



Thompson Humane Society, P.O. Box 582, Thompson, MB. R8N 1N4
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Critters Corner

Kitten/Cat Care

If you need some advice on caring for your kitten or your adult cat, try these tips

- ✓ **Feeding:** Feed your kitten 3-4 times daily and your adult cat 1-2 times daily. Use only commercial brand-name cat food formulated for your pet's age. Your veterinarian can assist you with your pet's proper diet. No table scraps, dog food, bones, milk (causes diarrhea which causes dehydration) or raw fish (destroys vitamin B1). Fresh water should be available at all times.
- ✓ **House training:** Show your kitten or cat where the litter box is located-its mother has probably already taught it how to use the box. Keep it clean by scooping out the waste daily and changing the litter every few days. Use only mild detergents to clean the box. Keep the litter box in an area separate from the food and water dishes.
- ✓ **Grooming: Coat:** Frequent and regular brushing will prevent a heavy ingestion of hair, which causes hair balls.
Nails: trim nails every 2-3 weeks to keep them from getting too sharp. Ask your vet to show you how. Providing your kitten or cat with a scratching post will save your drapes and furniture.
Teeth: Wipe your pet's teeth every couple of weeks with cotton, gauze, or a child's toothbrush soaked in baking soda. This will prevent a buildup of tartar.
- ✓ **Transporting:** Always transport your kitten or cat in a pet carrier for its safety and security. Your pet will also be much happier in an enclosed container.
- ✓ **Safe Toys:** Paper bags, shoe boxes, catnip toys, and rubber balls (large enough so your pet can't swallow them) are safe. No small, sharp objects, string or yarn.
- ✓ **Collar and I.D. Tag:** Protect your kitten or cat with a current identification tag and collar. Make sure that the collar is not too loose or too tight (you should be able to slip 2 fingers under the collar while the pet is wearing it. Change the collar as the kitten grows.
- ✓ **Bed:** Provide your kitten or cat with its own bed, away from heavy traffic areas (like the kitchen). Remember, kittens need sleep during the day as well as night.

- ✓ Protection and Supervision: A kitten needs almost constant supervision for its safety and for proper socialization to people. An adult cat requires much less supervision. Keep household cleaners, electrical cords and fragile objects safely away from your pet. Also, many plants such as “Dumb cane” and “Poinsettia “are poisonous to pets.
- ✓ Safety: Keep your kitten and adult cat indoors where it will be safe from countless outside dangers. Toys and attention will keep your indoor cat stimulated and happy. Screen all windows- cats really can fall from ledges or balconies and be seriously injured or even killed.
- ✓ Veterinary Care: A kitten needs to visit the vet several times in its first year for inoculations. In addition, kittens and cats should be checked annually for internal parasites such as worms). An adult cat needs to visit the vet once a year for a rabies vaccination and a physical exam.
- ✓ For more detailed information on kitten and cat care, visit your local library or bookstore, or ask your veterinarian.

If you have any concerns about an animal that is not being properly cared for, please contact **Thompson Animal Control** at **677-7970**.