

Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|
| The History of the Balinese | 2 |
| Bringing a Kitten Home: New Kitten Tips | 2 |
| What to Expect with Your New Kitten..... | 3 |
| Kitten Feeding Tips | 3 |
| How Much Food Should I Feed My Kitten? | 3 |
| Socializing Your New Kitten | 3 |
| How to Kitten-Proof | 4 |
| What to Do About Your Cat's Scratching Habits | 5 |
| What NOT to Do! | 5 |
| Nail Care | 6 |
| Fun Finds | 7 |

This is information that I have gathered to help understand the basics of bringing a new kitten into your home. I would like to thank all of you for helping keep this breed alive, also for loving these babies as much as I do. I would not be here if it were not for Mary Desmond, the learning curve has been steep! Without her knowledge and support I doubt I would be doing this today. Vicki

[The History of the Balinese](#)

Despite their name, the Balinese cat does not originate from Bali. This breed originated in the United States. In the 1940s, a Siamese cat had a litter of kittens, and one was born with long hair. This long-haired Siamese kitten was a natural mutation that resulted in a beautiful cat with silky fur. The Balinese is a long-haired breed of domestic cat with Siamese-style point coloration and sapphire-blue eyes. The Balinese is also known as the purebred long-haired Siamese.

Sylvia Holland, was a pioneer Balinese breeder.

The "Balinese" is not actually from Bali or any part of Indonesia.[3] Its history begins with the first Siamese cats that were imported from Thailand to the U.S. and U.K. in the mid-1800s, some of whom carried the recessive long-haired gene. The Balinese breed subsequently originated from deliberate breeding efforts based around this naturally expressed genetic trait. Initially, occasional long-haired kittens in Siamese litters were considered a fault in the bloodline and sold exclusively as pets. There are records of these cats as early as the 1900s; "Long-haired Siamese" were first registered as show cats with the American Cat Fanciers' Federation in 1928. In the mid-1950s, breeders in the US began serious efforts to develop the long-haired variant as a separate breed. Considering Long-haired Siamese too cumbersome a name, initial breeder Helen Smith dubbed the new breed "Balinese" as a reference to the grace of Balinese dancers.

[Bringing a Kitten Home: New Kitten Tips](#)

Before you bring home your new kitten, make sure you have everything you need:

- Kitten food
- Food and water bowls
- Cat litter and litter box
- Toys
- Bed
- Cat carrier
- Scratching post

This list should be enough to supply you with the necessities, so you won't have to make a run to the pet store to pick up any last-minute kitten products. You may also want to consider some kitten treats to help reward good behavior but be careful to not feed your kitten too many.

[What to Expect with Your New Kitten](#)

Kittens can sleep up to 16 hours a day. To help her get plenty of rest, find a comfortable spot with little foot traffic. This area should include her bed, some of her favorite toys and a scratching post for stretching and scratching when she wakes up.

If she doesn't take to her new sleeping spot right away, be patient. She'll come around eventually. Since cats are nocturnal animals, don't be surprised if you hear her scampering around the house at night. You can try to alter this behavior by playing with your kitten in the early evening to help her expend some of her excess energy. Another strategy is feeding her dinner early. If she still wakes you up at night, resist the urge to feed her or play with her, as this will only reward her.

[Kitten Feeding Tips](#)

Providing your kitten with a complete and balanced diet that's formulated to meet her unique growth needs is a great way to help her start out on the right track. Newborn kittens rely on their mother's milk or a kitten milk replacer to get vital nutrients, but as the weaning process begins, solid foods can start to be introduced.

What to Feed a Kitten

A protein-rich kitten food will help support her growing body and ever-increasing energy levels. Make sure there's plenty of calcium for her to develop healthy teeth and bones and DHA, to help brain and vision development. Since kittens have different nutritional needs than adult cats, they need higher levels of certain nutrients, such as protein, fat and calcium.

Try starting your kitten off with wet kitten food or moistened kibble to help her transition from milk.

[How Much Food Should I Feed My Kitten?](#)

Your kitten's daily caloric needs will increase as she grows. To help her thrive, you'll need to adjust her food amounts, depending on her age and weight. Consult the kitten feeding chart on the food label and reach out to your veterinarian with any questions on how much to feed your kitten.

