

# easel pet tips



## Kitten Supply List

*This list can make your kitten's transition into your home a smoother, happier experience.*

- **Cat carrier** – large enough to accommodate kitty when she is grown up.
- **Cat bed** – even a cardboard box with a towel will do to start off. You will know what kitty likes as she gets older.
- **Food and water dishes** – pottery, ceramic and metal are much better than plastic, as they are less likely to harbor bacteria when cleaned well. They should be sturdy and not easily knocked over.
- **Food** – EASEL recommends Grain free food, especially for young kittens. Their digestive systems often are not ready for grains, leading to diarrhea and complications due to dehydration as a result. Kittens should have a small amount of wet food (1-2 tablespoons) at least once every day, and free access to dry food all the time. As they get older your vet will help recommend a feeding schedule to ensure a proper adult weight for the cat's size.
- **A BREAKAWAY collar and tag** – your kitten should wear them whenever he leaves the house, even if he is inside a cat carrier.
- **Toys!** – be careful about strings and other objects a kitten could swallow. Think smart, don't leave toys around that can be dangerous! Kitten proof the house, like you would for a baby.
- **Book(s)** – on cat healthcare
- **Grooming supplies** – at least one brush and nail clippers. The type will vary with the breed of cat.
- **Litter box and scoop** (See also EASEL Tips for Litter Boxes)
  - It is best to avoid clumping cat litter with kittens. You can change this when the kitten is older, about 12-16 weeks old.
  - Litter trays come in all shapes and sizes such as self cleaning, covered (or hooded), un-covered. Kittens should have a small box that is easy for them to get in and out of. The litter box must be bigger for adult cats.
  - Covered litter boxes should be avoided with shy kittens, as they tend to use them to hide, and that may interfere with the use for soiling. Provide a cardboard box or covered bed for the kitten to sleep and hide in. If you desire to try a covered litter box, you should leave it uncovered for small kittens and add the cover as the kitten gets older.
- **Healthcare supplies** – including ear cleaner, cat toothbrush and toothpaste.
- **Scratching post** – cats have a need to scratch and enjoy scratching. Providing your cat with it's own scratching post will reduce the chances of your cat using your furniture or carpet.

If you are fostering a kitten for EASEL, please refer to our EASEL FOSTER Handbook for additional information.

### Additional resources (click on links for more info)

<http://www.meijer.com/content/content.jsp?pageName=kitten-buying-guide>

<http://www.drsfostersmith.com/pic/article.cfm?aid=1224>

<http://www.kittenlist.co.uk/article/How-To-Settle-Your-New-Kitten-In>

### For hints on how to get your kitten to be more friendly and social:

<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/cat-behavior/socializing-your-kitten>

**Inexpensive resources include newsletters:** Catnip (Tufts University) and Catwatch (Cornell University)