



Behavior Tips For Your Kitten

By starting your kitten off on the right "paw" you can eliminate many behavior problems before they have a chance to blossom...

USING THE LITTER BOX

- Until the habit of using the litter box is firmly established, confine the kitten to a small room with its litter box whenever it cannot be closely supervised.
- Place the box in an area that is easily accessible and provides some privacy.
- Provide at least two boxes if you have more than one cat.
- Scoop the box daily and completely clean every week.
- Avoid using strong-smelling disinfectants to clean the box.
- Do not medicate, punish, scold, or do anything else disagreeable to the cat when it is in the litter box.
- If you change the brand of litter, gradually replace the old litter with the new one over a five-day period.
- Don't rub the pet's nose in urine or stool if it misses the box.
- Neuter or spay the pet soon after it reaches six months of age.

Call our office at the first sign of house soiling for more help. Long-term problems can be very difficult to correct.

SCRATCHING FURNITURE



- Provide a scratching post in an easily accessible location.
- Make sure the scratching post is sturdy.
- Try scratching posts with different surfaces (wood, rope, carpet, fabric, etc.) to find which the kitten prefers.
- Whenever the kitten scratches the post, immediately give a food reward.
- Closely supervise the kitten and punish unacceptable scratching by squirting it with a water gun during the act.
- When the kitten cannot be supervised, confine it to a room where the only acceptable scratching surface is its scratching post.
- Booby trap furniture you want to protect:
 - a. Pin or tape balloons to the side of furniture.
 - b. Place mousetraps (which have been set and **placed upside down**) on or around furniture.

Behavior Tips For Your Kitten Continued...

CHEWING ON PLANTS

- ♦ Mist the plant with water, then sprinkle cayenne pepper on the leaves.
- ♦ Booby traps (see previous page)

PLAY BITING

- ♦ Don't encourage attacks toward your hand.
- ♦ Direct attack play behaviors toward thrown toys (try ping pong balls) or toys on a string. A very popular and favorite new toy is the "Laser Dot", guaranteed to be your cat's favorite!
- ♦ Discourage biting or attacking with a water gun or blast of compressed air (cans are sold at camera and computer stores).
- ♦ Some kittens will play bite after a predictable amount of petting. Anticipate this response and keep petting sessions short.

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