

MYTHICAL DREAM MAINE COON CATTERY
POST-PLACEMENT CARE AND WELLNESS GUIDE

Supporting Health, Wellness and Long-Term Success

2026

Copyright © 2026 Kimberly Bowes

Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner, except for brief quotations used for review, research, or educational purposes as permitted by applicable copyright law.

This guide has been prepared exclusively by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery and reflects the standards of care, practices, and recommendations used within our cattery at the time of publication.

The information contained in this guide is intended for educational purposes and is not a substitute for individualized veterinary advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

Published by:

Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

2026

Table of Contents

WELCOME.....	11
Welcome to Life with Your Kitten	11
BRINGING YOUR KITTEN HOME AND INITIAL ADJUSTMENT	12
Why This Matters	12
Recommendations	13
Prepare the Room in Advance	13
Initial Confinement Period.....	13
Do Not Allow Unrestricted Access Immediately	13
No Direct Contact with Resident Pets.....	14
Keep the Environment Calm.....	14
Monitor Adjustment Closely.....	14
Important Reminders	15
FOOD, NUTRITION AND HYDRATION	15
Why This Matters	15
Recommendations.....	16
High-Protein Kitten Food.....	16
Dietary Variety.....	17
Kibble in the Feeding Program	17
Feeding Frequency for Young Kittens	17
Slow Food Transitions	18
Digestive Wellness.....	18
Fresh Water Daily	18
Separate Food, Water, and Litter Box Areas	19
Separate Food and Water Areas.....	19
Food Dishes.....	19
Water Preferences	19
Wide, Deep Water Dishes	20
Clean Water Dishes and Fountains	20
Important Reminders	20
STEPPING INTO THE PARENTAL ROLE.....	21
Why This Matters	21
Recommendations.....	21
Provide Consistent Guidance	21
Provide Clear and Immediate Feedback	22
Redirect Unwanted Behaviour	22
Understand Normal Development	22

Provide Daily Interaction	23
Continue Socialization	23
Important Reminders	23
ENSURING SAFETY IN THEIR NEW HOME	24
Why This Matters	24
Recommendations.....	25
Teaching Children Respectful Interaction	25
Avoid Leaving Your Kitten Alone for Extended Periods Whenever Possible	26
Home Monitoring.....	27
Continually Reassess Your Home.....	27
Important Reminders	28
IS THIS NORMAL?	28
Why This Matters	28
Recommendations.....	29
Large Stool Size	29
Occasional Vomiting.....	30
Increased Appetite During Growth	30
Sleeping for Long Periods.....	30
Twitching or Jerking While Sleeping	30
Brief Panting After Play.....	31
Zoomies and Sudden Bursts of Energy	31
Kneading	31
Purring.....	32
Following Family Members.....	32
Sniffing You.....	32
Pausing with an Open Mouth After Smelling Something New (Flehmen Response)	32
Head Bunting (Head Butting)	33
Opening Cupboards and Drawers	33
Turning on Taps	33
Shredding Toilet Paper and Paper Towels	34
Inspecting Everything	34
Vocalizations, Chirping, and Trilling	34
Carrying Toys	34
Helping with Household Activities.....	34
Pawing in Front of the Water Dish	35
Attempting to Bury Food	35
Biting.....	35
Bunny Kicking.....	36

Sexual Maturation	37
Important Reminders	38
LITTER BOXES AND LITTER.....	38
Why This Matters	38
Recommendations.....	39
Large Open Litter Boxes.....	39
Slow Transition to Covered Litter Boxes	39
Slow Transition to Automatic Litter Boxes	40
Provide an Adequate Number of Litter Boxes.....	40
Keep Litter Boxes Clean	40
Important Reminders	41
GROOMING AND COAT CARE	41
Why This Matters	41
Recommendations.....	42
Routine Brushing and Combing.....	42
Recommended Grooming Tools	42
How to Brush and Comb Your Kitten	42
Nail Care	43
How to Trim Your Kitten's Nails	43
Early Handling	44
Daily Hands-On Interaction.....	44
How to Perform Daily Hands-On Interaction	44
Face	45
Neck and Shoulders	45
Body.....	45
Legs.....	45
Paws and Paw Pads.....	46
Tail	46
Stud Tail (Supracaudal Gland Hyperplasia)	46
Recommendations.....	46
Cornstarch	47
Removing the Oily Buildup	47
Veterinary Care	47
Important Reminders	47
ORAL CARE.....	48
Why This Matters	48
Recommendations.....	49
Establish an Oral Care Routine.....	49

Recommended Oral Care Products	49
How to Brush Your Kitten's Teeth	50
Teething and Oral Care	50
Important Reminders	51
SUPPORTIVE HEALTH CARE	52
Why This Matters	52
Recommendations	52
Taurine	53
Recommended Taurine Support.....	53
Daily Omega-3 Fatty Acids Supplementation	53
Recommended Omega Support	54
How to Administer Omega-3 Capsules	54
Daily Multivitamin Supplementation.....	55
Recommended Multivitamin Support.....	55
How to Administer Ubavet Multifel Vitamins	55
Daily Probiotic Support	55
Recommended Probiotic Support	56
How to Administer Daily Probiotics.....	56
Obtaining Your Supplements Before Bringing Your Kitten Home.....	56
Important Reminders	57
SUPPORTING LONG-TERM JOINT HEALTH.....	58
Why This Matters	58
Recommendations.....	59
Maintain a Healthy Body Weight	59
Encourage Regular Movement and Exercise	60
Cat Exercise Wheels (Optional).....	60
Provide Safe Stable Climbing Structures.....	61
Support Safe Footing	62
Recommended Floor Support	62
Support Safe Jumping and Landing	63
Environmental Support Matters	63
Important Reminders	64
ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT AND SAFE HOME SETUP.....	65
Why This Matters	65
Recommendations.....	66
Daily Play and Physical Activity	66
Toy Variety and Mental Stimulation	66
Safe Toys.....	67

Important Reminders	68
OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT	68
Why This Matters	68
Recommendations	69
Introduce Outdoor Experiences Gradually	69
Catios	70
Harness and Leash Training.....	71
Enclosed Pet Strollers and Secure Cat Backpacks	72
Travel and New Experiences	72
Outdoor Safety	73
Important Reminders	74
OUTDOOR HAZARDS	75
Why This Matters	75
Recommendations	75
Toxic Outdoor Plants	75
Mushrooms.....	75
Grass Awns (Foxtails).....	75
Bird Droppings.....	76
Standing Water.....	76
Blue-Green Algae (Cyanobacteria).....	76
Fertilizers, Herbicides, and Lawn and Garden Treatments	76
Slug and Snail Bait.....	77
Antifreeze.....	77
Road Salt and Ice Melt Products	77
Ticks.....	77
Fleas	78
Mosquitoes	78
Wildlife	78
Unfamiliar Dogs.....	78
Vehicles and Driveways.....	79
Hot Pavement.....	79
Extreme Heat.....	79
Extreme Cold	79
Fishing Hooks and Fishing Line	80
Sharp Objects and Broken Glass.....	80
Important Reminders	80
HOUSEHOLD SAFETY AND COMMON HAZARDS	81
Why This Matters	81

Recommendations	82
Toxic Indoor Plants	83
Dangling Cords and Electrical Hazards	83
Strings, Thread, Hair Ties, and Rubber Bands	83
Human Foods	84
Shopping Bags	84
Garbage Cans	84
Food Waste Bins	85
Recycling Bins	85
Small Swallowable Objects	85
Open Appliances	86
Furniture Hazards.....	86
Cleaning Products and Chemicals.....	87
Medications and Supplements	87
Open Flames and Heat Hazards	87
Essential Oils, Diffusers, Plug-In Air Fresheners, Candles, and Wax Melts.....	88
Windows, Balconies, and Outdoor Access	88
Toilets, Tubs, and Standing Water.....	89
Hairbrushes and Grooming Tools	89
Holiday Decorations and Seasonal Hazards	89
Important Reminders	90
KNOWING WHEN TO SEEK VETERINARY CARE.....	91
Why This Matters	91
Recommendations.....	91
Eye Health.....	92
Heavy, Coloured Nasal Discharge	92
Constipation	92
Severe Vomiting	93
Severe Diarrhea.....	93
Blood in the Urine and Difficulty Urinating.....	93
Cuts and Bleeding	94
Noticeable Changes in Behaviour.....	94
Persistent Lameness	94
Poisoning.....	95
Important Reminders	95
PET INSURANCE	95
Why This Matters	95
Recommendations.....	96

Pet Insurance Is Strongly Recommended	96
Complimentary Coverage	96
Continued Coverage.....	97
Important Reminders	97
LIFELONG WELLNESS	97
Why This Matters	97
Recommendations.....	98
Supplements Support Health, but They Do Not Replace Care	98
Healthy Body Weight Matters	98
Consistency Matters.....	99
A Safe and Enriching Environment Matters	99
Small Daily Habits Matter	99
Important Reminders	100
FINAL THOUGHTS	100
RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS AND RESOURCES	102
Foods Appropriate for Growing Kittens	102
Fancy Feast Kitten Variety Box.....	102
Farmina N&D Prime Kitten	102
Performatrin Ultra	102
Tiki Cat Baby Kitten – Variety Pack	102
Wellness Kitten	102
Weruva Kitten	102
Foods Appropriate for All Life Stages	103
Big Country Raw	103
Feline Natural.....	103
Friskies Pate	103
Friskies Shreds	103
Performatrin Ultra	103
Foods Appropriate for Adult Cats	103
Farmina N&D Prime Adult.....	103
Merrick Purrfect Bistro	103
RAWZ Pate	103
RAWZ Shreds	104
Tiki Cat After Dark Pate	104
Tiki Cat After Dark Shreds	104
Ziwi Peak	104
Treats	104
Churu.....	104

PureBites Freeze Dried	104
Probiotics	104
Supportive Health Care	105
Litter and Litter Pans.....	105
Food, Water Dishes and Fountains	105
Insurance	105
Oral Care	105
Grooming and General Care	106
Teething Toys	106
Cat Wall Ideas (Optional)	106
Anti-Fatigue Interlocking Floor Tiles	106
Cat Wheel (Optional)	106
Pet Stroller with Safety Tether (Optional)	106
Cat Harness and Leash (optional)	106
Pet BackPack with Safety Tether.....	106
Pet Camera	107
Handheld Ultraviolet (UV) Black Light	107
Recovery Collars.....	107
Toxic Indoor Plants.....	107
Toxic Outdoor Plants	107
TICA (The International Cat Association) Breed Standards	107

MYTHICAL DREAM MAINE COON CATTERY

POST-PLACEMENT CARE AND WELLNESS GUIDE

Supporting Health, Wellness and Long-Term Success

WELCOME

Welcome to Life with Your Kitten

Welcoming a new kitten into your home is both exciting and a significant long-term commitment. At Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery, every kitten is raised with careful attention to nutrition, health, socialization, routine care, and early development to help establish a strong foundation for lifelong health and success.

Once your kitten leaves our care, that foundation continues in your home through consistency, daily care, routine observation, nutrition, preventive veterinary care, and an environment that supports both physical and emotional well-being.

This guide has been prepared to help support that transition by providing families with practical Recommendations for ongoing care, wellness, and daily management after leaving our care. The Recommendations throughout this guide reflect the standards of care used within our cattery and the practices we strongly recommend families continue after bringing their kitten home. By maintaining consistency with the care your kitten has already received, you help support a smooth transition while promoting lifelong health, confidence, and well-being.

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Many common health and behavioural concerns can be reduced or avoided through consistency, preventive care, early recognition of changes, and daily care. Small daily habits play an important role in supporting long-term health, comfort, confidence, and quality of life.

Our goal is not only to help you care for your kitten during the first days at home, but to provide a practical reference that supports you throughout every stage of your cat's life. While every

family ultimately decides how they will care for their kitten, we strongly recommend the practices outlined throughout this guide because they reflect the standards of care used within our cattery and provide a strong foundation for lifelong health, well-being, and successful adjustment.

We hope this guide becomes a trusted resource that you return to throughout your kitten's life. As your kitten grows, matures, and becomes a cherished member of your family, it is our hope that the information shared here helps you provide the highest standard of care while strengthening the lifelong bond you will share together.

BRINGING YOUR KITTEN HOME AND INITIAL ADJUSTMENT

Why This Matters

Bringing your kitten home is an exciting milestone, but it is also one of the biggest transitions of your kitten's young life. In a single day, everything familiar has changed, including their nursery environment, daily routine, littermates, sounds, smells, and surroundings.

Even a confident and well-socialized kitten may require time to adjust to a completely unfamiliar home. A calm, structured transition helps reduce stress while supporting emotional well-being, confidence, and a successful adjustment during the early days in a new environment.

Before leaving our cattery, your kitten has become accustomed to a consistent daily routine that includes regular feeding schedules, familiar foods, established litter box habits, routine handling, environmental enrichment, and positive social experiences. Maintaining as much consistency as possible after bringing your kitten home helps provide continuity during this important transition and supports a smoother adjustment to their new surroundings.

The experiences your kitten has during this initial adjustment period can influence their comfort, confidence, and long-term adjustment to family life. Providing time for gradual adjustment helps support a positive introduction to their new home, establish new routines, and encourage trust as they become familiar with their environment and the people around them.

The first days at home should not be viewed as a period of confinement, but as an opportunity for your kitten to develop confidence within a safe, predictable environment. Patience, consistency, and daily care during this period help establish the foundation for future learning, successful social development, and lifelong well-being.

Every kitten is an individual and will adjust at their own pace. Some kittens appear confident from the moment they arrive home, while others require additional time before they feel completely comfortable. Both responses are normal. Allowing your kitten to progress at their own pace while providing a calm, supportive environment is one of the most important steps you can take to encourage a successful transition into family life.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Prepare the Room in Advance

- The room should be prepared before your kitten arrives.
- Provide food, fresh water, a litter box, bedding, toys, scratching surfaces, and safe resting spaces.
- Preparing the room in advance allows your kitten to settle into a safe, comfortable environment immediately upon arriving home. Having familiar resources readily available helps support a calm, positive transition during the first few days.

Initial Confinement Period

- As outlined in your contract, your kitten should remain confined to a small, quiet room for the first 7 to 14 days to allow for safe adjustment and acclimation to their new surroundings.
- A bedroom, office, or similar quiet space is ideal for this initial adjustment period.
- This temporary confinement period allows your kitten to become familiar with their new surroundings gradually while helping reduce stress and build confidence before being introduced to the rest of the home.

Do Not Allow Unrestricted Access Immediately

- Your kitten should not be given immediate unrestricted access to the entire home.

- Gradual expansion of space should occur only as your kitten becomes comfortable and confident in their new environment.
- Allowing your kitten to explore gradually helps prevent them from becoming overwhelmed while encouraging confidence as they adjust to each new area of the home.