[Socializing Your New Kitten](#)

During your kitten's first week home, you can expect her to be curious and frisky. Sometimes it might be hard to tell if she's being aggressive or playful.

You may notice her stalking and pouncing on unsuspecting toys or scraps of paper. Don't worry, this is just her way of exercising her natural predatory instincts in a harmless—and often amusing—manner. Just be sure to provide her with appropriate toys so she can act out these instincts on objects and not on you. Give her wads of paper, ping-pong balls, or kitten fishing toys to enhance playtime. Also, avoid toys that can be shredded, shattered or swallowed. Supervising her when you provide new toys is a good idea.

Finally, do not allow her to use your hands, fingers, feet or clothing as playthings, as this may teach her that it's OK to claw them.

[How to Kitten-Proof](#)

In many ways, kitten-proofing is similar to baby-proofing.

- Look around your house first, at high shelves and low cupboards and hidden nooks. Could the kitten get onto a shelf holding valuable or fragile items? Could it become trapped inside a cupboard?
- If you're into needlework, keep your supplies in a closed container. Needles and thread might appear to be fine playthings but can be fatal if your kitten swallows them. Yarn can be a dangerous foreign body if your kitten eats it, so be sure to put it away carefully after you use it.
- Fold and secure your window blinds' cord with a rubber band, out of kitty's reach. If she gets tangled up in it, she could strangle.
- Kittens will pick up almost anything they can, and love knocking over trashcans. If you don't want to find your floors littered with garbage, invest in covered wastebaskets and kitchen garbage containers.
- Always keep the door to your clothes dryer closed, and double-check inside before using it. Cats like to find dark, warm places to sleep, and the results could be tragic.
- Keep the floor clean of stray rubber bands, ribbon, and twine. All are hazardous when ingested by a kitten.
- Cover any food you leave out, as kittens have terrific noses and will be attracted to all kinds of treats. Be especially careful with foods that can be harmful to kittens; chocolate, for example, is toxic to cats.
- Cloth drapes are better left out of reach of your furry 'curtain-climber'. Tie them up securely until your kitten is trained to a scratching post.
- Keep your toilet lid down at all times, lest kitty fall in or drink from it. Better yet, keep your bathroom off-limits to your kitten unless you absolutely must keep its litterbox there.
- Do not keep your kitten in the garage, and always keep the doors closed. Antifreeze is very tasty to animals and is just one of the many common poisonous substances found in garages.
- Cover electric cords, such as the tangle from your computer, with covers sold for that purpose. Caution: wrapping electric cords could be a fire hazard.
- There are several household plants poisonous to cats. Floral arrangements can also be dangerous, so check before putting flowers in locations where cats can reach them. Lilies are very common and especially dangerous to cats, causing acute kidney failure.

[Litter Boxes](#)

Make sure the kitten knows where the litter boxes are and where they eat and drink and ensure they have access to all of these basic needs within their small safe room. If the kitten wants to sleep, let it sleep. Keep the carrier you brought it home in accessible to it, in case the kitten is nervous and wants to curl up inside of it or provide another safe hiding space such as a box. It is common for a new kitten to hide at first, sometimes for the first few days, as it adjusts to all the changes. As long as it has all the essentials and quiet alone time, it will venture out of

its hiding spot little by little each day. Don't try to force it out as this can cause unnecessary stress and negative associations with people or parts of your home.

What to Do About Your Cat's Scratching Habits

The best tactic when dealing with scratching is not to try to stop your cat from scratching, but instead to teach her where and what to scratch. An excellent approach is to provide her with appropriate, cat-attractive surfaces and objects to scratch, such as scratching posts. The following steps will help you encourage your cat to scratch where you want her to:

