



©Kozorog / Getty Images

The New Kid – Introducing a Kitten to the Household Cats

By RITA REIMERS

There's nothing more heartwarming than adopting a sweet, little kitten and watching him grow before your eyes. But as thrilling as it is for you, your other cats might not be as happy about it — at first, anyway. Preparation and patience are key to blending your growing cat clan.

Cats are territorial

If you already have cats, you know firsthand that cats are territorial creatures who do not enjoy changes in their environment. Part of this tendency is a throwback to their wild days when cats were hunted by other animals, and their food sources and other resources were threatened by other neighboring cats. A new kitten is seen as an interloper by your cats, and a potential threat to their food and napping places. Don't be surprised to hear your cats hiss at the little one. My friend



©EE_Tony / Getty Images

Linda recently brought home a new kitten named Paws. While there were no hisses from her adult cat, Kizzy, he did give Paws a smack on the head to let him know who's boss. Now they are cuddle and play buddies.

Prepare a quiet place

Once you get your new kitten home, he may feel overwhelmed and scared, and he may try to hide under a bed. After all, he is in a new place with strange people and new sights, sounds and smells. The sight of your other cats may also scare him, especially if they're hissing at the newbie. Start baby off in a small room, such as a bathroom, where you can visit with him and he can't hide. Bring toys and treats, talk in soothing tones, and let him adjust to his surroundings and feel comfortable with you before you let him explore the whole house. This could take a few hours or several days. Don't let adult cats near him at this point.

Supervise introductions

You may begin to notice your kitten and cats playing footsie under the door to the kitten's quiet room. This is a good sign that introduction time has arrived! Begin introductions with short supervised sessions, where you hold the kitten and let the adults come over to meet him. Nose touches are a good sign! You may hear a hiss or two, or you may get lucky. When I brought Simon home, Boo-Boo kitty demanded to meet him immediately, and right away they started chasing each other up and down the hallway. Instant pals!

Continued on page 64



Devoting her entire life to cats, **Rita Reimers** is founding owner of JFCATS.com, a feline health and wellness company. JF CATS has been

providing cat behavior services and cats-only pet-sitting for the last 15 years. Rita and her business partner, Linda Hall, are also starting a line of USA-made cat toys and bedding called Gracie & Esther. You can reach Rita directly on Facebook and Twitter @TheCatAnalyst and on Instagram @RitaReimersTheCatAnalyst.

FOR SALE

COUNTRY KITTY KONDO PREMIER CAT ONLY BOARDING

CKITTYKONDO.COM

3 bed, 2 bath home
+ guest cottage on 2.26 acres
5 alpacas

- No cages
- No dogs
- No worries
- Individual kitty kondos
- Escape proof outdoor play area

\$750,000



yamhillrealstate.net/CountryKittyKondo/

PRESENTED EXCLUSIVELY BY:



COLDWELL BANKER
PROFESSIONAL GROUP



503.538.0468
616 E First St, Newberg, OR 97132
ColdwellBankerProfessionalGroup.com

DAVID RUSS, Broker, LIC#91204797
503.853.0115
David.Russ@ColdwellBanker.com

BERTA MCKAIG, Broker, LIC# 200631470
503.888.2975
Berta.McKaig@ColdwellBanker.com

COMING NEXT ISSUE

MARCH/APRIL 2019

Get Kitty Fit & Trim!

- » What Should I Feed My Overweight Cat?
- » At Risk! Health Concerns for Obese Kitties
- » Easy Ways to Get Your Cat Moving



+PLUS!

- + Stop Bad Breath
- + How to Prep for Natural Disasters
- + Maximize the Positive with Fen Shui Litter Box Placement



WILD About 'EM!
American Wirehair & Kurilian Bobtail



©Getty Images

Turn your cat into an INSTA-STAR!



Snap and post a photo of your feline using #catstercats for your chance to be featured on Catster's Instagram page!

