

Preparing for Kittens

When you prepare to welcome kittens into your home, you can increase the chances of keeping them safe and healthy with some forethought, planning, and attention to detail. Before bringing kittens home, it is important to have basic supplies for their care on hand. Specific items can vary depending on the age of the kittens that you plan on bringing into your home. Included below are general supplies needed for kittens as well as additional supplies required for bottle feeding orphans.

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In partnership with



CHECKLIST

Basic Kitten Supplies:

- ☐ Confinement area: When bringing a kitten into your home, they will need their own area that can be easily disinfected. This means no carpet
 - Small room such as a bathroom
 - Playpen
 - Kennel/Crate
- ☐ Bedding and comfort items
 - Blankets/Towels
 - Pet beds
- ☐ Heat source
 - Heating disc
 - Pet-safe heating pad

Environmental Enrichment:

- ☐ Kittens explore their environment and need various enrichment items to help with normal development of motor skills as well as prevent boredom.
 - Toys that are kitten safe: Toys that are made specifically for kittens that are not easily destroyed or ingested
 - Scratching pads or posts: cardboard pads that are disposable are preferred
 - Cardboard boxes

Nutrition:

- ☐ Food and water bowls
- ☐ Kitten food: High quality canned and dry kibble that is AAFCO compliant by meeting specific nutrient profiles for growth: higher protein, fat and includes essential nutrients like DHA, taurine, and calcium
- ☐ Probiotics that are formulated specifically for cats and kittens and are in an easy to administer form such as a powder
- ☐ Electrolytes that are specifically formulated for cats and kittens and are in an easy to administer formulation such as a dissolvable powder
- ☐ High-calorie supplements such as Nutri-Cal[®]

Toileting:

- ☐ Open low-sided litter boxes: Provide at least 1-2 boxes per 2-3 kittens and scoop them frequently
- ☐ Litter boxes should be separated from food and water
- ☐ Non-clumping, non-scented litter: clumping or scented litter may pose a health risk if ingested

CHECKLIST

Grooming Supplies:

- ☐ Nail clippers
- ☐ Comb, brush
- ☐ Unscented baby wipes
- ☐ Hypoallergenic pet shampoo

TIP: Don't forget to disinfect nail clippers and brushes before and after use!

Medical:

- ☐ Scale and record-keeping chart
- ☐ Thermometer

Other:

- ☐ Full-sized cat carrier for safe transport
- ☐ Foster manual/emergency contact list
- ☐ Identification method (color coded or paper collar)

Cleaning Supplies:

- ☐ Veterinary Grade Disinfectant: It is important that your disinfectant is safe, fast, and effective. We recommend using at least one of the Rescue® Disinfectants formats:
 - Rescue Wipes
 - Rescue Ready to Use
 - Rescue Concentrate (diluted to 2oz/gallon of water)



Additional Supplies For Orphan & Unweaned Kittens

Equipment:

- ☐ Safe, consistent heat and humidity source
- ☐ Incubator
- ☐ Bedding and comfort items
- ☐ Fleece/flannel bedding
- ☐ Stuffed animals
- ☐ Heartbeat pillows

Nutrition:

- ☐ Kitten Milk Replacement Formula that closely match a queen's milk such as Breeder's Edge® or Kitten Milk Replacer by PetAg®
- ☐ Bottles, nipples, syringes
- ☐ Whisk/blender ball for mixing formula
- ☐ Tube feeding equipment when appropriate

Medical:

- ☐ Gram scale



Grooming/Hygiene:

- ☐ Toilet paper/Tissues/Gauze pads
- ☐ Toothbrush for grooming



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