No Direct Contact with Resident Pets

- Resident pets should not have direct contact with your kitten during the initial confinement period.
- This includes cats, dogs, and other household animals.
- Introductions should occur gradually and in a controlled manner after the initial adjustment period.
- Allowing your kitten to become comfortable within their new environment before meeting resident pets helps reduce unnecessary stress for all animals involved. We strongly recommend allowing each animal to adjust at their own pace, helping encourage positive introductions while supporting long-term harmony within the household.

Keep the Environment Calm

- Quiet, calm interaction is encouraged during the first several days.
- Excessive stimulation, overwhelming attention, and chaotic household activity should be avoided whenever possible.
- A calm, predictable environment allows your kitten to adjust at their own pace while developing confidence within their new surroundings. Consistent routines and gentle interaction help support emotional well-being throughout the adjustment period.

Monitor Adjustment Closely

- Appetite, water intake, litter box use, activity level, and comfort should be monitored closely during the transition period.
- During the first several days, becoming familiar with your kitten's normal routines and behaviours will help you recognize changes if they occur. Some kittens settle quickly, while others require additional time before they feel completely comfortable in their new home. Patience, consistency, and routine help support a successful adjustment.

Important Reminders

The first days in a new home can feel overwhelming for a young kitten, even when they appear curious or confident. Every kitten adjusts at their own pace. Some kittens settle into their new home quickly, while others require additional time before they feel completely comfortable. Both responses are normal and should be expected.

Many families are familiar with the 3-3-3 Rule, a general guideline commonly used to describe the adjustment period following adoption. While every kitten is an individual and this timeline will vary, it can help establish realistic expectations during the transition into a new home. During the first 3 days, many kittens spend much of their time becoming familiar with their surroundings. They may be quieter than expected sleep more, eat slightly less, or spend time observing before actively exploring their environment.

During the first 3 weeks, most kittens become increasingly confident as they establish routines, build trust with their family, and become more comfortable within their home. Their temperament becomes more apparent during this stage. By the first 3 months, families have established a comfortable routine, become familiar with their kitten's individual personality and preferences, and settled into everyday life together.

A calm, structured adjustment period helps your kitten feel safe while reducing stress and building confidence as they begin adapting to their new family and surroundings. Slow introductions, patience, routine, and environmental management during the first 7 to 14 days can make a meaningful difference in long-term adjustment success. Providing consistency, allowing your kitten to progress at their own pace, and maintaining the routines established within our cattery provide the strongest foundation for a successful transition and lifelong well-being.

FOOD, NUTRITION AND HYDRATION

Why This Matters

Nutrition and adequate hydration are among the most important foundations of lifelong health. Nutrition supports growth, muscle development, body condition, organ function, immune health, and well-being, while hydration plays an essential role in supporting urinary health, digestion, circulation, and normal body function.

From the time they begin eating solid food, kittens from our cattery are introduced to a variety of complete and balanced foods while following consistent feeding routines designed to support healthy growth and development. Continuing these established feeding principles after bringing

your kitten home provides continuity during the transition period and supports lifelong health and well-being.

Poor nutrition, abrupt dietary changes, inconsistent feeding practices, or inadequate water intake can contribute to avoidable health concerns and gastrointestinal upset. Establishing good feeding and hydration habits early can help support long-term health and wellness while encouraging healthy eating and drinking habits throughout life.

The foods and feeding practices established during kittenhood influence lifelong food acceptance. Providing a variety of nutritionally complete and balanced foods during growth helps encourage dietary flexibility and may make future dietary transitions easier should they become necessary.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

High-Protein Kitten Food

- A high-protein, meat-based kitten food is strongly recommended as part of your kitten's daily diet.
- A complete and balanced kitten diet is important to support growth, development, immune function, and long-term health.
- Grain-free foods can be included as part of a balanced feeding program; however, feeding an exclusively grain-free diet is not recommended. The primary concern is the ingredients used to replace grains in some formulations rather than the absence of grains themselves.
- Moisture-rich food helps support hydration while providing important nutritional benefits.
- Kittens from our cattery should remain on a quality kitten food until approximately 18 months of age to support growth, development, and the nutritional demands of this slow-maturing large breed.

- The feeding program used and recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery can be found in the Recommended Products and Resources section at the end of this guide. Families who choose to continue feeding appropriately formulated raw foods after bringing their kitten home will also find recommended raw food options included within this section.

Dietary Variety

- Kittens from our cattery are introduced to a variety of flavours, textures, and protein sources during development.
- Early exposure to dietary variety helps encourage food acceptance and dietary flexibility.
- Providing a variety of nutritionally balanced foods helps reduce the likelihood of developing a highly selective eater later in life.
- Maintaining dietary variety throughout life continues to provide nutritional diversity while making future dietary transitions easier should they become necessary.

Kibble in the Feeding Program

- If kibble is included as part of your kitten's diet, a high-quality kitten formula should be selected.
- Kibble provides convenient access to food between scheduled wet food meals and supports the high energy demands of a growing kitten.
- If kibble is part of your kitten's diet, it should remain available at all times.
- Moisture-rich food remains an integral part of the feeding program and should not be replaced by kibble alone.

Feeding Frequency for Young Kittens

- Young kittens should be offered four wet food feedings per day during early growth and development.
- Frequent small meals help support growth, energy needs, digestive comfort, and healthy body condition during this rapid developmental stage.

- This feeding schedule we use is recommended until approximately 6 months of age, after which many kittens transition well to three meals per day, depending on appetite, body condition, and individual needs.
- Growing kittens require energy to support healthy growth and development.
- Periods of increased appetite are normal during growth and development and should be expected.
- Feeding Recommendations should always be adjusted to meet the needs of the individual kitten.

Slow Food Transitions

- Diet changes should always be made gradually over 7 to 10 days.
- Abrupt food changes can contribute to vomiting, diarrhea, reduced appetite, and digestive upset.
- Gradual transitions allow the digestive system time to adjust comfortably while helping support continued food acceptance.

Digestive Wellness

- Maintaining familiar foods during the initial transition period helps support digestive wellness and reduce unnecessary stress as your kitten adjusts to their new home.
- Consistent feeding routines help support digestive wellness and food acceptance.
- New foods should be introduced gradually to allow the digestive system time to adjust comfortably.

Fresh Water Daily

- Fresh, clean water should always be available.
- Multiple water stations throughout the home help encourage regular drinking.
- Wet food contributes additional moisture to the diet and plays an important role in supporting hydration.
- Wet food should remain an important part of the feeding program throughout life.

- Offering moisture-rich foods supports healthy hydration habits throughout all life stages.

Separate Food, Water, and Litter Box Areas

- Food and water dishes should never be placed in close proximity to the litter box.
- Kittens prefer eating, drinking, and eliminating in separate areas.
- Many kittens are less likely to eat or drink comfortably if food or water is located too close to the litter box.

Separate Food and Water Areas

- Many kittens prefer their water source to be located away from their food.
- Some kittens are less likely to drink when food and water are placed together.
- Providing separate food and water areas helps encourage comfortable drinking and supports healthy hydration.

Food Dishes

- Food dishes should be wide, shallow, and easy to clean.
- Wide, shallow dishes allow kittens to eat comfortably and help prevent whisker fatigue by allowing the whiskers to remain in a natural position while eating.
- Narrow or deep dishes can cause discomfort when the whiskers repeatedly touch the sides while eating.
- At Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery, we use and strongly recommend IKEA KALAS Children's Plates for feeding. Their wide, shallow design allows kittens to eat comfortably while minimizing whisker fatigue, and they are lightweight, durable, inexpensive, and easy to clean.

Water Preferences

- Kittens can be particular about how and where they drink.
- Some kittens prefer a water fountain, while others may prefer a traditional water dish.
- Paying attention to your kitten's individual preferences helps encourage better water intake.

Wide, Deep Water Dishes

- Water dishes should be wide and deep enough to help prevent whisker fatigue by allowing the whiskers to remain in a natural position while drinking.
- Narrow bowls cause discomfort when whiskers repeatedly touch the sides while drinking.

Clean Water Dishes and Fountains

- Water dishes should be washed and cleaned daily and refilled with fresh water.
- Water fountains should be cleaned daily, including drinking surfaces, accessible components, and water reservoirs.
- Filters should be changed according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Clean water sources help encourage good drinking habits and reduce the buildup of debris, saliva, food residue, and biofilm, a thin layer of bacteria and organic material that naturally accumulates on surfaces exposed to moisture over time.

Important Reminders

Nutrition and adequate hydration are lifelong commitments that play an important role in supporting your kitten's health, growth, and well-being.

Kittens thrive on consistency. Maintaining familiar foods, feeding routines, and gradual dietary transitions helps support digestive wellness while reducing unnecessary stress during the adjustment period.

Every kitten is an individual. Appetite, food preferences, and nutritional requirements may vary throughout growth and development. Periods of increased appetite are a normal part of development and should be expected.

Hydration is equally important. Providing fresh, clean water at all times, encouraging regular water intake, and continuing to feed moisture-rich wet food all help support healthy hydration throughout life.

Monitoring your kitten's appetite, water intake, stool quality, and food acceptance helps you become familiar with their normal routines and allows you to recognize changes more easily.

STEPPING INTO THE PARENTAL ROLE

Why This Matters

When your kitten leaves our cattery, they leave with a strong foundation built through the care of their mother, early socialization, routine handling, environmental enrichment, and positive daily experiences. However, learning and development do not end when your kitten comes home.

Like children, kittens continue to learn throughout adolescence and into adulthood. The guidance, boundaries, consistency, and daily interactions provided by their new family play an important role in shaping future behaviour, confidence, and adjustment.

A well-socialized kitten is not a finished product. Continued guidance, realistic expectations, and daily care remain essential responsibilities of your family. The experiences your kitten has after leaving our cattery will continue to influence their confidence, behaviour, and ability to adapt throughout life.

Many behaviours that families find challenging, such as climbing, scratching, chewing, rough play, nighttime activity, or testing boundaries, are normal parts of kitten development. These behaviours are not signs of a bad kitten. They are opportunities for teaching, guidance, and continued learning.

Just as their mother provided guidance and boundaries during the earliest weeks of life, your role now becomes equally as important. By providing patience, consistency, positive daily interaction, and clear expectations, you continue the work that began during your kitten's earliest stages of development.

The recommendations in this section reflect the standards of care and approach used at Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery. We strongly recommend families continue these practices after bringing their kitten home. Consistent guidance, realistic expectations, and daily interaction help establish the foundation for a confident, well-adjusted adult cat.

Recommendations

Provide Consistent Guidance

- Establish household rules and expectations early.
- Ensure all family members respond to behaviours consistently.
- Consistency helps kittens understand what is expected of them.

- Providing the same guidance, expectations, and responses each day helps build confidence and allows your kitten to learn more quickly. Consistency between family members reduces confusion and supports successful learning.

Provide Clear and Immediate Feedback

- Kittens learn through consistent responses and repetition.
- Unwanted behaviours should be addressed immediately and redirected toward appropriate alternatives.
- A calm, firm verbal correction helps establish clear expectations when used consistently. Family members should respond to unwanted behaviours in a similar manner whenever possible.
- Mixed messages and inconsistent expectations make learning more difficult.
- Responding immediately allows your kitten to associate the correction with the behaviour, making learning clearer and more effective.

Redirect Unwanted Behaviour

- Unwanted behaviours should be redirected toward appropriate alternatives rather than punished.
- Scratching posts, climbing structures, interactive toys, and regular play sessions help provide appropriate outlets for normal kitten behaviour.
- Reward desired behaviours whenever possible to encourage positive learning experiences.
- Providing appropriate alternatives allows your kitten to express natural behaviours in acceptable ways while learning the rules of their new home.

Understand Normal Development

- Kittens are naturally curious, energetic, and exploratory.
- Occasional scratches, accidental nips during play, and testing boundaries are normal parts of development.

- Repetition is a normal part of learning and does not mean a kitten is being stubborn or deliberately misbehaving.
- Patience and guidance are important throughout the learning process.
- Expectations should remain age-appropriate and realistic.
- Understanding what is normal during kittenhood helps families respond with patience and consistency while supporting healthy emotional and behavioural development.

Provide Daily Interaction

- Positive daily interaction helps strengthen trust and supports ongoing social development.
- Play, training, handling, grooming, and routine care all contribute to a well-adjusted adult cat.
- Daily engagement helps build confidence while strengthening the bond between your kitten and your family.
- Regular positive interaction also helps kittens become more accepting of routine handling and daily care throughout life.

Continue Socialization

- New experiences should be introduced gradually and positively.
- Exposure to different people, sounds, environments, and routine activities helps build confidence and adaptability.
- Ongoing socialization remains important throughout adolescence and beyond.
- Continuing positive social experiences throughout your kitten's life helps reinforce confidence while encouraging a calm, adaptable temperament.

Important Reminders

Your kitten's mother and the care provided during their time at our cattery establish the foundation for future behaviour, confidence, and development. Bringing your kitten home marks the beginning of your family's role in continuing that foundation. The guidance, boundaries, consistency, and daily interactions you provide continue to shape your kitten's behaviour, confidence, and adjustment as they grow and mature.

A kitten does not arrive fully trained or fully mature. Behaviour, confidence, manners, and social skills continue to develop through daily experiences, routine, and guidance within their new home. Continued learning, realistic expectations, and daily guidance remain important responsibilities of your family throughout your kitten's development.

Just as their mother provided guidance during their earliest weeks of life, your kitten now relies on you to establish boundaries and teach appropriate behaviour within your home. Learning occurs through patience, consistency, repetition, and clear expectations. Providing the same guidance consistently helps your kitten understand what is expected while building confidence, trust, and security.

Kittens naturally test boundaries as they learn the rules of their new environment. This is a normal part of development and should be expected. Consistent responses from all family members help kittens understand which behaviours are acceptable within the household. Mixed messages and inconsistent expectations make learning more difficult and can slow the learning process.

The time, effort, patience, and consistency you invest during the early months after bringing your kitten home can have a lasting influence on the adult cat your kitten becomes. Continuing the foundation established within our cattery through daily guidance, positive interaction, and realistic expectations helps your kitten develop into a confident, well-adjusted adult cat while strengthening the lifelong bond you will share.

ENSURING SAFETY IN THEIR NEW HOME

Why This Matters

Bringing your kitten home means introducing them to an entirely new environment filled with unfamiliar sights, sounds, smells, objects, and experiences. While every kitten is naturally curious, the Maine Coon is recognized for its intelligent, highly social, inquisitive, and confident temperament. These characteristics are among the breed's most endearing qualities, but they also mean Maine Coons frequently investigate, climb, explore, and interact with their environment in ways many families do not anticipate.

Young kittens have little understanding of danger and rely on the people around them to provide a safe environment while they continue to learn and develop. As your kitten grows, their increasing size, strength, agility, confidence, and problem-solving abilities allow them to reach higher surfaces, access previously inaccessible areas, open cupboards and doors, turn on taps,

and investigate new parts of the home. What appears safe today may not remain safe only a few weeks later.