 @catstermag

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: CATSTER. 2. Publication Number: 8929514. 3. Filing Date: 10/1/18. 4. Issue Frequency: 6 issues per year. 5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 6. 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$24.95. 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Belvoir Media Group LLC, 535 Connecticut Ave, Norwalk CT 06854. Contact Person: Tom Canfield, Phone: 203-857-3139. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: Belvoir Media Group LLC, 535 Connecticut Ave, Norwalk CT 06854. 9. Publisher: Phil Penny, 535 Connecticut Ave, Norwalk CT 06854. Executive Editor: Melissa L. Kauffman, 535 Connecticut Ave, Norwalk CT 06854. Senior Editor: Annie Butler Shirreffs, 535 Connecticut Ave, Norwalk CT 06854. 10. Owner: Belvoir Media Group, LLC, 535 Connecticut Ave, Norwalk CT 06854. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None. 12. Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months. 13. Publication Title: CATSTER. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: SEPT/OCT '18. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months/No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run): (178,849/180,053) b. 1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: (86,755/88,533). 2. Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (0/0). 3. Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: (12,906/11,685) 4. Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: (0/0) c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: (99,661/100,218) d. Free Distribution by Mail: 1. Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541: (34,072/34,094). 2. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies as Stated on PS Form 3541: (0/0). 3. Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: (0/0). 4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail: (1,223/407). e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution: (35,294/34,501). f. Total Distribution: (134,955/134,719). g. Copies not Distributed: (43,894/45,334). h. Total: (178,849/180,053) i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: (73.8%/74.4%). 16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: Jan/Feb 19 17. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete: Tom Canfield, VP, Circulation.

NEW CATTITUDE *Continued from page 21*

Until your cats get along well with the kitten with no hisses or threats, have them together only when supervised. Be patient. It takes time for everyone to adjust and establish the cat pecking order in the household.

Consider two

Kittens are bundles of boundless energy, and having a buddy to play with will keep your kittens well-adjusted. Kitten play is how they teach each other good versus bad biting and play behaviors.

Having kitten buddies to rough-house with one another will enable them to use those natural play behaviors on one another instead of on you or your other older cats. Your fingers and toes will thank you!

One last tip

Spoil your new kitten, but also give your current cats time with you, too. Otherwise, jealousy and behavior issues may pop up. Soon cats and kitten(s) will become buddies with one another, and you'll have one happy crew. 🐾

GIVING THE GIFT OF A KITTEN

When I was 7 years old, my cousin, Laurie, and her mom brought me the cutest little white Persian kitten as a gift for my birthday. I fell in instant love with that tiny fluff ball. But an allergy in my family prevented me from accepting the kitten, and I was heartbroken for days.

Giving a pet as a gift sounds like a sweet gesture but is really not the best idea. My aunt had no idea of the family allergy, and our apartment lease did not allow for pets. You truly have no way of knowing if giving a kitten will be appreciated or if the recipient is able to accept the kitten.

Should you want to give such a gift, talk to the potential receiver first to see if they even want a pet. Then, take the person to a shelter or rescue and let them pick out their own pet. That way, the person will be able to choose (or be chosen by) the pet who seems to be best suited to their lifestyle and living situation.

ACT YOUR AGE *Continued from page 23*

active and playful," she says. "It is a concern if they are lethargic and don't seem to be interested in their environment and/or stop eating."

Proper diet

You will likely receive recommendations for a complete and balanced kitten food from your veterinarian or the breeder or rescue group from which you adopted your new pet. There are many dry and canned foods made specifically for the nutritional needs of young kittens.

Because your kitten is growing rapidly but still has a tiny tummy, she'll need small, frequent meals. Create a mealtime routine that allows her to eat frequently throughout the day. When feeding canned food, discard any leftovers that have been in her dish for longer than 20 minutes. And leave clean, fresh water available at all times.

Regular grooming

Though kittens begin self-grooming around 3 to 4 weeks of age, they may not have their routine down completely. Introduce regular grooming sessions to accustom your kitten to a lifetime of brushing, combing, nail trimming and other grooming tasks.

Make this process easier and more fun for your kitten by gradually introducing the grooming tools and allowing her to explore them before you gently use them on her. Let her sniff and bat the brush or comb, and praise her when she allows you to brush her coat or trim her nails. Make sessions as relaxed and fun as possible, so she associates the time with positive outcomes. You can even give her a small treat when she lets you clip her nails, so she looks forward to the nail trimmer coming out. The idea is to make grooming a regular part of your kitten's life when she is young so that the routine is normal for her in the years to come.

Owning a kitten is one of the most entertaining and rewarding parts of pet ownership. By paying attention to your kitten's care needs, you can enjoy these weeks of playfulness and tiny paws. 🐾