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PREPARING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF YOUR NEW FRIEND

Soon your kitten will be joining you as your new family member! So we've compiled some tips and recommendations for the transition along with some recommendations for items and supplies that you may need in advance, plus helpful thoughts on what to expect and think about.

EATING AND DRINKING

You will need to think about bowls or dispensers for food and water. You see dual bowls, and they may be used for wet food on one side and dry on the other, but not water. Cats prefer to source their water away from food, and for it to be refreshed regularly as it would be in a natural stream. This is in their feeding nature as in the wild this would have helped their ancestors avoid contamination. We like to leave a tap on a slow drip in a sink or bath, as this is often our own cats own preferred watering hole and a good back up. We have a gravity, water dispenser, but it doesn't really save time because as soon as it is a little dusty or stale they won't touch it unless parched (which we don't want) and it will then need refreshing therefore defeating it's purpose. Making sure they hydrate is important as Siamese can be finicky drinkers. There are a variety of electronic water fountains which can be a great option too, but then again they also will need to be regularly refreshed.

Along with feline vets, we recommend and use Royal Canin which is a scientifically well thought out collection of diets for the various stages in a cats development and life. We wean our kittens on the 'Mother and Baby' range and transition on to the 'Kitten' selection, before moving on to their 'Adult' products. We find our Siamese cats prefer their wet food in a gravy (such as the 'Thin Slices in Gravy') rather than the pate which they often

leave half finished. This is also their best option as it encourages added hydration. Meanwhile, if can't find the right food and don't know what to do - you can use Purina - Friskies until you do, as they have been pre-desensitized to these products when we have ourselves been in this situation for a few days. Just be sure to buy the poultry or meat fillets or chunks in gravy or sauce and not the pate - and, damn! Avoid the seafood range - they all do stinky farts on that! However, an occasional can of human tuna is also fine if you are caught out. And don't forget to order in a rotisserie chicken to share on occasion - they will love you for it!

The Royal Canine kibble, or dry food, is not only formulated to meet their nutritional needs, but is also designed to fit the cats jaws at their various stages of growth. Being the correct size for their mouths, it encourages oral health and keeps their teeth and gums healthy through the bite and chew as they eat it. Beware of using kibble not specifically designed for kittens as they can choke on dry food aimed at adult cats. If you have an adult cat and they share kibble, it would do the adult cat no harm to share the kibble aimed at the kitten rather than visa versa.

Although there are cheaper cat foods out there, don't be tempted to cut costs during their initial developmental stages. They are considered adults once they reach one year of age and can then move on with their diets and choice of wet foods. If you do wish to use another brand, it is best to phase it in by mixing increasing ratios into their old food to ease transition, otherwise they may get an upset tummy and you will be dealing with vomit or runny poo on your rug.

We feed them a 3oz can of wet food in the morning and in the evening, and a sample of whatever meat or fish we are eating ourselves. Meanwhile, we leave dry food out all day for grazing at will from a gravity dispenser - they won't overeat on this and are able to self-regulate unlike some other cat breeds we find. Although they can 'survive' on this dry food alone at a pinch, adding wet food or meat and fish ensures they hydrate and creates a more balanced and healthy diet. We do not recommend they eat raw meats and that they are regularly dewormed as kittens especially. We deworm them prior to your receiving them and will give you a series of probiotic sachets to mix in with their food, this will help rebalance the good bacterial flora in their gut post treatment. We also supply some liver flavored, liquid food hydration packs for their journey and just incase they lose their

appetite initially. A useful hydration test is to pinch and lift a flap of skin on their backs, let go, and it should pop back, if it slowly returns to shape - they are dehydrated.

We will also be sending you a sample box from Royal Canin which has further instructions on feeding, and coupons. And a few things we supply ourselves such as extra cans, the hydration packs, and probiotics.

Elfelis Siamese Kitten Development Chart

	BABY	KITTEN	TEEN	ADULT	Development	Diet
2 Weeks					Eyes open.	Nursing
3 Weeks					Ear canal opens.. Teeth come in.	
4 Weeks					Can pee & poo unstimulated. Plays and explores.	
5 Weeks					More study on feet. Loses kitten fur. Uses litter box.	
6 Weeks					Begin to interact with humans. Begin to groom.	Nursing & kitten food
12 Weeks					Vaccination ready. Able to re-home.	Kitten food
4 Months					Baby teeth fall out	
5-6 Months					Begin to look like adults. Ready to desex	
12 Months						Adult food
18 Months						

Some things to avoid allowing them to eat, for example if you share left overs as we do, would include citrus, onions, garlic, raw fish, meats, fat trimmings, and surprisingly all dairy products - yes, including milk and cream! Siamese cats become lactose intolerant as they grow (as is normal for all mammals - humans being a well trained exception). Dairy products won't simply make them release gas, but can dehydrate them through vomiting and diarrhea. However, you may also find they like some odd things such as sweetcorn, peas, or chips which are fine on occasion. They also really like Temptations which are okay as a very occasional treat, but are really not good for them, and should be treated like giving chips, candy, or soda to small children. Better still, buy a bag of bonito flakes from Amazon or an Asian grocery store - they LOVE these, and they are much more healthier for them!