The Maine Coon thrives on companionship and regular interaction and naturally prefers to be actively involved in everyday household life. Prolonged periods alone may contribute to boredom, frustration, anxiety, and unwanted behaviours. An intelligent, bored kitten will often create their own entertainment, which may place them at unnecessary risk of injury or expose them to hazards within the home.

Providing a safe home is an ongoing process rather than a one-time task. Regularly reassessing your home, anticipating new risks as your kitten develops, and planning appropriately whenever you need to be away all help create an environment that supports both safety and well-being throughout life.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Teaching Children Respectful Interaction

- Children should be taught how to interact safely and respectfully with your kitten from the very beginning.
- Young children should always be directly supervised when interacting with your kitten. Adult supervision allows interactions to be guided appropriately while helping reduce the risk of accidental injury to both your kitten and your child.
- Encourage calm, quiet behaviour around your kitten. Running, shouting, chasing, grabbing, restraining, or rough play can frighten your kitten and result in scratching or biting as your kitten attempts to protect themselves.
- Teach children to gently pet your kitten while respecting their personal space. Your kitten should never be chased, cornered, picked up against their will, or forced to continue an interaction they are trying to end.

- If a child is old enough to hold your kitten safely, teach them to fully support both the chest and hindquarters at all times. Young children should never carry your kitten without direct adult supervision.
- Parents should end handling or play before your kitten becomes overwhelmed, frightened, or defensive. Allowing your kitten to walk away whenever they choose helps reduce unnecessary stress while encouraging positive experiences.
- Kittens require regular periods of uninterrupted rest. Children should be taught not to disturb your kitten while sleeping, eating, or using the litter box.
- Consistently teaching children to treat your kitten with patience, gentleness, and respect helps create a safe home environment while supporting your kitten's confidence, well-being, and lifelong trust in people.

Avoid Leaving Your Kitten Alone for Extended Periods Whenever Possible

- Whenever possible, avoid leaving your kitten alone for extended periods of time, particularly during the first year of life.
- The Maine Coon is a highly social breed that thrives on companionship and regular interaction. Spending long periods alone on a routine basis may contribute to boredom, frustration, anxiety, and unwanted behaviours.
- A bored kitten will often create their own entertainment. Climbing onto previously inaccessible surfaces, opening cupboards and drawers, turning on taps, chewing inappropriate objects, and investigating household items are all behaviours that can increase the risk of injury or accidental exposure to household hazards.
- As your kitten grows, their increasing size, strength, agility, confidence, and problem-solving abilities allow them to access areas of the home that were previously out of reach. Regularly reassessing your home and anticipating these changes helps maintain a safe environment throughout every stage of development.
- We understand that work, school, appointments, shopping, holidays, and other commitments are a normal part of everyday life. When you must be away, ensure your kitten has access to fresh water, appropriate food, clean litter boxes, comfortable resting areas, appropriate environmental enrichment, and a safe, thoroughly kitten-proofed environment.

Home Monitoring

- A home monitoring camera is strongly recommended whenever your kitten will be home alone and should be considered an important part of creating a safe home environment.
- Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery strongly recommends the TP-Link Tapo 4K 8MP Pan/Tilt Indoor Home Security Camera. This camera provides high-quality video, remote viewing through your smartphone, motion alerts, two-way audio, pan and tilt functionality, and local video recording without requiring a monthly subscription.
- Home monitoring allows you to remotely observe your kitten's normal behaviour, monitor activity throughout the home, and quickly confirm they remain safe while you are away.
- Motion alerts notify you when activity is detected, allowing you to check on your kitten if something appears unusual.
- Cameras equipped with two-way audio also allow you to communicate with your kitten while you are away, providing reassurance for both you and your kitten.
- Multiple cameras can be positioned throughout the home to monitor different areas your kitten frequently uses, providing additional supervision as they grow, become more adventurous, and gain access to new areas.
- Home monitoring does not replace appropriate preparation before leaving your kitten alone. Rather, it provides an additional layer of supervision that complements a safe, well-prepared home environment.

Continually Reassess Your Home

- As your kitten grows, their size, strength, agility, confidence, and problem-solving abilities will continue to develop. Areas that were once inaccessible may quickly become part of their everyday environment as they learn to climb higher, jump farther, open cupboards, investigate drawers, and reach surfaces they were previously unable to access.
- A home that was safe when your kitten first arrived may not remain safe as their abilities develop. Regularly reassessing your home from your kitten's perspective allows potential hazards to be identified and addressed before they result in injury or illness.
- Continue inspecting your home for new or previously overlooked hazards, particularly following renovations, seasonal decorating, the introduction of new furniture, household

items, plants, or changes to your daily routine. Small changes can introduce new risks that may not be immediately obvious.

- Anticipating your kitten's developing abilities and making appropriate adjustments before problems occur is one of the most effective ways to reduce preventable accidents while continuing to provide a safe home environment throughout every stage of life.

Important Reminders

Your kitten depends on you to provide a safe environment throughout every stage of life. While it is impossible to eliminate every potential risk, preparation, regular supervision, and continually reassessing your home as your kitten grows can significantly reduce the likelihood of preventable accidents and injuries.

Every kitten is an individual. Temperament, confidence, curiosity, activity level, and problem-solving ability naturally vary between kittens. Becoming familiar with your kitten's normal behaviours and abilities allows you to anticipate changes, identify new risks, and adapt your home as needed.

Providing a safe home is an ongoing commitment rather than a one-time task. The time and effort invested in preparing your home, remaining actively involved in your kitten's daily life, and planning appropriately whenever you need to be away all help support lifelong safety, confidence, and well-being.

IS THIS NORMAL?

Why This Matters

Bringing home a new kitten is an exciting experience, but it is also accompanied by questions, learning, and, at times, uncertainty. Many families encounter behaviours, habits, and observations they have never experienced before and are unsure whether what they are seeing is normal.

Maine Coons are a large, intelligent, slow-maturing breed with unique physical characteristics, behavioural traits, and developmental patterns. As a result, many behaviours and observations that may initially appear unusual or concerning are completely normal parts of growth, development, adjustment, and everyday life.

Understanding what is commonly observed during kittenhood can help reduce unnecessary worry while allowing families to better recognize what is normal for their individual kitten. Becoming familiar with your kitten's appetite, water intake, activity level, sleeping habits, elimination patterns, behaviour, body condition, and comfort is an important part of responsible ownership and long-term wellness monitoring.

The goal is not to monitor every small change or expect perfection. Rather, it is to develop a thorough understanding of your kitten's normal routines, habits, temperament, and behaviour over time. This familiarity allows changes to be recognized more easily should they occur.

No guide can answer every question or address every situation you may encounter. However, understanding many of the behaviours and observations commonly seen in Maine Coons can help families feel more confident as they navigate kittenhood while strengthening the bond they share with their kitten.

The following observations and behaviours are commonly seen in healthy Maine Coons and are considered normal unless accompanied by other concerning signs or changes in your kitten's health, behaviour, or well-being.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Large Stool Size

- Maine Coons are a large breed with substantial nutritional requirements to support growth and development.
- Stool size is larger than expected and may resemble that of a small dog.
- Consistency, frequency, and stool quality are more important observations than size alone.
- A kitten that is eating well, growing appropriately, maintaining a healthy body condition, and producing well-formed stools is not a cause for concern simply because their stools are larger than expected.

Occasional Vomiting

- Occasional vomiting is commonly observed in kittens.
- Eating too quickly, consuming excessive amounts of food, hair ingestion during grooming, dietary changes, excitement, vigorous activity shortly after eating, or an empty stomach are common causes.
- A kitten that has gone too long without eating can occasionally vomit a small amount of clear fluid, foam, or stomach contents. This is commonly referred to as hunger vomit.
- Maintaining a consistent feeding routine and making dietary changes gradually can help reduce avoidable digestive upset.

Increased Appetite During Growth

- Growing kittens require energy to support growth and development.
- Periods of increased appetite are normal during growth and development and should be expected.
- Appetite fluctuates during growth spurts and periods of rapid development.
- Maine Coons are a slow-maturing breed, and periods of increased appetite commonly occur throughout kittenhood and adolescence.

Sleeping for Long Periods

- Kittens require substantial amounts of sleep to support growth, development, and learning.
- Sleeping for much of the day is normal throughout kittenhood.
- Periods of activity are commonly followed by extended periods of rest.
- It is perfectly normal for an energetic play session to be followed by several hours of uninterrupted sleep.

Twitching or Jerking While Sleeping

- It is common for kittens to twitch, jerk, paddle their paws, flick their ears or whiskers, make small vocalizations, or rapidly move their eyes while sleeping.

- These movements most commonly occur during active (REM) sleep and are considered a normal part of healthy sleep and brain development.
- Many kittens appear to dream during this stage of sleep and may briefly move as though they are running, climbing, nursing, or playing.
- These movements typically stop when your kitten wakes and are considered normal.

Brief Panting After Play

- Brief periods of panting following vigorous play, exercise, excitement, or exposure to heat are normal.
- Kittens and cats can only sweat through the paw pads, the thick, cushioned pads on the underside of each foot.
- The movement of air across the moist tissues lining the mouth (oral mucosa) assists with cooling and temperature regulation.
- Grooming and evaporation of saliva from the coat also contribute to heat dissipation.
- Panting should resolve quickly once activity stops and your kitten has had an opportunity to rest.
- Persistent or prolonged panting, laboured breathing, or respiratory distress requires immediate veterinary attention.

Zoomies and Sudden Bursts of Energy

- Sudden periods of intense activity are a normal part of kitten development.
- Running, climbing, chasing, pouncing, wrestling, and energetic play sessions are normal kitten behaviours.
- These energetic bursts occur during the morning or evening and are commonly followed by extended periods of rest.

Kneading

- Kneading is a normal feline behaviour commonly associated with comfort, contentment, relaxation, and bonding.

- Many kittens continue this behaviour throughout adulthood.
- Some cats knead blankets, bedding, or directly on family members while purring.

Purring

- Purring is commonly associated with comfort, relaxation, contentment, and social interaction.
- Purring can also occur during periods of stress, discomfort, or self-soothing.
- Some kittens purr so quietly they are felt more easily than they are heard.

Following Family Members

- Following family members from room to room is commonly observed in Maine Coons.
- Remaining close to family members and participating in daily household activities is commonly observed within the breed.
- Many owners affectionately describe their Maine Coon as having a “shadow” because they enjoy being involved in almost everything their family does.

Sniffing You

- Maine Coons commonly greet family members by sniffing their face, hair, hands, clothing, or breath.
- This behaviour allows them to gather information using their highly developed sense of smell and is a normal form of greeting and recognition.
- It is common for your kitten to sniff you when you wake up, return home, or enter a room.

Pausing with an Open Mouth After Smelling Something New (Flehmen Response)

- Occasionally, your kitten will investigate a new or unfamiliar scent, then suddenly pause with their mouth slightly open and a somewhat dazed or thoughtful expression.
- This behaviour is known as the Flehmen response.

- During this behaviour, your kitten is processing the scent using the Jacobson's organ (also known as the vomeronasal organ), a specialized scent organ located on the roof of the mouth.
- This specialized organ allows your kitten to gather additional information about unfamiliar scents that cannot be detected through the nose alone.
- It is commonly observed after smelling unfamiliar people, animals, clothing, shoes, objects, or new environments.
- This behaviour is completely normal and is not a cause for concern.

Head Bunting (Head Butting)

- Many kittens will gently push or rub their head against you, family members, furniture, or other household pets.
- This behaviour is used to deposit scent from specialized scent glands located around the face and head.
- By rubbing against you, your kitten is marking you as part of their familiar environment and social group.
- Head butting is a normal kitten behaviour and is not a cause for concern.

Opening Cupboards and Drawers

- Many kittens quickly learn how to open cupboards, drawers, closets, and even some interior doors.
- Their intelligence, curiosity, and persistence lead them to investigate areas throughout the home.
- Cupboards containing medications, cleaning products, chemicals, or other potentially hazardous items should always remain securely closed.

Turning on Taps

- Some kittens learn how to turn on taps and enjoy drinking directly from running water.
- Many become fascinated with sinks and patiently wait for someone to turn the water on.

Shredding Toilet Paper and Paper Towels

- Toilet paper and paper towels become irresistible toys for curious kittens.
- Pulling paper from the roll, shredding it into small pieces, and scattering it throughout the house are common kitten behaviours.
- Limiting access to these items during kittenhood is the simplest way to prevent unnecessary messes.

Inspecting Everything

- Kittens believe they should inspect everything that enters the home.
- Groceries, parcels, shopping bags, cardboard boxes, luggage, and new furniture are commonly investigated.
- Their curiosity and desire to participate in everyday household activities are well-recognized characteristics of the breed.

Vocalizations, Chirping, and Trilling

- Maine Coons are very vocal.
- Chirps, trills, chatters, squeaks, and soft vocalizations are commonly used to communicate with both people and other animals.
- These vocalizations are a normal and well-recognized characteristic of the breed.

Carrying Toys

- Some kittens enjoy carrying toys from room to room or proudly presenting them to family members.
- Favourite toys are collected into one location or carried around the home during play.
- This behaviour is a normal expression of play, curiosity, and interaction.

Helping with Household Activities

- Many kittens insist on supervising or participating in everyday household activities.

- Making the bed, changing litter boxes, unpacking groceries, reading, working on a computer, or completing paperwork attracts immediate and persistent feline assistance.
- Their intelligence, curiosity, and desire to remain involved with their family make this one of the breed's most endearing characteristics.

Pawing in Front of the Water Dish

- Some kittens paw or scratch the floor directly in front of their water dish before drinking.
- Others may gently tap or splash the surface of the water before taking a drink.
- These are normal kitten behaviours.
- Maine Coons have a natural fascination with water, making these behaviours particularly common within the breed.
- Pawing in front of the water dish or interacting with the water before drinking is normal behaviour.

Attempting to Bury Food

- Some kittens instinctively attempt to bury uneaten food by pawing around the food dish or scratching the floor nearby.
- This is a normal feline behaviour inherited from their wild ancestors, who instinctively attempted to hide food they were not ready to eat.
- Although indoor kittens have no need to hide their food, this natural instinct remains and is commonly observed after meals.
- Some kittens may return later to continue eating once they are hungry again.
- Attempting to bury food is a normal kitten behaviour.

Biting

- Biting is a normal part of kitten development and is commonly associated with play, exploration, teething, and learning appropriate social behaviour.

