

Congratulations on your new Siberian Kitten!

Bringing home and raising a new kitten is an experience that's loaded with challenges and rewards. There is so much info online to learn all about kittens and how to give your kitten the best start in life. I'm sure you have spent a good amount of time researching about Siberians and what info will work for you, in your home and family. Your Kitten is familiar with most of what is listed below. Just a few facts on Kitten basics I thought you would benefit by. I found most of this info from websites online related to kitten care.

Preparing for Your Kitten & Kitten-proofing your home.

- **“FIGHT OR FLIGHT”**: Your kittens nervous system will be in Hyperdrive during the next few weeks of transition. “FIGHT OR FLIGHT” mode is a normal survival instinct that you will see her display in a variety of ways. Fear, apprehension toward any stimuli, decreased food and water intake, loose stool or constipation.

Slow Transition is so important

- **KITTENS COMFY SAFE ZONE**: Set aside a small quiet area as "base camp" to help your Kitten manage and get used to her new surroundings. This space should be off-limits to other pets, and young children should only be admitted with adult supervision. Felines gain confidence by knowing their environment. When a Kittens environment changes, they will NEED to examine every inch of the room before they relax and feel secure for anything else new. Once they are familiar, and have had time to feel in control of that space, they will relax a bit. Its best to allow your kitten time to become familiar with the space before you try to interact face to face. The fear she may experience can imprint visually. You want your kitten to associate YOU with NURTURE NOT FEAR.

- **SETTING UP FAMILIAR:** Furnish the space with a litter box, food and water dishes, comfortable bedding, and a toy. Don't move these items, the more things stay the same, the faster your kitten will adjust to and welcome your company, and any additional new stimuli.

It is usually a good idea to keep the food and water away from the litter box, as cats don't generally like to eat near where they do their business...

but then again, who does!?

- **EVERYTHING IS NEW:** Establishing a Kitten Comfy Safe Zone will serve as a safe space for your kitten to get used to the strange sounds and smells of her new home. If you have other pets, keep the door closed or use a pet gate to keep them out. Gradually allow them to approach the gate and allow them and the kitten to meet and sniff each other from under the door. Only allow them to make full contact on the Kittens terms, under supervision once they appear to accept one another's presence with no signs of fear or aggression.

Keep in mind that she is still a kitten and is experiencing the world for the first time.

There may be times where sights or sounds frighten her. In these cases, it is important to comfort her and understand when too much stimulation might be enough, and you can take her back to her safe place to rest. As she starts to get used to these things, you can slowly introduce more stimuli. However, you might find yourself surprised — kittens have a curious nature and you might find that they can be fearless and explore more than you'd think. How else can you explain a small kitten willing to snuggle up next to a large dog?

- **CONTAIN THAT KITTY!:** Cats and kittens can fit their bodies almost anywhere they can squeeze their heads into, so be sure to exercise the utmost care and caution when kitten-proofing your house. Their adorable little heads can fit just about anywhere! Close or block off windows, vents, and any nooks and crannies she might be tempted to explore or hide.

- **EQUIPMENT SAFETY:** Move electronics and power cords, window blind cords, and any other strings out of reach. Known Cat emergencies involve Ingesting strings rubber bands, and feathers. They are very dangerous to your Kitten. Many common cleaners and houseplants are toxic to Cats.

All About Kittens: What to Expect

- **“ENERGIZER KITTY”** Kittens have boundless energy and curiosity, which means they require a lot of your time and energy. Your new kitten needs not only lots of affection and playtime in order to be properly socialized, but also a ton of supervision to keep her out of trouble. The truth is that kittens, while charming and lovable, can be exhausting. Keep in mind that the kitten stage doesn't last forever, and your cat will never be this small or cute again. Enjoy this stage, and remember, the bond you form with your kitten will last her entire life.
- **“CATNAPS AND SUCH”:** Kittens sleep a lot at a young age — like between 16-20 hours a day a lot. For this reason, it is important that she has a comfortable place to take a nap and sleep at night. You might be tempted to want to keep her in your bedroom, but unless that's where you want to keep her litter box, it is best to section off somewhere in the house that is just for her. Slowly, they will learn that nighttime is for sleeping.
Even more interesting is the fact that a certain growth hormone is only released during sleep, which is why they must rest to grow.
- **“PLAY, PLAY,PLAY”:** Beyond just socialization, kittens need to be played with to get their exercise. Not only does this help form a bond between the two of you, but it also helps get the blood flowing for her, vital for healthy development. Set aside time each for play, whether it's having her chase a mouse on a string or a light around the room, to ensure she gets her adequate daily exercise. This will also ensure that your kitten is tuckered out before bed time,Keep a rotating array