POOP AND SCOOP

Yes, they poop and you scoop! Your little friend comes litter trained and as long as they have access to a litter tray you should be accident free. So you will need a litter tray and a scoopy thing. They have currently been using Arm & Hammer Slide. We like this for multiple cats as it is easy to maintain, clumps easily, reduces odor, and doesn't create dust which otherwise gets tracks everywhere, and even gets in their lungs. Other options are available. As with the food if you wish to experiment with other options, first mix in what they are used to with the new product to aid transition. We have heard of members of the Elfelis family having great experiences and success with these litter robots on the market and would love to trail one ourselves if we can ever afford one. For the experimental, there are kits that can help you train your cat to use the toilet. It works, only thing is you would have to leave your toilet lid open all the time and it would surely freak out any house guests and they never flush. Meanwhile, the upside of having to clean litter boxes is the fact that they use them and don't do it all over the house if shut in, and need to be taken for walks in all weathers.

If you have an existing cat that they will be joining, it is best to initially have a separate litter tray to avoid accidents, as the kitten will respect the smell of the other cat's litter tray as being their own domain until they have got to know one another and share.

SLEEPING AND LOUNGING

Your kitten will spend a great deal of time snoozing. They love those cocooned cat beds that are fluffy inside but will equally love sleeping on a hard vent on the floor if hot air is flowing through it. The best place for a bed would be close to a heat source. If you have a window sill with a view of birds or the street, they will end up liking sitting there too, especially if they can bask in the sunlight and smell a breeze through an open window with an insect screen. But mostly, they will seek out animal warmth and end up wanting to be cozy on you. They will want to sleep with us, and even under the covers in the cold.

You may sometimes hear of people being kept awake all night with their Siamese cats running about the house like a Banshee, this happens if the cat is left alone all day. They basically then hibernate until you come home and then won't be able to sleep needing to socialize, play and exercise.

They really don't like being alone and can become depressed without company for long periods. Siamese cats are not solitary creatures and are best kept in pairs, or at the very least with another cat, dog or human who is at home all day. We encourage adopting a pair or a sibling later on to improve their mental, well-being, and happiness.

SETTLING IN

When they first arrive, they will likely be wary. Most of our kittens may simply just settle straight in, jump out of the carrier, and immediately explore, although may still spend a few days calling out for their family initially. They may also sometimes seem shy and just want to hide in a corner somewhere to assess the situation and new unfamiliar smells. In a larger house, begin in one room with their supplies close at hand. It can be wise to allow the cat to approach you if it is too shy to begin with, rather than rushing into contact and overwhelming them with love. However, at 12-14 weeks our kittens tend to be confident and ready for their new adventure. By then their mother is also pretty much over them and ready to reclaim her body as her milk dries out and wants to have her independence back as well, so is a natural separation for both parties. Your kitten will be ready to bond and claim you as a slave as soon as they arrive!

If you already have a cat, they may hiss at one another initially. This is normal as they each smell different to what they are used to. This smell will dissipate in a few days as they become familiarized with each other. As your existing cat will likely be older, the hierarchy is straight forward and they will not need to size one another up to establish a pecking order. In our experience, after initially eating and pooping separately - they quickly end up snuggled up together and sharing. Eating is always a white flag moment for cats, even those at war with one another call a truce and eat together we find. So that and wanting to sleep with another cat and groom one another brings them together for mutual benefit eventually.

Allowing them to at first meet either side of a door, or through separately smelling one another's bedding is useful, as is leaving the carrier or blanket they arrived somewhere safe as a bolt hole - they may need a familiar and safe place to hide while accessing their new surroundings and we supply a swatch of their favoring bedding or a toy as a familiar smelling item.

A good way to speed up the bonding process with yourself with a particularly difficult and wary cat, is to turn the heating off if it be winter, and sit on the sofa with a fleece blanket and a warm rotisserie chicken by a heater. You will be guaranteed to attract a friend for life looking for comfort and a free chicken dinner! However, it never comes to this as our cats are bred holistically free ranging in a busy family house of homeschoolers and adults working from home, so they arrive curious, confident, well-balanced, and extra-social.

SAFETY

Purebred Siamese are indoor cats. They do not fare well outside, are poorly camouflaged, and vulnerable to wildlife predators, parasites, and even theft. So although it may seem tempting to get a cat flap and hope they poop outside, or feel you are allowing the cat freedom you think it may want naturally - it's not a good idea, and you would be doing them a disservice. It also eventually changes their personalities and can make them become more distant to you as their latent feral personalities come out as they regress slightly from their domesticated natures in response to the call of the wild and the survival urges of their short lived ancestors.

We have already mentioned the risks of eating certain foods, but some plants are also toxic to cats and should be avoided, these are some of the more common ones people may have indoors: lilies, tulips, aloe, daffodils, mistletoe, and even marijuana - catnip usually being a feline's preferred choice (Actually, most of our cats don't even react to catnip.). Basically, before buying house plants do some research online to ensure they are safe for cats.