- During play, kittens naturally bite and wrestle with their littermates, their mother, and the people caring for them. These interactions help them learn appropriate social boundaries and develop bite inhibition.
- When play becomes too rough, their mother provides immediate correction. We continue reinforcing appropriate behaviour throughout your kitten's time in our cattery using calm, consistent guidance and redirection.
- As your kitten grows, they continue learning which behaviours are acceptable within their new home. The consistency, guidance, and expectations provided by your family continue this important learning process.
- Never encourage your kitten to bite your hands, fingers, or feet. Behaviours that are tolerated during kittenhood often become more difficult to correct as your kitten grows, matures, and becomes stronger.
- If your kitten bites during play, immediately end the session. Consistently ending the interaction helps your kitten learn that biting causes play and attention to stop.
- Redirect your kitten toward an appropriate chew toy before resuming play. Appropriate chew toys provide a suitable outlet for normal biting behaviour during play and teething.
- All family members should respond to biting in a consistent manner. Consistent responses help your kitten understand what is expected while encouraging appropriate behaviour.

Bunny Kicking

- Bunny kicking is a normal part of kitten development.
- Bunny kicking is a form of predatory behaviour in which a kitten grasps prey with their front legs while kicking rapidly with their hind legs. During kittenhood, this behaviour is commonly directed toward littermates and toys.
- Although this behaviour is normal, it should not be encouraged during play with family members. Behaviours that are tolerated during kittenhood become more difficult to correct as your kitten matures and grows stronger.
- If your kitten begins bunny kicking during play, place your free hand between your kitten's hind feet and your arm, then apply gentle pressure until they release their grip.

Resist the urge to pull your arm away quickly, as pulling away encourages your kitten to hold on tighter.

- Redirect the behaviour toward a kicker toy before resuming play. Kicker toys provide an appropriate outlet for this normal behaviour.
- All family members should respond to bunny kicking in a consistent manner. Consistent responses help your kitten learn that bunny kicking is not an acceptable behaviour.

Sexual Maturation

- As intact kittens approach sexual maturation, hormonal changes result in normal physical and behavioural changes. The age at which these changes begin varies between individuals.
- Female kittens may enter their first estrous (heat) cycle as early as 4 to 5 months of age, although the timing varies between individuals. During estrus, females commonly become noticeably more vocal, affectionate, restless, may begin urine spraying, and often assume a mating posture with their forequarters lowered, hindquarters elevated, and tail held to one side when stroked over the lower back.
- Intact male kittens also undergo hormonal changes as they approach sexual maturation. If there are no intact females nearby, some families may notice very few behavioural changes during this stage of development. Others may become more vocal, begin urine spraying, show an increased interest in escaping, or display territorial behaviours.
- Both intact males and females may develop stud tail as hormone levels increase during sexual maturation. This condition is discussed in greater detail in the Grooming and Coat Care chapter.
- If you suspect your kitten has begun urine spraying, a handheld ultraviolet (UV) black light can help identify urine deposits that may not be visible under normal lighting. This can help confirm whether urine spraying is occurring and identify areas requiring thorough cleaning. A recommended black light is included in the Recommended Products and Resources section.
- Please follow the spay and neuter requirements outlined in your contract.

Important Reminders

Many of the behaviours and observations described in this section are a normal part of kittenhood, growth, development, and everyday life with a Maine Coon. Becoming familiar with what is normal for your individual kitten helps build confidence while reducing unnecessary worry.

No two kittens are exactly alike. Temperament, activity level, vocalization, sleeping habits, appetite, and social behaviour naturally vary between individuals. Over time, you will become familiar with your kitten's normal routines, preferences, and daily habits.

Small changes are first recognized by the people who spend the most time with their kitten. Routine observation, consistency, and becoming familiar with your kitten's normal behaviour, appetite, water intake, litter box habits, activity level, and comfort allow changes to be recognized more easily should they occur.

While many behaviours discussed in this section are completely normal, behaviour that changes suddenly, becomes persistent, or is accompanied by other concerning signs should never be ignored. Knowing what is normal for your individual kitten is one of the most valuable tools you have in supporting their lifelong health and well-being.

As your kitten grows and matures, many of these behaviours will evolve, while others may remain lifelong characteristics of both your individual kitten and the Maine Coon breed. Learning to understand and appreciate these unique traits is part of the experience of sharing your home with this remarkable breed.

LITTER BOXES AND LITTER

Why This Matters

Litter box habits are an important part of your kitten's daily comfort, cleanliness, and well-being. Kittens can be very particular about litter box setup, litter type, cleanliness, and location. Sudden changes or poor litter box habits can contribute to stress, litter box avoidance, or inappropriate elimination.

Before leaving our cattery, your kitten has become accustomed to using large, open litter pans, a familiar litter, and a consistent daily routine. Maintaining these familiar practices after bringing your kitten home helps support a smooth transition while encouraging continued litter box success.

A clean, comfortable litter box environment encourages appropriate litter box habits and allows your kitten to eliminate comfortably and confidently. Providing appropriately sized litter pans, maintaining a consistent litter, and keeping litter boxes clean all contribute to your kitten's comfort and willingness to use the litter box.

Establishing good litter box habits early and maintaining a clean, comfortable litter box environment can help support long-term litter box success as your kitten grows and matures. If changes to litter type, litter box style, or litter box location become necessary, they should be introduced gradually to allow your kitten time to adjust comfortably.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Large Open Litter Boxes

- Kittens from our cattery are accustomed to using large, open litter boxes.
- Large litter boxes provide adequate space for turning, digging, positioning, and comfortable elimination.
- Maine Coons are a large breed and require larger litter boxes than standard commercial pans provide.
- Kittens from our cattery are accustomed to using a plastic cement mixing tub as their primary litter pan.
- The cement mixing tub provides generous space, easy access, and accommodates growing kittens well.
- The current litter pan used within our nursery is the Medium Mixing Tub available through Home Depot.

Slow Transition to Covered Litter Boxes

- If transitioning to a covered litter box, this should be done gradually.
- Some kittens may feel uncomfortable in enclosed litter boxes.

- Your kitten should be monitored to ensure they remain comfortable using the new setup.
- Allow your kitten to determine the pace of the transition. If your kitten appears hesitant or avoids the covered litter box, temporarily returning to an open litter pan while progressing more gradually may help encourage continued litter box use.

Slow Transition to Automatic Litter Boxes

- If transitioning to an automatic litter box, this should be done gradually.
- Your kitten should first become completely comfortable using a traditional litter box before introducing an automatic system.
- Automatic cleaning cycles should remain turned off during the initial introduction so your kitten can become familiar with the litter box before movement and sound are introduced.
- Once your kitten is comfortably and consistently using the automatic litter box, the cleaning cycle can be activated according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- A gradual introduction helps your kitten develop confidence while reducing the likelihood of litter box avoidance.

Provide an Adequate Number of Litter Boxes

- Provide one litter box per cat, plus one additional litter box whenever possible.
- Multiple litter boxes provide choice, help reduce competition in multi-cat households, and encourage consistent litter box use.
- Litter boxes should be located in quiet, easily accessible areas of the home where your kitten can eliminate comfortably without unnecessary interruption.

Keep Litter Boxes Clean

- Litter boxes should be scooped frequently throughout the day.
- Litter should be replaced regularly to maintain a clean, comfortable litter box environment.
- The litter box should be washed and disinfected during complete litter changes before fresh litter is added.

- A clean litter box encourages consistent litter box habits and helps maintain your kitten's comfort and well-being.

Important Reminders

Good litter box habits begin with consistency. Maintaining the same litter, litter box style, and daily routine used during your kitten's early development helps support a smooth transition into their new home while encouraging continued litter box success.

Kittens naturally prefer a clean, comfortable litter box. Regular scooping, routine cleaning, and providing adequate space for comfortable elimination all help encourage consistent litter box use throughout life.

If changes to the litter, litter box, or litter box location become necessary, they should be introduced gradually. Allowing your kitten time to adjust helps reduce unnecessary stress while supporting continued litter box confidence and success.

As your kitten grows, remember that Maine Coons are a large, slow-maturing breed. Providing appropriately sized litter boxes throughout life helps ensure your cat can comfortably turn, dig, position themselves, and eliminate without restriction.

GROOMING AND COAT CARE

Why This Matters

Regular grooming is an important part of maintaining your kitten's comfort, skin health, coat quality, and well-being. Maine Coons have a substantial coat that requires frequent maintenance to help prevent tangles, matting, loose hair buildup, and nail-related issues. Regular brushing and combing remove loose hair, reduce shedding, and help keep the coat clean, healthy, and in good condition. Regular grooming also provides an opportunity to become familiar with your kitten's coat, skin, body condition, and comfort. Small changes are noticed first during routine hands-on interaction and grooming sessions. These regular one-on-one interactions also help strengthen the bond between you and your kitten while making routine care a positive experience.

Beginning grooming routines early helps your kitten become comfortable with handling, brushing, combing, nail care, and routine coat maintenance as they grow and mature. Early positive experiences help establish grooming as a normal part of routine care throughout life, making future grooming sessions less stressful for both you and your kitten.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Routine Brushing and Combing

- Frequent brushing and combing should become part of your kitten's routine grooming schedule.
- Regular grooming helps remove loose hair, reduce tangles, prevent mats from developing, and maintain coat quality throughout life.
- Frequent brushing and combing also help reduce shedding by removing loose hair before it is shed throughout your home.
- Routine grooming provides an opportunity to become familiar with your kitten's coat, skin, body condition, and comfort. Small changes are noticed first during routine hands-on interaction and grooming sessions.

Recommended Grooming Tools

- A boar bristle brush is ideal for routine coat maintenance and helps smooth the coat while distributing natural oils throughout the coat.
- A metal carding comb is recommended for working through the coat more thoroughly and identifying tangles or areas beginning to mat before they become more difficult to remove.
- Quality nail clippers should be kept on hand for routine nail maintenance and regular nail trims.
- Small grooming clippers are a useful addition to your grooming supplies for trimming out small mats and managing occasional problem areas when necessary.

How to Brush and Comb Your Kitten

- Begin by gently brushing your kitten with the boar bristle brush to remove loose hair and smooth the coat.

- Follow with the metal carding comb, working methodically through the coat to identify tangles or small mats before they become more difficult to remove.
- Pay particular attention to areas where tangles and mats commonly develop, including behind the ears, under the front legs, the chest and mane, the belly, and the britches.
- Keep grooming sessions calm, gentle, and positive. Frequent short grooming sessions are better tolerated than infrequent, lengthy sessions.
- Always reward your kitten with a favourite treat immediately after each positive grooming session. Positive reinforcement helps establish grooming as a positive experience and encourages cooperation during future grooming sessions.

Nail Care

- Your kitten's nails should be checked regularly and trimmed as needed.
- Routine nail maintenance helps prevent overgrowth, snagging, accidental scratches, and discomfort.
- Beginning nail trimming early helps your kitten become comfortable with routine handling and grooming throughout life.

How to Trim Your Kitten's Nails

- Sit comfortably with your kitten on your lap, with their back against your chest.
- Gently hold one paw in your non-dominant hand and apply light pressure to the toe to extend each claw.
- Using your dominant hand, trim only the sharp tip of the nail, taking care to avoid the pink quick, the sensitive inner portion of the nail containing blood vessels and nerves.
- Work calmly and confidently while speaking to your kitten in a gentle, reassuring voice throughout the session.
- Keep each session calm, positive, and brief. If your kitten becomes restless, trim a few nails at a time and continue later if needed. The goal is to make every nail trimming session a positive experience.

- Always reward your kitten with a favourite treat immediately after each successful nail trimming session. Positive reinforcement helps your kitten develop a positive association with nail trimming and encourages greater cooperation during future grooming sessions.

Early Handling

- Frequent handling of your kitten's paws, nails, ears, mouth, and coat helps your kitten become more comfortable with routine grooming and care.
- Gentle, positive grooming experiences early in life help establish grooming as a normal part of routine care and make future grooming sessions less stressful.
- Positive physical interaction helps kittens become more comfortable with grooming, nail trimming, and routine care throughout life.

Daily Hands-On Interaction

- Spend time each day interacting with your kitten through touch and handling.
- Gently run your hands over your kitten's body, including the chest, shoulders, sides, abdomen, legs, paws, tail, and neck.
- Regularly handle the ears, muzzle, mouth area, and paws so these areas remain familiar and comfortable with gentle handling.
- These daily interactions help strengthen the bond between you and your kitten while building trust and confidence.
- Daily hands-on interaction also provides a natural opportunity to become familiar with your kitten's normal body condition, coat quality, mobility, and comfort.
- Small changes such as developing mats, skin irritation, swelling, or areas of sensitivity are noticed first during routine daily interaction.

How to Perform Daily Hands-On Interaction

Daily hands-on interaction should always be calm, gentle, and enjoyable. At our cattery, daily massage forms an important part of our routine, and we strongly recommend continuing this practice after your kitten comes home. These daily sessions strengthen the bond between you and your kitten, help you become familiar with your kitten's body condition, identify developing mats before they become tight and painful, and make it easier to recognize changes over time.

Gentle massage also helps your kitten relax, aids digestion, and encourages handling to remain a normal and positive part of everyday life.

Face

- Gently cup your kitten's face in both hands. Using your thumbs, massage the jaw using small circular motions before working around the mouth, across the bridge of the nose, around the eyes, and over the forehead.
- This gentle massage helps your kitten relax while allowing you to become familiar with these areas.

Neck and Shoulders

- With your kitten facing away from you, place both hands over the shoulders. Using your thumbs, massage in short circular motions from the shoulders up each side of the neck to just behind the ears.
- Many kittens find this particularly relaxing and quickly learn to enjoy this part of the routine.

Body

- Using the palms of your hands and your fingertips, gently massage the back, sides, chest, and abdomen using slow, circular motions.
- Along each side of the abdomen, apply gentle pressure while working toward the hindquarters.
- This gentle massage aids digestion while helping your kitten relax. As you massage, become familiar with your kitten's body condition and how it normally feels from day to day.

Legs

- Gently massage each front and hind leg from the shoulder or hip down to the paw using your hands and fingertips.
- Gentle massage helps relax the muscles while allowing your kitten to become comfortable with routine handling of all four legs.

Paws and Paw Pads

- Carefully handle each paw, gently extending each toe while examining the nails, paw pads, and the spaces between the toes.
- Massage each paw pad individually. This gentle massage helps your kitten become comfortable with routine paw handling while allowing you to become familiar with what is normal for your kitten.
- Regular paw handling helps your kitten become comfortable with routine nail trimming throughout life.

Tail

- Run your fingers along the entire length of the tail from the base to the tip.
- Part the fur at the base of the tail. Look for oily buildup, fur that has become clumped together, or dirt trapped within the coat.
- The tail should become part of your daily hands-on interaction. Routine observation allows you to recognize any changes early.

Stud Tail (Supracaudal Gland Hyperplasia)

Stud tail is a common condition that can occur as your kitten matures. It is caused by increased activity of the supracaudal gland located at the base of the tail. The gland produces excessive amounts of oil, resulting in a visible oily buildup that causes the fur to become clumped together at the base of the tail.

This condition can occur in both males and females.