- Provide a variety of scratching posts with different qualities and surfaces. Try giving your cat posts made of cardboard, carpeting, wood, sisal and upholstery. Some cats prefer horizontal posts. Others might like vertical posts or slanted posts. Some prefer a vertical grain for raking, while others favor a horizontal grain for picking. Once you figure out your cat's preference for scratching, provide additional posts of that kind in various locations. Keep in mind that all cats want a sturdy post that won't shift or collapse when used. Most cats also like a post that's tall enough that they can stretch fully. (This may be why cats seem to like drapes so much!)
- Encourage your cat to investigate her posts by scenting them with catnip, hanging toys on them and placing them in areas where she'll be inclined to climb on them.
- Discourage inappropriate scratching by removing or covering other desirable objects. Turn speakers toward the wall. Put plastic, double-sided sticky tape, sandpaper or upside-down vinyl carpet runner (knobby parts up) on furniture or on the floor where your cat would stand to scratch your furniture. Place scratching posts next to these objects, as "legal" alternatives.
- Clip your cat's nails regularly.
- Consider putting plastic caps on your cat's claws so that he'll do no damage if he scratches on something in your home. These special caps attach to claws with an adhesive. They're temporary, lasting four to six weeks.
- If you catch your cat in the act of scratching an inappropriate object, you can try startling him by clapping your hands or squirting him with water. Use this procedure only as a last resort, because your cat may associate you with the startling event (clapping or squirting) and learn to fear you.

What NOT to Do!

- Do not hold your cat by the scratching post and force her to drag her claws on it. This practice could seriously frighten your cat and teach her to avoid the scratching post completely. She might decide to avoid you, too!
- Do not throw away a favorite scratching post when it becomes unsightly. Cats prefer shredded and torn objects because they can really get their claws into the material. Used posts will also appeal to your cat because they smell and look familiar to her.

Nail Care

Does your kitty disappear when the clippers come out? Do you have to wrap her in a towel to give her a manicure? Follow these steps to help your cat relax while you trim.

1. Choose a chair in a quiet room where you can comfortably sit your cat on your lap. Get her when she's relaxed and even sleepy, such as in her groggy, after-meal state. Take care that she isn't able to spy any birds, wild animals or action outside nearby windows—and make sure no other pets are around.
2. Gently take one of your cat's paws between your fingers and massage for no longer than three seconds. If your cat pulls her paw away, don't squeeze or pinch, just follow her gesture, keeping in gentle contact. When she's still again, give her pad a little press so that the nail extends out, then release her paw and immediately give her a treat. Do this every other day on a different toe until you've gotten to know all ten.
3. Your cat should be at ease with the sound of the clippers before you attempt to trim her nails. Sit her on your lap, put a piece of uncooked spaghetti into the clippers and hold them near your cat. (If she sniffs the clippers, set a treat on top of them for her to eat.) Next, while massaging one of your cat's toes, gently press her toe pad. When the nail extends, clip the spaghetti with the clippers while still holding your cat's paw gently. Now release her toe and quickly give her a treat.
4. The pink part of a cat's nail, called the quick, is where the nerves and blood vessels are. Do NOT cut this sensitive area. Snip only the white part of the claw. It's better to be cautious and cut less of the nail rather than risk cutting this area. If you do accidentally cut the quick, any bleeding can be stopped with a styptic powder or stick. It's a good idea to keep it nearby while you trim.
5. With your cat in your lap facing away from you, take one of her toes in your hand, massage and press the pad until the nail extends. Now trim only the sharp tip of one nail, release your cat's toe and quickly give her a treat. If your cat didn't notice, clip another nail, but don't trim more than two claws in one sitting until your cat is comfortable. Then, reward her with a special treat.
6. A nail-trimming every ten days to two weeks is recommended. If your cat refuses to let you clip her claws, ask your vet or a groomer for help.
7. If your cat resists, don't raise your voice or punish her. Never attempt a clipping when your cat is agitated, or you're upset. And don't rush—you may cut into the quick.
8. Don't try to trim all of your cat's claws at one time.
9. Do NOT declaw your cat. This surgery involves amputating the end of a cat's toes and is highly discouraged by the ASPCA. Instead, trim regularly, provide your cat with appropriate scratching posts and ask your veterinarian about soft plastic covers for your cat's claws.

<https://www.asPCA.org>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balinese_cat

Fun Finds

You can find most of these items at Amazon or Chewy. It can be difficult to find the IAMS at your local stores, I have found that Target usually have some limited qualities. I live some distance from a Target, I generally order my food through Amazon on an automatic subscription.

Litter Genie Cat Litter Box



IAMS Dry and Wet Kitten Food



Etsy has some fun options!