of toys on hand. Some good cat toys you can buy are wand toys, catnip mice, and crinkly catnip things. Put the toys away after playtime. If a toy is always out, it can become boring and unrealistic to a kitty, like a mouse that never goes away. Make the toy act like a mouse or a bird to peak your cat's curiosity. But let your cat set the pace. You can't force a cat into playing, but you can try different approaches to see what generates interest. You might try dimming the lights since cats like to hunt when it's darker. Match the action intensity to your cat's interest. After a while, you'll get to know your cat's playing style and the look that says "I'm ready to play!" Don't make it too easy; let your cat enjoy the pursuit. But when it comes in for the big pounce, let your cat score a direct hit and savor the thrill of victory. Good times to quit the play session are when you've gone for 10 to 15 minutes and your cat has just scored a decisive "victory," and, when your cat has clearly lost interest. In both scenarios, give your cat some nice praise just for showing up. In the first case, make the victory a little sweeter with a nice treat.

Feeding and Hydrating Your Kitten

- **FREE FEEDING DRY FOOD:** If you're not considering other options, you might be wondering if free feeding is an acceptable method. When you free feed your cat, their DRY food is available at all times. If you're noticing that your cat is leaving dry food in their bowl for more than a day, you can mix the leftovers with some of the canned food juices.
- **ADVANTAGES:** Your cat can eat multiple small meals per day on their own schedule. A key to success for free feeding is place the right amount of dry food for a cat for about one day at a time in the bowl.
- **DISADVANTAGES:** Free feeding cats can lead to overeating and obesity, especially if the amount of food is not limited. It can also be difficult to tell if your cat's appetite has changed, for the better or worse. It's also difficult to tell, if you have multiple cats, how much each one is eating.

- **CANNED FOOD SCHEDULE:** Your kitten is used to eating canned food 2-3 times daily. You will want our kitten to also eat dry food, so the challenge is not to over feed the canned food portions.
- **CLEAN FRESH WATER:** available at all times To increase moisture for your Kittens diet, we feed canned wet food twice daily, you also can add extra water to the moist meals. .
- **CAT TREATS:** Cubed cooked/unsalted chicken, beef, fish or chicken livers are only the very best. Lifes Abundance also carries healthy treats. But everyone likes a bag of store bought treats, every now and then.

- **Poop-Ology:** Your kittens poop should be checked daily for consistency.

Sometimes stress or possible insect consumption can cause temporary changes in their stool. You may try adding canned pumpkin to a bit of canned food, if the stool is either too loose or dry and hard. Any time there are changes in bowel patterns it is always important to also closely monitor their food intake. Animals have been known to ingest items that can be very serious if not addressed quickly. Their Bowel pattern is usually very regular, don't over look it, if it isn't.

NORMAL: Appearance is similar to that of a tootsie roll, and the litter sticks to it.

TOO HARD: LITTER DOES NOT STICK TO THE STOOL. Appearance is hard round partial lengths of stool, very dry. Kitten runs the risk of developing a stretching of the bowel or obstipation or obstruction of the bowel. Monitor frequency and texture. Consider talking to your Veterinarian if little or no change.

TOO LOOSE: Appearance is round partially formed semiflat blobs.

WATERY: Appearance is flat completely unformed. Kitten runs the risk of becoming dehydrated. Keep a close eye on frequency and texture, consider if a Veterinary appointment is needed.

- **LITTER and such: Use only NON CLUMPING Litter for the first year**

We currently use Fresh Step NON Clumping Cat Litter. Keeping the litterbox in the same location allows your Kitten to become familiar with the litter area, and develop a good pattern. If you would like or need to have a litter box in another location, for convenience or if you have a large or multilevel home, It might be helpful to have a couple of litter boxes around the house, just to make sure she has easy access to one while she's figuring things out. Or if you would like to change the location of the litter box, It is recommended to add the second litter box and maintain the location of the first one until your kittens pattern is well established. Use positive reinforcement, such as treats and praise, until she gets used to using it on her own without any prompting.