Routine grooming and daily hands-on interaction allow this buildup to be recognized and removed early. When addressed promptly, the problem can be resolved before it has an opportunity to progress.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Cornstarch

- Use only 100% pure cornstarch. Do not substitute baby powder or other powders containing cornstarch.
- Cornstarch is an effective way to absorb excess oil.
- Apply the cornstarch directly to the affected area at the base of the tail. This minimizes the amount of cornstarch becoming airborne.
- It is best to do this in a well-ventilated area.
- Cornstarch is a fine powder. Care must be taken to avoid allowing your kitten to inhale the dust, which can cause respiratory distress.
- This can be messy. Place a towel beneath your kitten before you begin to make cleanup easier.

Removing the Oily Buildup

- Apply approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of 100% pure cornstarch directly to the affected area.
- Using your fingertips, work the cornstarch into the affected area until the excess oil has been absorbed.
- Using a fine-tooth metal comb, carefully remove the cornstarch and absorbed oil.
- Repeat this process until all of the oily buildup has been removed.
- As the excess oil is absorbed and removed, you will be able to feel the difference.

Veterinary Care

- If the base of the tail becomes painful or your kitten will not allow the area to be handled, seek veterinary care.

Important Reminders

Regular grooming is about far more than maintaining your kitten's appearance. Routine grooming helps support skin health, coat condition, comfort, and well-being while providing valuable opportunities to recognize small changes before they become more.

Mats should never be ignored. Even small mats become tighter over time, pulling continuously on the skin and causing discomfort with every movement. Early detection and prompt removal help prevent pain while keeping grooming sessions shorter and less stressful for both you and your kitten.

Beginning grooming routines early helps kittens accept brushing, combing, nail trimming, routine handling, and frequent maintenance as normal parts of everyday life. Positive experiences during kittenhood make lifelong grooming easier.

Daily hands-on interaction allows you to become familiar with your kitten's normal coat, skin, body condition, and comfort. Small changes such as mats, skin irritation, swelling, parasites, wounds, or areas of sensitivity are first noticed while grooming or gently running your hands over your kitten.

Consistency is one of the most important aspects of successful grooming. Short, regular grooming sessions are more effective and far less stressful than waiting until tangles, mats, or overgrown nails require extra attention.

ORAL CARE

Why This Matters

Oral health is an important part of your kitten's overall health, comfort, and well-being. Healthy teeth and gums support normal eating, grooming, play, and quality of life throughout every stage of life.

Plaque naturally begins forming on the teeth every day. Regular tooth brushing helps remove plaque before it hardens into tartar while reducing the accumulation of bacteria along the teeth and gumline. Brushing also stimulates the gums, helping maintain healthy gum tissue and supporting healthy circulation. Together, these benefits help promote healthy teeth and gums throughout life.

Establishing a routine of regular tooth brushing becomes the responsibility of your family after bringing your kitten home. Introducing oral care early helps your kitten become comfortable with routine handling of the mouth while establishing tooth brushing as a normal part of everyday care.

As your kitten grows, they will naturally progress through a teething period as their baby teeth are replaced by permanent adult teeth. Mild redness and temporary gum sensitivity during

teething are normal. Continuing gentle tooth brushing throughout this stage helps maintain positive oral care habits while supporting healthy teeth and gums as the adult teeth erupt.

The oral care routine your family establishes during kittenhood lays the foundation for lifelong oral health. The time, patience, and consistency invested in regular tooth brushing help promote healthy teeth and gums while encouraging oral care to remain a normal part of your kitten's daily routine throughout life.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Establish an Oral Care Routine

- Oral care should begin as soon as your kitten comes home.
- Introduce tooth brushing gradually using a calm, gentle, and positive approach. Short, consistent sessions help your kitten become comfortable with having their mouth handled and teeth brushed.
- Build confidence through patience, consistency, and positive reinforcement. Establishing a routine early helps tooth brushing become a normal part of everyday life before habits become established.
- Brush your kitten's teeth at least two to three times each week. Daily brushing provides the greatest long-term benefit for maintaining healthy teeth and gums.
- Maintain a consistent oral care routine throughout your kitten's life. Consistency is more important than perfection and provides the greatest long-term benefit for oral health.

Recommended Oral Care Products

- Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery strongly recommends Virbac C.E.T. Enzymatic Poultry Flavour Toothpaste for routine home oral care. Its enzymatic formula is specifically designed for cats and helps support long-term oral health while being well accepted by most kittens.

- A soft-bristled toothbrush designed for cats or a finger toothbrush may be used, depending on which your kitten accepts most comfortably. The goal is to establish a calm, positive brushing routine while effectively cleaning along the gumline.
- During the first few brushing sessions, a small amount of Churu may be placed on the toothbrush together with the toothpaste to encourage acceptance and create a positive association with tooth brushing. As your kitten becomes comfortable with the routine, gradually reduce the amount of Churu until brushing is accepted using toothpaste alone.

How to Brush Your Kitten's Teeth

- Place a small amount of Churu on the toothbrush together with a small amount of toothpaste for the first few brushing sessions.
- Sit directly in front of your kitten.
- Gently place your non-dominant hand on the back of your kitten's head and offer gentle scratches while speaking calmly and reassuringly.
- Allow your kitten to investigate the toothbrush before attempting to brush.
- Introduce the toothbrush through the corner of the mouth.
- Using gentle circular motions, brush along the gumline, beginning with the outside surfaces of the teeth.
- As your kitten becomes comfortable with the routine, gradually introduce brushing of the inside surfaces of the teeth.
- Gradually reduce the amount of Churu over several brushing sessions until brushing is accepted using toothpaste alone.
- Keep each brushing session short, calm, and positive.
- Reward your kitten immediately after each brushing session to reinforce the experience as something positive.

Teething and Oral Care

- Because Maine Coons are a slow-to-mature breed, teething often takes longer than many families expect.

- Mild redness and irritation of the gums during teething are normal.
- It is normal for the permanent canine tooth and the baby canine tooth to be present at the same time for a short period.
- As the permanent canine tooth erupts, it gradually pushes the baby tooth out, much like the process that occurs in children.
- The presence of both canine teeth at the same time is not a cause for alarm.
- Continue your kitten's regular oral care routine throughout teething. If the gums appear more sensitive, simply use a gentler touch while continuing to brush.

Important Reminders

Establishing an oral care routine during kittenhood is far easier than introducing tooth brushing later in life. Patience, consistency, and positive experiences during these early months help establish lifelong acceptance of routine oral care.

Never use human toothpaste. Human toothpaste is not formulated for cats and may contain ingredients that are harmful if swallowed. Always use toothpaste specifically formulated for cats and kittens.

Because Maine Coons are a slow-to-mature breed, teething often takes longer than many families expect. During this time, mild redness and irritation of the gums are normal. It is also normal for the permanent canine tooth and the baby canine tooth to be present at the same time for a short period while the adult tooth gradually pushes the baby tooth out, much like the process seen in children. This is a normal stage of development and is not a cause for alarm.

If your kitten seems reluctant to cooperate on a particular day, keep the brushing session short, gentle, and positive. A calm, consistent approach will always be more beneficial than forcing the experience. Building trust and confidence during each session helps establish lifelong acceptance of routine oral care.

SUPPORTIVE HEALTH CARE

Why This Matters

Supportive health care products play an important role in helping families support their kitten's health and well-being. While supplements do not replace nutrition, hydration, oral care, healthy body condition, or daily care, they can complement a well-rounded wellness program and contribute to digestive health, skin and coat quality, immune system function, and normal body function.

When selected thoughtfully and used appropriately, supportive health care products work alongside nutrition, environmental management, and routine observation as part of a comprehensive approach to lifelong health and wellness.

Used consistently and appropriately, these products can become a valuable part of your kitten's daily care routine and long-term wellness plan. When used as part of a balanced approach to daily care, they can help support health and well-being throughout all life stages.

Supportive health care is most beneficial when incorporated into a consistent daily routine. Like nutrition, hydration, oral care, grooming, and environmental enrichment, the greatest benefits are achieved through regular, long-term use rather than occasional supplementation. Consistency helps establish healthy lifelong routines while supporting your kitten throughout growth, development, and adulthood.

Within our cattery, supportive health care begins before your kitten goes home. Introducing these products early allows your kitten to become familiar with their daily routine, making it easy for families to continue the same practices after bringing their kitten home. Maintaining consistency during this transition helps support your kitten's continued health, comfort, and well-being while allowing established routines to continue with minimal disruption.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Taurine

Taurine is an essential amino acid required for normal feline health because cats cannot produce the taurine they need on their own.

- Taurine must be supplied through diet and supplementation to support:
 - cardiac health
 - retinal and vision health
 - digestive and bile acid function
 - nervous system function
 - immune system function
 - general cellular health
- Taurine plays an important role throughout every stage of your kitten's life and contributes to normal body function, healthy growth, and well-being.
- Daily taurine supplementation forms part of the supportive health care program used within our cattery and is continued throughout adulthood.

Recommended Taurine Support

- NOW Foods 100% Pure Taurine Powder is strongly recommended.
- Place the taurine powder in a clean, labelled, moisture-proof salt shaker with a secure lid for easy daily use. This helps protect the powder from moisture while making daily supplementation quick, convenient, and consistent.
- Using the salt shaker method, a light sprinkle (approximately 1/8 teaspoon or 500 mg) should be added to wet food once daily as part of your kitten's wellness routine.
- Gently mix the taurine into the food before serving to help ensure even distribution throughout the meal.
- Your kitten is already accustomed to receiving taurine as part of their daily routine before going home, allowing this routine to continue seamlessly after arrival in their new home.

Daily Omega-3 Fatty Acids Supplementation

Omega-3 fatty acids play an important role in supporting your kitten's health and well-being throughout life. When provided as part of a balanced diet and comprehensive wellness program, they contribute to healthy growth and the normal function of multiple body systems.

- Providing a quality omega-3 supplement supports:
 - skin and coat health
 - inflammatory balance
 - cardiovascular wellness
 - joint health
 - immune system function
 - general organ health
- Omega-3 supplements should provide meaningful levels of EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid), the beneficial omega-3 fatty acids responsible for many of the health benefits, rather than simply listing “fish oil” on the label.
- Daily omega-3 supplementation forms part of the supportive health care program used within our cattery.

Recommended Omega Support

- Ubavet Ubameg Omega-3 Capsules are an excellent option and provide EPA and DHA support as part of your kitten’s daily wellness program. This product is only available through your veterinarian.
- If Ubavet Ubameg Omega-3 Capsules are unavailable, Vetoquinol AllerG-3 Capsules (Small Breeds) are a suitable alternative and are available through Amazon.
- The recommended dosage for kittens is one capsule daily.

How to Administer Omega-3 Capsules

- Using a pair of scissors, cut the tip off the capsule.
- Hold the capsule between the thumb and forefinger of your dominant hand.
- Gently squeeze the contents of the capsule directly onto your kitten’s tongue.
- This is the most effective method of ensuring your kitten receives the full recommended dose.
- Your kitten is already accustomed to this method of administration before going home, making it a quick and simple part of their daily routine.

Daily Multivitamin Supplementation

- Providing a daily multivitamin helps complement a complete and balanced diet as part of a comprehensive supportive health care program.
- A balanced multivitamin provides additional vitamins, minerals, and digestive enzymes that support normal growth and development, immune system function, digestive health, normal body function, and well-being throughout every stage of life.
- Daily multivitamin supplementation forms part of the supportive health care program used within our cattery and contributes to a comprehensive approach to lifelong health and wellness.

Recommended Multivitamin Support

- Ubavet Multifel Vitamins are an excellent option and are used as part of the supportive health care program within our cattery.
- The recommended dosage for kittens is one vitamin daily.
- This product is available exclusively through your veterinarian.

How to Administer Ubavet Multifel Vitamins

- Your kitten is already accustomed to receiving Ubavet Multifel Vitamins before going home.
- Break one vitamin in half and place both halves in front of your kitten. Allow your kitten to eat the vitamin on their own.
- Most kittens readily consume the vitamin as part of their normal daily routine, making administration quick, simple, and stress-free.

Daily Probiotic Support

- Daily probiotic supplementation is recommended as part of a comprehensive approach to digestive wellness.
- Probiotics help support a healthy and diverse gastrointestinal microbiome, the community of beneficial microorganisms that naturally lives within the digestive tract. This community supports stool quality, nutrient absorption, immune function, and digestive wellness.

- A balanced gastrointestinal microbiome also contributes to normal digestive function and helps support your kitten's health and well-being throughout every stage of life.
- Consistency is important. Probiotics are most beneficial when provided as part of a regular daily routine. Daily supplementation helps maintain a healthy and balanced gastrointestinal microbiome while supporting long-term digestive health.
- Daily probiotic supplementation forms part of the supportive health care program used within our cattery and contributes to a comprehensive approach to lifelong health and wellness.

Recommended Probiotic Support

- Felix's Flora by Adored Beast Apothecary is currently used within our cattery and is our preferred probiotic for daily digestive support.
- Felix's Flora is a species-appropriate probiotic formulated specifically for cats.
- Use as directed on the product label as part of a long-term approach to digestive wellness and microbiome support.

How to Administer Daily Probiotics

- Daily probiotics can be mixed into one of your kitten's wet food meals.
- Alternatively, the probiotic may be mixed with a small amount of Churu and offered on a plate.
- Your kitten is already accustomed to receiving their daily probiotic before going home, making this a simple and familiar part of their daily routine.

Obtaining Your Supplements Before Bringing Your Kitten Home

- To ensure a smooth transition and avoid interruptions to your kitten's established routine, we strongly recommend obtaining all recommended supplements before bringing your kitten home.
- Ubavet Multifel Daily Vitamins and Ubavet Ubameg Omega-3 are veterinary-exclusive products and are not available through traditional pet stores. Before bringing your kitten home, contact your veterinary clinic to determine whether they participate in My Vet Store or can order these products directly through Ubavet. If your clinic participates in

My Vet Store, these products can be ordered online and, depending on the shipping option selected, delivered either to your veterinary clinic or directly to your home.

- If Ubavet Ubameg Omega-3 Capsules are unavailable, Vetoquinol AllerG-3 Capsules (Small Breeds) are a suitable alternative and can be purchased through Amazon.
- Adored Beast Apothecary Felix's Flora is not available through pet stores and will need to be ordered in advance.
- NOW 100% Pure Taurine Powder can be conveniently purchased through Amazon.

Beginning at 8 weeks of age, our kittens are introduced to Ubavet Multifel Daily Vitamins, Ubavet Ubameg Omega-3, Adored Beast Apothecary Felix's Flora, and NOW 100% Pure Taurine Powder as part of their daily health and wellness program. By the time your kitten joins your family, these supplements have become an established part of their daily routine.

For this reason, we strongly recommend having all recommended supplements on hand before bringing your kitten home. Continuing the same supplementation program from the day your kitten arrives helps maintain consistency, avoids unnecessary interruptions to their established routine, and continues the standard of care they have received while in our cattery.