Just like child proofing a home when you become parents, you will want to cat proof your home. You don't want them to escape, and you won't want rodents entering and bringing in external parasites or if caught and eaten by your cat, posing a risk of internal parasites and sickness. So ensure your fortress is secure and rodent free. If leaving poisons or traps out, make sure they are placed out of the cat's reach. Think about runners on tables and sideboards that if a cat jumped up on and pulled at may topple a vase or ornament. Never leave washing machine or drier doors open when not in use, there are many horror stories of sleeping cats dying when a cycle is inadvertently initiated with them inside - they are attracted to sleeping on laundry and in warm enclosed spaces. Be careful of rocking

chairs and office chairs on casters as these can crush their legs or even kill them if they crawl under them. If you have an attached garage accessed with a remote - ensure the internal door accessing the house remains closed. Although adult cats may become more wary of risk - kittens by their nature are curious and you know what they say curiosity did to the cat.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Meanwhile, we will remain available to answer the silliest of questions if you have any concerns or worries, as will everyone in our exclusive Elfelis owner's private Facebook group. Please don't be afraid to ask, it is no trouble and we all love to stay in contact with our feline friends across America and see how they look and behave as they develop. Our growing community is now 50 living Elfelis Siamese cats strong across America! Our online community love to see one another's cats and share their experiences knowing that they can reach out to the cat family at any time.

However, in the unlikely event that you find you can't cope, and begin to question whether you are a good fit for a Siamese cat, or one of life's curveballs mean that you need to let them go, please contact us first. We would be happy to have the cat returned to us and may even offer a partial refund less expenses if we can re-home them. We confidently make this offer as we know that once you have got to know your Elfelis Siamese, you are more likely to get another one than return them!

PLAYTIME

As for toys and play structures. You may find they spend more time on the wrapping and in the boxes they come in should you buy any. They tend to choose their own toys. Our stud's favorite toys currently are the small plastic lids from Polar Spring bottles being flicked to retrieve. They also like pipe cleaners, bread bag ties, and hair ties. Our Queen is in love with chasing a pink fluffy eye mask she stole from my daughter which she wants shot using the elastic, like firing a rubber band, while the other Queen will occasionally choose a favorite plushy from the kids and destroy it overtime in a death wrestle and insist we continually throw it for her to retrieve until we get so over it we have to find places further and higher to toss it to give us a breather while she looks for it.

Laser pointers are fun for a while, but they do grow out of them eventually when they realize that they simply can't catch them and then just treat them

as UFOs. For this reason we do not expose them to laser pointers before you get them so you can enjoy that with them, it really is super fun sitting there with what becomes, effectively, a remote cat you can control from an arm chair. The same goes for mirrors, they have not yet seen their own reflections and you might want to experiment with that too. Meanwhile, house flies and moths are nature's very own, naturally provided toys and will have them pursuing them everywhere in the summer months.

DAMAGE CONTROL

The cat's claws are its fingers, its only tool and an essential part of their body. Do not declaw them, this is cruel and effectively amputates the ends of their fingers and is detrimental to their well being. Equally, we do not approve of even clipping or filing them down. They need their claws to interact with their environment, pick things up, climb safely, even run and turn quickly. If you think filing or clipping them will save your furniture - it won't, it will simply encourage them to scratch more as they attempt to resharpen them. Instead, buy them a scratching post, or if you are wanting a cat tree - make sure it is one with a combined scratching post trunk.

Personally, I find them a bit unsightly, apart from maybe those ones that are embedded in a fake tree - like a ficus, they look quite fun. What we found is that early on all our cats really liked scratching this one trendy Ikea chair, so we basically sacrificed that chair for the common good - so now we have a scratching chair that actually matches our decor in the way it was intended to and they leave the rest of the furniture alone.

Toilet rebels, if you have a toddler in diapers and toilet training, residue smells may end up somewhere and it may encourage the cat to pee on it, also potted plants are attractive public toilets for them sometimes. One solution is to sprinkle white pepper in these spots, they always sniff where they are about to pee and this will deter them - as will some sprays on the market, and citrus.

Meanwhile, if you catch them in the act, or see them scratching something sacred - then you can bring out the ultimate cat repelling control tool, the water spray bottle! They become so familiar with these that eventually you only need to reach for it for them to stop what they are doing and flee!

At the end of the day they want to be loved, and will stop doing things that upset you once they realize. Just let them know with a loving spray of fresh water on the far reaching setting of the spray bottle nozzle!

SUPPLIES

Below are the products your kitten is currently used to. I have not shopped around to see who has the best prices here or researched the cheapest sizes, but simply displayed the brands and products for you to identify. Also, in an emergency and if you are stuck at home, PetSmart has free same day delivery in most areas it is present in, in collaboration with DoorDash. We tend to shop around Walmart, Petco, Amazon, and Chewy for our cat supplies, as prices vary and they often take turns with specials and prices on quantity. However, we source our Royal Canin products from the company itself. We will be testing their new referral system shortly so you should get a link to set up an account with them to receive discounted pricing compared to other outlets by dealing direct.



**Royal Canin
Kitten Dry Food**



**Royal Canin
Thin slices in gravy**



**Arm & Hammer
Slide - Dust Free**