- **Quality Cat Food “Life’s Abundance - All life stage cat food”**

Side by Side Comparison of known brands of Cat Food at this Link:

<https://lifesabundance.com/pets/lifesabundance/catfoodcompare.aspx>



All Life Stage Dry Cat Food



Caned Pork and Duck

OR



Instinctive Choice Chicken & Shrimp

- **Placing your first order of Life’s Abundance All Life Stage Cat Food**

Please follow the website link below and click the image of Cat Food:

<https://quivivesiberians.com/health-nutrition.html>

- **QUALITY:** The brand you feed is the most important decision you can make as a pet parent. Because your cat eats the same food every day, it’s his primary source of nutrition. And a superior cat food can help to foster a solid nutritional foundation, which can help sustain your cat over a long and healthy lifetime.

some competing brands use wheat and wheat glutens, corn and corn glutens, as well as artificial food colors and preservatives. At Life's Abundance, the focus is on what pets truly need to help ensure a lifetime of good health, formulas for a better life rather than on making the cheapest possible product that might not fulfill your cat's dietary needs.

- **NUTRITION:** To account for the unique dietary needs of your developing Kitten or cat, all of the following must be included in the formula: a diverse array of high-quality proteins; healthy species-specific animal fat; a guaranteed amount of the antioxidant Vitamins A, C and E; a guaranteed amount of omega-3 fatty; prebiotics; a guaranteed amount of probiotics; an array of vegetables; and fruits. Also, to minimize health risks, no wheat or wheat gluten or corn or corn gluten-based products should be featured. Freshness guarantee- Life's Abundance Premium Health Food for Kittens and Adult cats is prepared in small batches on a weekly basis.

Grooming and Comfort

- **Cat bed or blanket throw:** I will often use a blanketed throw or a sheet over the cat beds as they are easy to wash and disinfect. Cats like nice warm surfaces in the winter and cool flat surfaces in the summer....but, who doesn't.
- **Cat carrier-** I will provide your kittens carrier during delivery, minimizes any discomfort during transport and transition.
- **Metal comb or Cat brush** Combing is effective in keeping their coat free of tangles as well as helping to identify when shedding season has begun. During those times it is best to comb daily or more frequently during the week, to keep the fur from hitting the fan, and to prevent those disgusting uncomfortable HAIRBALLS!

- **Scratching post and kitten-safe toys** Scratching is a natural instinct and a way for your cat to claim you as her people, not your furniture.

Training and Socializing Your Kitten

Training a kitten is usually about establishing and reinforcing boundaries and household rules.

- **POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT** to train your kitten, and avoid punishing her or speaking to her harshly. Never, ever hit or shake your kitten. Instead, ignore her when she's behaving badly and give her affection, treats and praise to reward her good behavior. If ignoring isn't an option,
- **REDIRECT** her attention to something else. For example, if your kitten bites or scratches your hand, give her a toy to play with instead. If she scratches the furniture, patiently redirect her to a scratching post or pad. If all else fails.
- **TIME OUTS** by periodic breaks by returning to base camp.

Cats are actually trainable in other ways too. Much like puppies, kittens are very smart and have the capacity to learn a lot — their independent nature may make it seem otherwise. With training any pet, it takes patience. Again, it's important to use positive reinforcement if you want these actions to continue as she gets older.

Kittenhood is a crucial time for socializing your cat

In order for her to grow into a well-balanced adult, she should be played with and comforted frequently and also exposed to as many new sights, sounds, smells, and sensations as possible. While she's young is the best time to get her used to things such as riding in a pet carrier, riding in a car, and tolerating grooming tasks like bathing, brushing, nail trimming, and tooth brushing.

Vaccinations and Health Checks

Your kitten should be taken for a health check when the kittens next booster vaccine is due, usually in 1 month from the time you bring her home. You may want to talk to the Vet about when they recommend a Rabies vaccine, starting a flea and parasite control regimen, and spaying or neutering at around 6 months of age. This visit is also a great time to ask your vet any questions you have about your kitten's care and feeding. We will provide you with your Kittens health record and Microchip information to bring to your first Veterinarian Visit.

Wishing you the very best with your Siberian Kitten

We are always available for you. And welcome any level of communication you would like to maintain. Feel free to contact us anytime, for any reason.

Thank You, and Congratulations!

Dawn Barsch

QuiVive Siberians

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