Links to the exact Adored Beast Apothecary Felix's Flora probiotic, NOW 100% Pure Taurine Powder, and the salt shaker used in our cattery, along with information on where these products can be purchased, can be found in the Recommended Products and Resources section of this guide.

Please note that the links provided for Ubavet Multifel Daily Vitamins and Ubavet Ubameg Omega-3 are for product information only. As veterinary-exclusive products, they must be obtained through your veterinary clinic either directly or through My Vet Store, if your clinic participates.

Important Reminders

Supportive health care products are intended to complement a well-managed daily care routine. When used consistently and appropriately, they become one part of a comprehensive approach to supporting your kitten's long-term health and well-being.

No supplement replaces nutrition, hydration, oral care, maintaining a healthy body condition, environmental enrichment, routine observation, or daily care. These daily practices continue to provide the foundation for lifelong health and well-being, while supportive health care products complement those efforts.

Supportive health care products should be selected carefully and used appropriately as part of your kitten's care plan. Consistency is important. The greatest benefit is achieved when these products become part of your kitten's regular daily routine rather than being used only occasionally or after concerns develop.

Appropriate nutrition, oral care, environmental enrichment, routine observation, and supportive health care products all work together to support long-term health and well-being. No single product or supplement can provide these benefits on its own.

Preventative care and early attention to small changes can help reduce the risk of more significant health concerns over time. Becoming familiar with your kitten's normal appetite, water intake, activity level, coat quality, body condition, stool quality, and comfort allows changes to be recognized early while supporting informed decisions throughout life.

SUPPORTING LONG-TERM JOINT HEALTH

Why This Matters

Maine Coons are a large, slow-maturing breed with substantial bone, muscle, and body mass. Because of their size and extended growth period, long-term joint health begins early through nutrition, maintaining a healthy body condition, regular movement, and an environment that encourages safe physical activity.

Joint health is influenced by daily lifestyle habits, body weight, muscle development, and the environment in which a kitten grows and develops. While genetics contribute to musculoskeletal development, the choices made throughout kittenhood also play an important role in establishing the foundation for lifelong comfort, mobility, physical confidence, and well-being.

Because Maine Coons continue growing and maturing longer than many other breeds, maintaining healthy habits throughout this important developmental period is especially important. Bones, joints, muscles, ligaments, tendons, and connective tissues continue to develop as your kitten grows, making daily care an important part of supporting healthy physical development.

Regular play, climbing, exploration, and age-appropriate exercise encourage muscle development, coordination, balance, and body awareness. Strong, well-developed muscles help support and protect growing joints while promoting normal movement and lifelong mobility.

Providing a safe and thoughtfully designed home environment is equally important. Stable climbing structures, secure footing, appropriate opportunities for exercise, and safe landing surfaces help reduce unnecessary strain on growing joints while allowing kittens to explore, climb, jump, and play with confidence.

The Recommendations throughout this section are intended to help support healthy physical development during kittenhood while promoting long-term joint health, mobility, comfort, and physical well-being throughout your cat's life.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Maintain a Healthy Body Weight

- Maintaining a healthy body condition is one of the most important factors in supporting long-term joint health.
- Excess body weight places unnecessary strain on joints, ligaments, tendons, connective tissues, and mobility over time. Even small amounts of excess weight can increase stress on developing joints, particularly in a large, slow-maturing breed such as the Maine Coon.
- Healthy weight management should begin early and remain part of your kitten's lifelong care.
- Growing kittens require appropriate nutrition to support healthy development. The goal is not to restrict growth, but to maintain a healthy body condition while allowing steady, appropriate growth throughout kittenhood and adolescence.
- Regularly monitoring your kitten's body condition, muscle development, and growth helps support healthy physical development while reducing unnecessary stress on developing joints.
- Maintaining a healthy body condition throughout life helps support comfort, mobility, physical activity, and musculoskeletal health as your cat grows and matures.

Encourage Regular Movement and Exercise

- Daily play and physical activity support muscle development, coordination, balance, and physical conditioning.
- Strong muscles help support and protect joints while promoting normal movement throughout every stage of life.
- Regular movement is an important part of healthy physical development and contributes to lifelong mobility, flexibility, and physical confidence.
- Providing a variety of opportunities for climbing, chasing, exploring, scratching, and interactive play encourages natural movement while helping kittens develop strength, coordination, and body awareness.
- Exercise should always be voluntary and enjoyable. Encouraging natural play and exploration allows kittens to develop physically at their own pace while building confidence and coordination.

Cat Exercise Wheels (Optional)

- A quality exercise wheel can provide an additional source of daily exercise, mental stimulation, and environmental enrichment, particularly for active breeds such as the Maine Coon.
- Cat exercise wheels are not essential, and many cats live healthy, active lives without one. However, they may be a worthwhile consideration for families interested in providing an additional opportunity for voluntary exercise and enrichment.
- If you are considering a wheel, size is important. The wheel should be large enough to allow your kitten to run comfortably while maintaining a natural spinal posture.
- The ZiggyDoo Cat Wheel features a 48-inch diameter and is specifically designed for larger, long-bodied breeds such as the Maine Coon. Its larger diameter promotes a more natural running posture by reducing excessive spinal flexion during exercise.
- Introduce the wheel gradually using positive reinforcement and allow your kitten to explore and use it at their own pace. Some kittens will readily begin using a wheel, while others may require additional time and encouragement.

Provide Safe Stable Climbing Structures

- Stable climbing structures play an important role in supporting healthy physical development while encouraging natural feline behaviours.
- Climbing encourages strength, balance, coordination, confidence, agility, and body awareness while providing valuable opportunities for daily exercise, exploration, and environmental enrichment.
- Kittens and cats naturally seek elevated locations within their environment. Height provides a sense of security, allows them to observe their surroundings from a safe vantage point, and provides a quiet place to rest away from household activity when desired.
- Provide sturdy, stable climbing structures that are appropriate for your kitten's size and stage of development. Cat trees, shelves, and other climbing structures should not wobble, shift, or tip during normal use.
- As your kitten grows, replace smaller climbing structures with larger, more robust options capable of safely supporting the size, weight, and strength of an adult Maine Coon.
- Providing climbing opportunities at a variety of heights encourages natural movement while allowing your kitten to develop physically at their own pace.
- Some families from Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery have chosen to build climbing walls for their kittens, providing additional opportunities for climbing, exploration, exercise, environmental enrichment, and healthy physical development.
- If you choose to build a climbing wall, ensure it is designed and installed with safety as the highest priority. Shelves, perches, bridges, walkways, and all mounting hardware should be securely fastened into appropriate wall supports and capable of safely supporting the size, weight, and activity of an adult Maine Coon.
- Place interlocking foam mats, carpeting, or another suitable cushioned, non-slip surface beneath climbing walls, cat trees, and other elevated climbing structures. This provides improved traction and a more forgiving landing surface, helping reduce the risk of injury should your kitten slip or fall.
- Climbing walls are not a requirement. However, for families with the available space, resources, and interest, they can provide an excellent opportunity to increase vertical

space while encouraging climbing, exploration, confidence, agility, and natural feline behaviours.

- If you are considering building a climbing wall, numerous designs and ideas can be found online. The Catastrophic Creations – Designing Your Cat Wall article provides helpful guidance on planning layouts, shelf spacing, safety considerations, and creating a safe climbing environment.
- Regularly inspect cat trees, climbing walls, shelves, hammocks, bridges, scratching posts, and scratching surfaces for loose fittings, fraying, excessive wear, or damage. Repair or replace them, as necessary. These items do not last forever and should be replaced when they no longer provide a safe and stable climbing environment.
- Regularly vacuum climbing structures and scratching surfaces to remove accumulated fur, dust, and debris. Regular cleaning helps maintain a clean environment while prolonging the life of these items.

Support Safe Footing

- Safe footing plays an important role in supporting healthy joint development and normal movement throughout every stage of life.
- Slippery flooring can reduce traction, increasing the risk of slips, awkward landings, and unnecessary strain on developing joints, muscles, ligaments, and tendons.
- Hardwood, laminate, tile, and other smooth flooring surfaces can become particularly slippery during running, jumping, and play.
- Where possible, provide secure footing in areas where your kitten spends the most time playing, climbing, and landing. Strategically placing rugs, runners, carpeting, or interlocking anti-fatigue mats can help improve traction while providing a more forgiving landing surface.

Recommended Floor Support

- Interlocking anti-fatigue mats are used throughout the nursery areas within our cattery.
- Kitten-sized cat trees, scratching surfaces, and other climbing structures are positioned on these mats to provide a cushioned, non-slip landing surface when kittens climb, jump, and play.

- The mats help improve traction while providing a more forgiving landing surface, helping reduce unnecessary impact on growing joints during everyday activity.
- Cats and kittens alike enjoy resting, playing, and scratching on the mats.
- Inspect the mats regularly for signs of wear or damage. Replace them if they become torn or heavily chewed, as ingestion of foam material may result in an intestinal obstruction.

Support Safe Jumping and Landing

- Jumping and landing are normal, everyday feline behaviours and play an important role in healthy physical development.
- During kittenhood, bones, joints, muscles, ligaments, and tendons continue to grow and develop. Providing safe opportunities to jump, climb, and land helps support normal physical development while reducing unnecessary strain on growing bodies.
- Stable climbing structures, secure footing, and appropriate landing surfaces all contribute to safer movement and greater confidence during play and exploration.
- Avoid encouraging your kitten to jump from excessive heights. Instead, provide a variety of climbing structures and elevated resting areas that allow your kitten to develop confidence, coordination, and physical ability gradually.
- As your kitten grows, progressively larger and more appropriately sized climbing structures can be introduced to safely support their increasing size, strength, and athletic ability.
- Providing a safe environment that encourages natural movement allows your kitten to develop balance, coordination, agility, and body awareness while reducing the likelihood of slips, awkward landings, and unnecessary injury.
- Healthy physical development occurs naturally through regular play, climbing, exploration, and daily activity. Allow your kitten to progress at their own pace without forcing or encouraging activities beyond their current physical ability.

Environmental Support Matters

- Your kitten's environment plays an important role in supporting healthy physical development, confidence, and well-being.

- A thoughtfully designed home encourages natural movement through climbing, jumping, running, exploring, scratching, and play while supporting normal muscle development, coordination, balance, and agility.
- Providing a variety of stable climbing structures, appropriate scratching surfaces, secure footing, safe landing areas, and opportunities for daily exercise allows your kitten to express natural feline behaviours while supporting long-term joint health and lifelong mobility.
- Environmental enrichment also supports your kitten's emotional well-being. Opportunities to climb, observe their surroundings from elevated locations, explore new environments, solve problems, and engage in interactive play help reduce boredom while encouraging confidence and independence.
- Small changes to your home's environment can make a difference throughout your kitten's life. Planning, regular maintenance, and appropriate environmental enrichment all contribute to healthy physical development, comfort, confidence, and quality of life.
- Supporting long-term joint health is not achieved through a single product or recommendation. Rather, it is the result of consistent daily care, appropriate nutrition, maintaining a healthy body condition, regular exercise, and a safe, thoughtfully designed environment that supports your kitten throughout every stage of life.

Important Reminders

Long-term joint health begins during kittenhood and is supported through consistent daily care, appropriate nutrition, regular physical activity, and a safe, thoughtfully designed environment.

Maintaining a healthy body condition, encouraging regular exercise, and providing appropriate environmental support all contribute to lifelong mobility, comfort, and physical well-being.

Kittens should be encouraged to climb, jump, explore, and play naturally in a safe environment. Allow physical development to occur at your kitten's own pace without encouraging activities beyond their current abilities.

Regularly inspect climbing structures, scratching surfaces, and play areas to ensure they remain clean, stable, and safe as your kitten grows.

As your kitten matures, continue to adapt their environment by providing larger, sturdier climbing structures and maintaining secure footing throughout the home to accommodate the size, strength, and athletic ability of an adult Maine Coon.

Joint health is supported by the cumulative effect of many small decisions made throughout your kitten's life. Appropriate nutrition, maintaining a healthy body condition, regular physical activity, safe climbing opportunities, secure footing, thoughtful environmental design, and supportive daily care all work together to promote lifelong mobility, comfort, and physical well-being. There is no single product, supplement, or recommendation that can replace the benefits of consistent daily care.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT AND SAFE HOME SETUP

Why This Matters

A kitten's environment plays an important role in supporting physical health, emotional well-being, confidence, development, and daily comfort. The environment you provide influences how your kitten learns, explores, plays, rests, interacts with their family, and responds to the world around them.

Environmental enrichment encourages natural feline behaviours such as climbing, scratching, exploring, problem-solving, playing, and social interaction. Providing appropriate opportunities for these behaviours helps support healthy physical development while reducing boredom, frustration, and unwanted behaviours that may develop when a kitten's physical and mental needs are not adequately met.

Mental stimulation is just as important as physical activity. A stimulating environment encourages curiosity, confidence, learning, adaptability, and healthy behavioural development while allowing your kitten to develop important physical and cognitive skills through normal daily activities. Regular opportunities to investigate new objects, solve simple challenges, and engage in interactive play help keep intelligent kittens mentally engaged throughout the day.

Safety is equally important. Kittens are naturally curious and investigate almost everything within their environment. A thoughtfully planned home, combined with regular inspection of toys, climbing structures, scratching surfaces, and play areas, helps reduce the risk of injury while allowing your kitten to explore safely and confidently. As your kitten grows, their environment should continue to evolve to meet their changing physical abilities, confidence, and activity level.

Kittens form strong bonds with their families and thrive on regular interaction and companionship. They should not be routinely left alone for extended periods of time. Daily interaction, play, guidance, and shared experiences contribute significantly to emotional well-

being while strengthening the bond between you and your kitten. When you are away from home, providing a safe, enriching environment helps keep your kitten mentally engaged until you return.

A well-designed home environment provides far more than entertainment. It supports healthy physical development, emotional well-being, confidence, learning, natural behaviours, and quality of life. Small changes made throughout your home can have an impact on your kitten's daily experiences while helping them develop into a confident, well-adjusted adult.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Daily Play and Physical Activity

- Daily play and physical activity should be an important part of your kitten's routine.
- Interactive play provides physical exercise while encouraging natural feline behaviours such as chasing, stalking, pouncing, climbing, jumping, and exploration.
- Daily play also provides valuable mental stimulation while encouraging confidence, coordination, and healthy behavioural development.
- Kittens benefit from regular interaction with their family every day. Play, handling, grooming, training, and routine care all contribute to emotional well-being while strengthening the bond between you and your kitten.
- Kittens should not be routinely left alone for extended periods of time. Daily social interaction, companionship, and shared experiences are important for healthy emotional and behavioural development.

Toy Variety and Mental Stimulation

- Provide a variety of kitten-safe toys and enrichment activities to encourage curiosity, exploration, and independent play.

