

Your New Kitten

Here are some helpful tips for the care of your kitten. Please read this all the way through as it is full of answers to the most commonly asked questions about kittens and the transition to their new home. Please note that any information we give is NOT intended to take the place of medical attention and you should ALWAYS consult your vet before giving your kitten any medications or treatment.

General -When you first arrive home, it is a good idea to let the kitten become used to one room that has food, water and his/her litter tray. Also, avoid the presence of too many people, too much noise or meeting other cats or animals until your pet has become used to its new environment. Being quiet and gentle is important, it will help the kitten to feel secure and comfortable with the family. Please keep your kitten safely indoors as a cat can acquire many diseases and be faced with much danger if allowed free range outside. Once your kitten is thoroughly settled in, you could try letting him/her out, with your supervision, but never use a cat flap or allow your kitten to be out when you are not there and NEVER leave your kitten outside at night.

Vaccinations - See the card issued by the breeder's Vet. Your kitten has certainly been inoculated against 'Flu and Enteritis. NEVER BUY A KITTEN THAT HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS COURSE OF INOCULATIONS. NEVER BUY A KITTEN THAT LOOKS SNUFFLY OR HAS WEEPY EYES - DO NOT BUY A KITTEN IF YOU FEEL SORRY FOR IT. CONTACT THE SOMALI CAT CLUB IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT A SOMALI KITTEN YOU HAVE SEEN. If you let your kitten out, it is advisable to have him/her inoculated against Feline Leukaemia. Please keep your kitten protected by maintaining the recommended boosters.



Diet etc. - Cats and kittens need a mixed diet of some good quality tinned food/pouches including Hilife Varieties; M&S Cat Food range; Whiskas/Felix Kitten Food; Sheba etc. It is important for your kitten to have commercial cat food each day, as that contains the correct balance of nutrition, minerals and vitamins etc to ensure healthy growth. In addition I do feed other foods as "treats" including Tuna in Spring Water; Tinned Pink Salmon; Pilchards in Tomato Sauce etc. Fresh food

includes cooked ham; turkey; chicken; raw beef; (Only buy meat fit for human consumption); microwaved cod steaks/fish fillets; grated cheddar cheese etc. Fresh water should always be available. It is also good to use Hills Science Diet Feline Growth/ Royal Canin Baby Cat/ Royal Canin Kitten or Techni-Cal Kitten biscuits as a snack as they are highly nutritious and very good for cat's and kitten's teeth. These biscuit foods are also very useful if you are going out for the day as the kitten can have food without it attracting flies or becoming stale. I must emphasize, it is important the kitten has some commercial food each day, as that has the correct balance of protein/carbohydrate/minerals etc to ensure healthy growth and development.

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Please keep to the diet your kitten is used to, at least for the first few weeks. Then, if you wish to change, do so very gradually. A sudden change in diet can cause MANY problems including diarrhoea. If your kitten should have an upset stomach, remove all food and give just plain water (I always use filtered water for my cats). After 3 or 4 hours offer a SMALL portion of freshly cooked chicken or white fish. It is always better to offer 3 or 4 small portions during the day rather than 2 large meals, cats are "grazers" and the regular small meals suit their constitution. Always remember, a kitten's stomach is small and letting him/her overeat may result in a stomach upset. Seek your vet's advice if you are at all concerned about your kitten's digestion.

[Avoid cow's milk as most cats are lactose intolerant and milk or milk products can cause diarrhoea and/or sickness.](#)

House Training - You will find kittens have been trained to use litter and are very clean. Please change the litter tray regularly and keep it clean. Try to use the litter the kitten has been used to at least for the first few weeks. I do not use a tray with a lid, as that can be intimidating for some cats in a multi-cat household, but you could use a lid after the initial introduction to your house if you wish.



Neutering - If your kitten has been registered on the Non-Active Register, please make sure he/she is neutered at an age recommended by your Vet.

Care & Attention - Somali kittens have wonderful temperaments, they are lively and playful with a special love for people. They thrive on affection and become very devoted. They are quick to learn and impossible to ignore. They are fit, healthy and athletic with no inherited problems. They may take time to "get to know" people and need to be spoken to gently. Do not insist on picking them up if they do not like it - play gently with your kitten, gain its confidence and let it come to you. Once you have gained your kitten's trust it will become a really good companion. Somalis are easy to keep in optimum condition. Their coats are soft, silky and fine. They are easy



to keep looking good with regular grooming. Gentle brushing and combing is usually sufficient. Make it a pleasurable time for you and your kitten, make it a routine as you sit down together and your kitten will enjoy it and be used to this special time together. If your kitten is moulting heavily, stroke gently while wearing some rubber gloves; that will remove the loose hairs without damaging the roots. Do keep a watch for fleas and treat regularly to avoid a problem. Advantage 40 is a liquid applied to the back of the neck, so there is the minimum of stress for the kitten - I use this as it is safe but effective. Never use "across the counter" flea products or flea collars as cats can frequently have bad reactions to these. I worm

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my cats every six months and would recommend you continue this. Again, only use products obtained from and recommended by your Vet.

Household Hazards - Be careful where you walk as kittens often run around underfoot. I "blutack" ornaments onto shelves, keep the toilet seat cover down and always check inside the washing machine/dishwasher/tumble drier before switching on. Watch the kitten when you close doors so that the tail isn't trapped and never allow your pet to be alone in a room with electrical cables that could be chewed. Take care with the cleaning products you use as some are potentially dangerous for your cat. Take care your kitten does not nibble on house plants/flowers, many are poisonous! Never allow your cat to play with rubber bands and only allow play with string or yarn when you are on the other end! String, yarn, plastic wrappers, pipe cleaner spiders, plastic bags, tinsel, rubber bands etc are extremely dangerous playthings and can cost you a great deal in Vet fees or even the life of your pet if they are swallowed. Ping pong balls, empty cardboard boxes, screwed up pieces of paper and catnip toys are all GREAT fun and far safer for your kitten to play with.



Finally Enjoy your new kitten, treat him/her as you would any new member of the family. Every kitten has a different personality but every single one wants to "fit in" and be loved. Kittens love to run around the house and play, they love to sleep with you and receive attention and affection, they love to sit in the sunshine (on the window sill

indoors!) and the most important person in their life is YOU. Your kitten relies upon you to protect him/her - be aware, be wise and play it safe ! You will then enjoy many years of wonderful companionship with your smiling Somali.

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL

If you are at all worried, if your kitten does not settle or if you can no longer keep your kitten FOR ANY REASON please contact the breeder - responsible breeders will always help one of their cats or kittens and are there to give support or advise in any way they can. If this is not possible, remember the Somali Cat Club - www.somalicatclub.com - anyone on the committee will be there to help a Somali in need.

OTHER USEFUL SITES TO VISIT ARE:

www.fabcats.org - The Feline Advisory Bureau is there to help with all aspects of owning and caring for cats. If you go into "info for cat owners" there are numerous information leaflets available and listed from A - Z.

www.gccfcats.org - The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy is the Feline version of the Kennel Club. If you visit the website and then browse "Buying a Kitten" there is more very useful information for you.

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