small incision in the female's side). However, if you are planning to show your cat, you should request a midline incision, as the scar will be less noticeable.

The kitten will need a few days to recover after the operation, although the younger they are, the quicker they seem to bounce back. Many vets will use subcuticular stitches or glue to close the wound, meaning that your cat may not have to wear an Elizabethan collar during the recovery period.

A confirmation of spay/neuter form has been included in the back of this book. This will need to be taken with your kitten to the vet, and completed by the operating vet and stamped with the practice stamp. It will then need to be sent back to the breeder in order for the cat's paperwork to be forwarded to you. Remember that you have signed a contract to do this. The contract is legally binding, and will be reinforced if necessary

Vaccinations

At the time of the health checks, the kitten will have been given the full course of vaccines including feline Leukaemia. Your cat will be an indoor cat, and this greatly reduces the risk of the kitten contracting Leukaemia. However, if they have exposure to other cats who go outside, or even visiting cats, or perhaps manage to escape from the house, they are protected against this deadly disease.

Moonspun kittens are injected with Purevax, and it is recommended that you request this for your annual booster. Vaccines do carry risks, but Purevax, because of its chemistry, is the lowest risk vaccine available. After the initial booster, Leukaemia should be given only once every three years if using Purevax. Research suggests that if a cat has its initial booster at a year old, Leukaemia protection is potentially not necessary in the future as the immunity remains. However, many factors such as the cat's exposure to other cats etc need to be considered, so please discuss this option with your vet.

It is recommended to have the vaccine administered either into the back leg, or more preferably into the skin of the chest. Leukemia vaccines have been linked to sarcomas in cats. A sarcoma is a cancer which forms at the injection site. If the vaccine is given in the scruff, it is impossible to remove, and will claim the life of your pet. Purevax is the lowest risk vaccine available, with very few sarcoma cases reported.

When you collect your kitten, you will be given a vaccination card that details the diseases already vaccinated against. One year from the date of the last vaccination, the cat will need to return to the vet to be given a booster to top up the immunity against these diseases. Even if your cat is an only cat who doesn't go outside into a cat run, you will still need to have this done as visitors, or even owners can carry in disease on hands, clothing or shoes.

Worming

Your kitten will have been wormed at set intervals whilst with the breeder, but it is recommended that you continue with this when you bring your new friend home with you. The risk of contracting worms is much greater in outdoor cats, but if you feed raw meat, have other pets or have contact with other animals, then your indoor cat is still at risk. Opinions vary on how often wormer needs to be given, but at Moonspun, we recommend worming a kitten once a month until it reaches the age of six months. A wormer given every 3-6 months after this point should be sufficient to keep worms at bay, particularly as your cat will not be allowed to free roam outside. If they have garden exposure and hunt and kill things, then leaning more towards the lower limit, i.e., three monthly worming, is suggested. If they regularly hunt and kill rodents or come in contact with animals who do, then you may need to up your worming to every month. Again, please discuss options with your vet or breeder, as worming frequency depends on the cat's lifestyle.

Wormer should always be obtained through your vet as shop-bought wormers can be unsafe and are unreliable for preventing worms. Moonspun uses Milbemax to worm both adult cats and kittens. Ensure that you have an accurate weight for your pet before dosing, as weight determines how much or little to give.

Micro-chipping

Micro-chips enable a stray cat to be returned to its owner. They store information such as the owner's name, telephone number and address. If your cat manages to escape, it provides a way to reunite pet and human.

Your kitten will already be micro-chipped when you collect them. The chip will be registered with your name and address, so you need do nothing more at this stage. However, if you move house or change your telephone number, you must notify the micro-chip company immediately. If you do not tell them about the change of details, they will not be able to contact you to return your lost cat.

It may also be a good idea to put a collar on your cat in case of accidental escape. A collar identifies the cat as belonging to someone, and it is more likely to be taken to a vet for the micro-chip scan than if it was not wearing one.

We hope that you enjoy many happy years with your kitten, and that they bring joy and happiness to your life. If ever you have a problem or need advice, please do not hesitate to call. If we do not have the answer, we will know someone who will!

Moonspun
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We would love to receive updates on how your new family member is settling in and getting along. Remember, we love them too!

Worming Schedule

Date of Wormer	Date next wormer due	Comments
26/09/2012	12/10/2012	Panacur liquid
12/10/2012	10/11/2012	Milbemax Kitten
09/11/2012	09/12/2012	Milbemax kitten