- Different toys encourage different types of play and mental stimulation. Providing a variety of options helps keep your kitten physically active while encouraging natural behaviours.
- Rotate toys regularly to maintain your kitten's interest and encourage continued engagement.
- Puzzle feeders encourage natural problem-solving behaviours while providing additional mental stimulation during meals or treat time.
- Cat tunnels encourage exploration, play, confidence, and independent activity while providing another form of environmental enrichment.
- Families are encouraged to introduce additional kitten-safe toys and enrichment activities as their kitten grows. New experiences help maintain interest while supporting healthy behavioural development.

Safe Toys

- Always select toys that are appropriate for your kitten's age, size, and stage of development.
- Regularly inspect toys for loose parts, excessive wear, or damage. Broken or damaged toys should be repaired or replaced.
- Keep play areas clean, organized, and free of unnecessary hazards that could interfere with safe play and exploration.
- Interactive wand toys should always be used under direct supervision and stored safely after each play session.
- Strings, ribbons, elastic bands, hair ties, feathers, and other small swallowable objects should never be left accessible, as they may present a choking hazard or cause an intestinal obstruction if swallowed.
- If you are ever uncertain whether a toy is safe, supervise your kitten during play until you are confident it can be used safely.

Important Reminders

Environmental enrichment is an ongoing commitment. Regularly introducing new toys, activities, and experiences helps maintain curiosity, encourages continued learning, and supports healthy physical and behavioural development.

Interactive play, mental stimulation, and daily social interaction are essential components of healthy development. Meeting these needs helps reduce boredom while encouraging confidence, appropriate behaviour, and a strong bond with your family.

Always supervise your kitten when introducing new toys or enrichment activities. Inspect toys regularly and promptly repair or replace damaged items to help maintain a safe play environment.

As your kitten grows, regularly reassess their environment to ensure toys, enrichment activities, resting areas, and play spaces remain safe, appropriate, and stimulating for their changing size, confidence, and activity level.

Kittens thrive in homes where they are included as part of the family. They should not be routinely left alone for extended periods of time, as regular interaction and companionship are important for healthy emotional and behavioural development.

A safe, stimulating, and thoughtfully designed home environment provides far more than entertainment. It supports healthy physical development, emotional well-being, confidence, learning, natural behaviours, and quality of life throughout every stage of your kitten's life.

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

Why This Matters

Many kittens enjoy experiencing new sights, sounds, scents, textures, and environments. When introduced gradually and in a safe, controlled manner, outdoor experiences can provide valuable environmental enrichment, mental stimulation, physical activity, and opportunities for exploration. These experiences encourage curiosity, build confidence, and help kittens adapt to new situations while allowing them to safely experience the world around them.

Outdoor enrichment provides sensory experiences that cannot be fully replicated indoors. Watching birds, listening to leaves rustling in the wind, feeling different surfaces beneath their

paws, smelling fresh air, and experiencing changing environments all provide valuable mental stimulation while encouraging natural feline curiosity and exploration.

Many families choose to include their kittens in everyday activities such as walks using a harness and leash, visits in enclosed pet strollers or secure cat backpacks, travelling, camping, or relaxing together in a secure patio. When introduced gradually using positive experiences, many kittens learn to enjoy these activities and become confident companions. Every kitten is an individual, however, and each should be allowed to progress at their own pace.

Outdoor enrichment is entirely optional. Kittens can live healthy, fulfilling lives exclusively indoors when provided with appropriate environmental enrichment, regular interaction, opportunities for play, exploration, and mental stimulation. For families who wish to include outdoor experiences, careful planning, appropriate equipment, and ongoing supervision are essential.

Free roaming is never recommended and, as stated in our contract, kittens and cats from Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery are never to be permitted outdoors unsupervised. Controlled outdoor experiences allow your kitten to enjoy the benefits of the outdoors while helping protect them from the many preventable risks associated with unrestricted outdoor access. The goal is not to spend time outdoors, but to do so in a manner that prioritizes your kitten's health, safety, and lifelong well-being.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Introduce Outdoor Experiences Gradually

- Outdoor experiences should always be introduced gradually and at a pace that allows your kitten to remain comfortable, confident, and successful.
- Every kitten is an individual. Some kittens readily embrace new environments, while others require additional time, patience, and encouragement before they feel comfortable exploring unfamiliar surroundings.
- Begin with short, positive experiences in quiet, low-stress environments before gradually introducing busier locations, longer outings, or additional distractions.

- Allow your kitten to observe and investigate their surroundings at their own pace. Curiosity should always be encouraged but never forced.
- Watch your kitten's body language throughout every outing. If your kitten appears frightened, overwhelmed, or stressed, calmly return to a familiar environment and try again another day.
- Building confidence takes time. Positive experiences help create lifelong confidence, while rushing the process may result in fear, anxiety, or reluctance to participate in future outings.
- Outdoor enrichment should always be an enjoyable experience for both you and your kitten. Every outing should end on a positive note, allowing your kitten to return home feeling safe, relaxed, and successful.

Catios

- A secure catio provides an excellent opportunity for safe outdoor enrichment while protecting your kitten from the risks associated with free roaming.
- Catios allow kittens and cats to enjoy fresh air, natural sunlight, new sights, sounds, scents, and changing weather while remaining safely contained.
- Our family built the catio used at our cattery. It provides our cats with regular opportunities to safely experience the outdoors while remaining protected within a secure enclosure.
- Whenever possible, catios should be securely attached to the home and include window or door access, allowing your kitten to move freely between the house and the catio as they choose.
- Ensure the catio is fully enclosed, escape-proof, and constructed using materials capable of safely containing an adult Maine Coon.
- Regularly inspect the catio for loose fittings, damaged screening, deteriorating materials, or other potential escape routes. Repair any damage promptly.
- Kittens and cats should not have access to the catio at night due to the increased activity of predators and other potential hazards after dark.

- A well-designed catio provides valuable environmental enrichment while allowing your kitten to safely enjoy the benefits of the outdoors throughout every stage of life.

Harness and Leash Training

- Harness and leash training provides a safe way for your kitten to experience the outdoors while remaining under your direct supervision and control.
- Training should always begin indoors. Allow your kitten to wear the harness around the house for short periods, giving them time to become familiar with how it feels before attaching a leash or introducing outdoor experiences.
- It is common for kittens to initially freeze, lie down, roll over, walk awkwardly, or refuse to move when first wearing a harness. These reactions are completely normal and usually improve as your kitten becomes more comfortable with the unfamiliar sensation.
- Keep initial training sessions short, positive, and rewarding. Offer praise, play, or treats while your kitten is wearing the harness to help create a positive association. Gradually increase the amount of time your kitten wears the harness as their confidence grows.
- Once your kitten is comfortable wearing the harness indoors, gradually introduce the leash before progressing to quiet outdoor environments.
- Allow your kitten to explore at their own pace. Avoid pulling on the leash or attempting to direct every movement. Outdoor experiences should encourage confidence, curiosity, and exploration rather than creating stress.
- Choose quiet locations with minimal distractions for your kitten's first outdoor experiences. As your kitten becomes more confident, gradually introduce new environments, sights, sounds, and experiences.
- Always use a properly fitted harness designed specifically for cats. A properly fitted harness should be secure enough to prevent escape while remaining comfortable and allowing normal movement.
- Before every outing, inspect the harness, leash, and all attachment points to ensure they remain secure and in good working condition.
- Never attach a leash or safety tether directly to your kitten's collar, as collars are not designed to safely restrain a cat during outdoor activities.

- Never leave your kitten unattended while wearing a harness or leash.

Enclosed Pet Strollers and Secure Cat Backpacks

- Enclosed pet strollers and secure cat backpacks designed specifically for cats provide another safe way to introduce your kitten to new environments while maintaining safety and security.
- These options allow your kitten to experience fresh air, natural sunlight, new sights, sounds, scents, and changing environments while remaining safely contained.
- Many families use enclosed pet strollers and secure cat backpacks for walks, outings, travel, veterinary appointments, camping, and other everyday activities.
- Introduce your kitten to the stroller or backpack indoors before venturing outdoors. Allow them time to explore, investigate, and become comfortable with it before their first outing.
- Begin with short outings in quiet environments, gradually introducing longer outings and new experiences as your kitten becomes more comfortable.
- Whenever possible, attach the internal safety tether to your kitten's properly fitted harness before opening the enclosure. Never attach a safety tether directly to your kitten's collar.
- Before every outing, inspect the stroller or backpack, zippers, mesh panels, fasteners, and safety tether to ensure they remain secure and in good working condition.
- Never leave your kitten unattended inside a stroller or backpack.
- Enclosed pet strollers and secure cat backpacks provide a practical way to safely include your kitten in family activities while helping protect them from the risks associated with unrestricted outdoor access.

Travel and New Experiences

- Many families choose to include their kittens in everyday activities such as travelling, camping, visiting family and friends, or exploring new places together.
- When introduced gradually and through positive experiences, many kittens learn to enjoy travelling and become confident companions.

- Travelling provides opportunities for environmental enrichment by exposing your kitten to new sights, sounds, scents, and environments while encouraging confidence and adaptability.
- Every kitten is an individual. Some readily adapt to travelling, while others require additional time and experience before becoming comfortable in unfamiliar environments.
- Always transport your kitten in a secure carrier, enclosed pet stroller, secure cat backpack, or other appropriate restraint designed specifically for cats.
- Never allow your kitten to travel unrestrained inside a moving vehicle.
- During longer journeys, plan ahead to ensure your kitten has regular opportunities for water, meals, litter box access when appropriate, and a comfortable environment throughout the trip.
- Before travelling, confirm that your destination, accommodations, or planned activities are safe and suitable for kittens.
- Travelling is not essential, but for families who enjoy including their cats in everyday activities, it can provide valuable enrichment while strengthening the bond between you and your kitten.

Outdoor Safety

- Outdoor experiences should always occur in a controlled and supervised manner.
- As stated in our contract, kittens and cats adopted from Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery are never to be permitted outdoors unsupervised.
- Free roaming is never recommended. While the outdoors can provide valuable enrichment, unrestricted outdoor access exposes cats to numerous preventable risks that may result in serious injury, illness, or death.
- A fenced yard does not guarantee containment or safety. Cats are agile climbers and escape remains possible, even with high fencing.
- Outdoor safety should never rely solely on fencing or physical barriers. Careful supervision and secure containment remain essential during all outdoor activities.
- Potential outdoor hazards include motor vehicles, predators, loose dogs, wildlife, toxic plants, pesticides, parasites, infectious diseases, extreme weather, and intentional cruelty.

- Before every outing, consider the surrounding environment to ensure it is appropriate for your kitten. Choose locations that minimize unnecessary risks and avoid areas with heavy traffic, off-leash dogs, or other potential hazards.
- Always ensure your kitten has access to fresh drinking water and avoid prolonged outdoor activity during periods of excessive heat or cold.
- Outdoor enrichment should always prioritize your kitten's safety and well-being. The goal is to provide positive experiences while minimizing unnecessary risk.

Important Reminders

Outdoor enrichment is optional. Kittens can live healthy, fulfilling lives exclusively indoors when provided with appropriate environmental enrichment, regular interaction, mental stimulation, and opportunities for play and exploration.

If you choose to introduce your kitten to the outdoors, it should always occur in a controlled and supervised manner using appropriate equipment designed specifically for cats. Your kitten's health, safety, and well-being should remain the highest priority at all times.

Introduce new environments gradually, allowing your kitten to build confidence at their own pace through calm, positive exposure. Some kittens readily adapt to new surroundings, while others benefit from shorter outings and additional time before progressing further.

Regularly inspect harnesses, leashes, carriers, catios, enclosed pet strollers, secure cat backpacks, and other equipment to ensure they remain clean, secure, and in good working condition. Properly fitted and well-maintained equipment plays an important role in keeping your kitten safe.

Free roaming is never recommended and, as stated in our contract, kittens adopted from Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery are never to be permitted outdoors unsupervised.

The confidence, adaptability, and routines established during kittenhood help lay the foundation for a lifetime of safe environmental enrichment. Whether enjoying walks on a harness, relaxing in a secure catio, travelling with the family, or observing nature from a safe enclosure, these activities provide ongoing physical activity, mental stimulation, and enrichment throughout adulthood.

OUTDOOR HAZARDS

Why This Matters

Outdoor experiences provide valuable enrichment, mental stimulation, exercise, and opportunities to explore new sights, sounds, and scents. While these experiences can greatly benefit your kitten's physical and emotional well-being, they also introduce hazards that are not present indoors.

Understanding potential outdoor hazards allows you to plan ahead, reduce unnecessary risks, and provide safe, enjoyable outdoor experiences throughout your kitten's life.

Recommendations

Toxic Outdoor Plants

- Parks, hiking trails, campgrounds, and public green spaces can contain plants that are toxic to cats. Unlike your home, you have no control over what has been planted or is growing naturally.
- Prevent your kitten from chewing leaves, flowers, berries, seeds, or other vegetation while exploring outdoors. Keeping your kitten moving and redirecting their attention away from plants helps reduce the temptation to investigate unfamiliar vegetation.

Mushrooms

- Wild mushrooms can appear in gardens, parks, forests, campgrounds, and other outdoor areas, particularly during damp weather. Many mushroom species are difficult to identify, and some are highly toxic to cats.
- Prevent your kitten from investigating, chewing, or consuming wild mushrooms. If mushrooms appear in your yard, remove them before allowing your kitten access to the area.

Grass Awns (Foxtails)

- Grass awns (foxtails) are sharp, barbed seed heads produced by certain grasses. They can attach to your kitten's coat, become lodged between the toes, or penetrate the skin. Grass awns can also enter the eyes, ears, or nose.

- Avoid allowing your kitten to explore areas containing long, dry grasses once they have gone to seed. After every outdoor adventure, check your kitten's coat, paws, between the toes, ears, and around the eyes for attached grass awns.
- Remove any grass awns attached to the coat before they have an opportunity to migrate deeper into the fur or penetrate the skin.

Bird Droppings

- Bird droppings can contain bacteria, parasites, fungi, and viruses capable of causing illness, including avian influenza.
- Avoid allowing your kitten to investigate, walk through, or consume bird droppings. If your kitten comes into contact with bird droppings, gently clean the affected area using lukewarm water before allowing them to groom themselves.

Standing Water

- Standing water found in puddles, ditches, ponds, bird baths, buckets, and other outdoor containers can contain bacteria, parasites, and other contaminants capable of causing illness.
- Prevent your kitten from drinking from standing water while outdoors. Always carry fresh drinking water and a portable bowl to help keep your kitten hydrated during outdoor adventures.

Blue-Green Algae (Cyanobacteria)

- Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) can develop in ponds, lakes, slow-moving rivers, and other bodies of water, particularly during warm weather. Exposure can occur by drinking contaminated water, swimming, or grooming after contact with contaminated water.
- Avoid allowing your kitten to drink from, swim in, or enter water where blue-green algae may be present. If the water appears discoloured, has surface scum, floating mats, or resembles spilled paint, keep your kitten well away from the area.

Fertilizers, Herbicides, and Lawn and Garden Treatments

- Lawns, gardens, parks, and other public spaces can be treated with fertilizers, herbicides, and other lawn and garden products. These products can remain on grass, plants, and soil after application and may be harmful if your kitten walks through them or ingests them while grooming.

- Avoid areas that have been recently treated and observe any posted warning signs. If your kitten has walked through a treated area, wash their paws using lukewarm water before allowing them to groom themselves.

Slug and Snail Bait

- Slug and snail bait is commonly used in gardens and landscaped areas to control slugs and snails. Many products contain ingredients that are highly toxic to cats and other animals.
- Prevent your kitten from investigating garden beds or areas where slug and snail bait has been applied. If you use slug and snail bait at home, choose pet-safe alternatives whenever possible and follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

Antifreeze

- Antifreeze is highly toxic to kittens and cats. Even a very small amount can result in severe poisoning.
- Prevent your kitten from accessing driveways, garages, workshops, or areas where antifreeze may have been spilled or leaked. Clean any spills immediately and store antifreeze securely out of your kitten's reach.

Road Salt and Ice Melt Products

- Road salt and ice melt products are commonly used on roads, sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots during the winter months. These products can irritate your kitten's paw pads and may cause illness if ingested while grooming.
- Whenever possible, avoid walking through areas that have been recently treated. After returning home, wash your kitten's paws using lukewarm water to remove any salt or ice melt residue before allowing them to groom themselves.

Ticks

- Ticks are commonly found in tall grass, shrubs, wooded areas, and along hiking trails. They attach to animals while feeding and can transmit disease.
- Check your kitten thoroughly after every outdoor adventure, paying particular attention to the head, ears, neck, under the collar or harness, between the toes, and around the tail. Prompt removal of attached ticks helps reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Fleas

- Fleas can be encountered almost anywhere outdoors and may also be brought into the home on people, clothing, or other animals.
- Regularly check your kitten's coat after spending time outdoors, paying particular attention to the neck, under the collar or harness, around the base of the tail, and along the abdomen. Finding fleas early makes them much easier to eliminate.

Mosquitoes

- Mosquitoes are most active during the warmer months, particularly at dawn and dusk. They are commonly found around standing water but also seek shelter in dense vegetation, including hedges and shrubs.
- Mosquito bites can cause irritation, and, in some regions, mosquitoes are capable of transmitting disease.
- Whenever possible, avoid outdoor adventures during periods of heavy mosquito activity. Choosing open, breezy areas and avoiding heavily vegetated areas can help reduce mosquito exposure.

Wildlife

- Wildlife can be encountered in parks, forests, campgrounds, beaches, and even residential neighbourhoods. Although many wild animals will avoid people, they may become defensive if approached, cornered, or protecting their young.
- Keep your kitten under close supervision at all times and avoid allowing them to approach or investigate wild animals. Never allow your kitten to chase, corner, or interact with wildlife, regardless of how calm or approachable the animal may appear. Giving wildlife plenty of space helps protect both your kitten and the animals you encounter.

Unfamiliar Dogs

- Not all dogs are comfortable around cats, regardless of their size or breed. Even a friendly dog can unintentionally injure a kitten through rough play or excitement.
- Never allow your kitten to approach an unfamiliar dog. If a dog owner asks whether your kitten can meet their dog, first ask whether their dog is comfortable around cats. If you have any concerns or are uncertain, politely decline the invitation and continue on your way.

Vehicles and Driveways

- Roads, driveways, and parking lots require additional awareness. Keep your kitten close and remain alert to moving vehicles whenever crossing roads, driveways, or parking lots.
- Never leave your kitten unattended in a parked vehicle, even for a few minutes. Temperatures inside a parked vehicle can rise rapidly, even on relatively mild days, placing your kitten at risk of heatstroke and death.

Hot Pavement

- As air temperatures increase, pavement, asphalt, concrete, artificial turf, and other hard surfaces can become hot enough to burn your kitten's paw pads.
- Whenever possible, choose grassy or shaded routes during warmer weather. Before beginning your walk, place the back of your hand on the pavement for several seconds. If it is too hot for your hand, it is too hot for your kitten's paws.

Extreme Heat

- Hot weather and high humidity increase the risk of overheating during outdoor adventures.
- Whenever possible, plan outdoor adventures during the cooler morning or evening hours. Carry a bottle of fresh water and a collapsible water bowl, avoid prolonged activity in direct sunlight, and provide access to natural shade whenever possible.
- Watch your kitten closely throughout your outdoor adventure. If your kitten appears uncomfortable, begins seeking shade, or becomes reluctant to continue walking or exploring, end the outdoor adventure and move to a cool, shaded area. Offer fresh drinking water using the collapsible bowl and allow your kitten to rest before deciding whether to continue or return home.

Extreme Cold

- Cold temperatures, freezing rain, snow, and wind can quickly make outdoor adventures uncomfortable for your kitten.
- Keep outdoor adventures shorter during cold weather and watch your kitten closely for signs that they are becoming uncomfortable. If your kitten begins lifting their paws, shivering, or becomes reluctant to continue walking or exploring, end the outdoor

adventure and move indoors or to a warm vehicle. Allow your kitten to warm up and rest before deciding whether to continue or return home.

Fishing Hooks and Fishing Line

- Fishing hooks and discarded fishing line can be found around lakes, rivers, beaches, docks, and other popular fishing areas. Hooks can become embedded in the mouth, paws, or skin, while fishing line can cause serious injury if swallowed or wrapped around a limb.
- Keep your kitten away from discarded fishing equipment and avoid allowing them to investigate or play with fishing hooks or fishing line. Remain on designated walking paths whenever possible and watch where your kitten is exploring.

Sharp Objects and Broken Glass

- Broken glass, sharp metal, discarded cans, and other sharp objects can be found in parks, parking lots, beaches, trails, and other public spaces.
- Remain aware of your surroundings and prevent your kitten from walking through areas containing broken glass or other sharp debris. Choosing clean, well-maintained walking routes helps reduce the risk of injury.

Important Reminders

You are responsible for your kitten's health, safety, and well-being throughout their life. Every decision you make, from choosing where to explore to recognizing potential hazards before your kitten encounters them, contributes to keeping them safe during outdoor adventures.

Knowledge is one of the most valuable tools you can carry outdoors. Learning to recognize toxic plants, wild mushrooms, grass awns, bird droppings, blue-green algae, treated lawns, standing water, wildlife, and other environmental hazards allows you to prevent many unnecessary risks before they occur.

No outdoor environment is completely predictable. Parks, beaches, trails, campgrounds, neighbourhoods, and even your own yard can change with the seasons, weather, maintenance activities, and wildlife. Taking a few moments to assess your surroundings before every outing helps you identify potential hazards before your kitten begins to explore.

Outdoor enrichment should always balance exploration with safety. Remaining observant, planning ahead, and making informed decisions help ensure your kitten can safely enjoy the physical, behavioural, and emotional benefits of spending time outdoors.

Understanding potential hazards is not about creating fear. It is about developing the knowledge, awareness, and judgement needed to make safe decisions throughout your kitten's life.

HOUSEHOLD SAFETY AND COMMON HAZARDS

Why This Matters

Kittens are naturally curious, playful, and explore their surroundings with little understanding of danger. Climbing, chewing, squeezing into small spaces, investigating cords, batting at objects, and tasting unfamiliar items are all normal kitten behaviours.

Many common household items that appear harmless to people can present risks to kittens and cats. Everyday objects, household products, medications, foods, seasonal decorations, and environmental hazards are frequent causes of preventable injury, illness, and emergency veterinary visits.

Unlike people, kittens investigate the world using all of their senses. They sniff unfamiliar objects, bat them across the floor, climb onto surfaces, squeeze into confined spaces, chew interesting textures, and frequently explore with their mouths. These natural behaviours are an important part of learning and development, but they also increase the likelihood of accidental exposure to hazards that many families may not immediately recognize.

As kittens grow, their confidence, agility, strength, and curiosity develop rapidly. A kitten that could not reach a countertop one week may easily jump onto it the next. Cupboards may be opened, shelves explored, cords discovered, and objects previously considered out of reach may suddenly become accessible. Regularly reassessing your home from your kitten's perspective helps identify new hazards before they result in injury.

Creating a safe home is not about preventing exploration. Exploration, climbing, play, and curiosity are all essential parts of healthy physical, behavioural, and emotional development. The goal is to provide an environment where your kitten can investigate, learn, and express natural feline behaviours safely while reducing unnecessary risks.

Identifying potential hazards early and preparing your home appropriately helps reduce the risk of preventable accidents, injury, illness, and emergency situations. Small changes, such as

securing electrical cords, removing toxic plants, safely storing medications and household chemicals, and keeping hazardous objects out of reach, can make a difference throughout your kitten's life.

Household safety is not something that is addressed once and forgotten. As your kitten matures into an increasingly capable, athletic, and intelligent adult, new challenges and opportunities for mischief will continue to appear. Regular observation, preparation, and developing safe daily habits all contribute to creating a secure environment that supports healthy development, confidence, comfort, and lifelong well-being.

Recommendations

The Recommendations throughout this section are intended to help families recognize common household hazards and develop practical daily habits that help protect their kitten from preventable injury and illness. While it is impossible to eliminate every potential risk, preparation and ongoing awareness can significantly improve your kitten's safety throughout the home.

Household safety is not achieved through a single change or by purchasing a specific product. Rather, it is the result of many small decisions made every day. Returning potentially hazardous items to their storage location, routinely inspecting your home for new hazards, supervising exploration when appropriate, and maintaining a safe environment all contribute to reducing unnecessary risks.

As your kitten grows, their physical abilities, confidence, curiosity, and problem-solving skills will continue to develop. A kitten that cannot reach a countertop today may easily reach it a few weeks later. Cupboards may be opened, shelves explored, objects knocked from tables, and areas that once appeared inaccessible may suddenly become part of your kitten's daily environment. Regularly reassessing your home from your kitten's perspective allows potential hazards to be identified before accidents occur.

Developing safe daily habits also benefits the entire household. Returning items to their place, promptly cleaning spills, securing hazardous materials, and routinely inspecting your home soon become part of everyday life. These simple routines help create an environment where your kitten can safely climb, explore, investigate, play, and express natural feline behaviours with greater confidence.

Household safety evolves as your kitten grows. New abilities, increased confidence, and greater curiosity introduce new opportunities for exploration and mischief that may not have existed only weeks earlier. Continuing to assess your home, anticipate potential hazards, and adapt your

environment accordingly helps support your kitten's safety, confidence, and well-being throughout every stage of their life.

Toxic Indoor Plants

- Many common household and garden plants are toxic to cats and kittens.
- Lilies are particularly dangerous and should never be present in a home with cats. Every part of the plant, including the flowers, leaves, stems, pollen, and vase water, is highly toxic.
- Before bringing a new plant into your home, confirm that it is safe for cats.
- Regularly review indoor and outdoor plants and remove toxic varieties.
- Remember that as kittens grow, they can reach places that were previously inaccessible.

Dangling Cords and Electrical Hazards

- Electrical cords, blind cords, charger cables, and dangling strings can be attractive to curious kittens.
- Secure, cover, or conceal electrical cords whenever possible to help reduce opportunities for chewing and play.
- Blind cords should never hang where a kitten can become entangled.
- Charging cables, headphone cords, and other loose cords should not be left dangling where they are easily accessible.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and cables for damage. Chewed, frayed, or damaged cords should be replaced immediately.

Strings, Thread, Hair Ties, and Rubber Bands

- String, thread, yarn, hair ties, rubber bands, dental floss, fishing line, and similar items should always be kept out of your kitten's reach.
- These items can be extremely dangerous if swallowed and may cause serious injury to the digestive tract or an intestinal obstruction.
- Sewing, knitting, crochet, craft, and fishing supplies should be stored securely when not in use.

- Do not use string, yarn, ribbon, or similar items as toys during play.
- Regularly inspect your home for dropped or overlooked items that could present a hazard to your kitten.

Human Foods

- Many foods that are safe for people can be harmful or toxic to cats. Common examples include chocolate, onions, garlic, chives, grapes, raisins, alcohol, caffeine, foods containing xylitol, and raw bread dough.
- Do not intentionally feed your kitten table scraps or allow access to food left unattended on countertops, tables, or other accessible surfaces. Curious kittens will often investigate food left within reach and may consume foods that are unsafe.
- While many foods known to be harmful or toxic to cats have been identified, this is not a complete list. We strongly encourage families to educate themselves about foods that are harmful or toxic to cats and to verify the safety of any food before intentionally offering it to their kitten.

Shopping Bags

- Shopping bags with handles present a strangulation and entanglement hazard for kittens and cats.
- Kittens and cats are naturally attracted to shopping bags and will climb inside, chew, hide, and play with them.
- Do not leave shopping bags where your kitten can access them.
- Store shopping bags safely when not in use.
- Dispose of damaged or unwanted shopping bags immediately.

Garbage Cans

- Garbage cans contain household waste that can present a risk of injury or ingestion to an exploring kitten.
- Keep garbage cans securely closed to prevent your kitten from gaining access.

- Food wrappers, used plastic wrap, broken or damaged plastic containers, disposable razors, and other household waste should be discarded promptly.
- Empty garbage regularly and avoid allowing waste to accumulate.
- Clean garbage cans routinely to help reduce odours that may attract your kitten.

Food Waste Bins

- Small countertop food waste bins contain discarded food that can be harmful to curious kittens.
- Food scraps, cooked bones, coffee grounds, mouldy food, onion and garlic scraps, fruit pits, and food packaging may present a choking hazard or cause gastrointestinal illness, intestinal obstruction, or poisoning if consumed.
- Keep food waste bins securely closed and out of your kitten's reach.
- Empty food waste bins regularly and clean them routinely to help reduce odours that may attract your kitten.
- Never allow your kitten access to discarded food or food waste.

Recycling Bins

- Recycling bins contain sharp or hazardous materials that can present a risk to an exploring kitten.
- Keep recycling bins out of your kitten's reach.
- Metal cans and metal lids have sharp edges capable of causing cuts or other injuries.
- Empty recycling bins regularly to help prevent recyclable materials from accumulating inside your home.
- Wash recycling bins routinely to help reduce odours that may attract your kitten.

Small Swallowable Objects

- Small household items present a choking hazard and can cause an intestinal obstruction if swallowed.

- Kittens investigate their environment using their mouth and paws, increasing the risk of swallowing small objects.
- Coins, buttons, batteries, beads, marbles, jewelry, LEGO pieces, sewing needles, pins, screws, nails, paper clips, children's toys, and other small household items should always be kept out of your kitten's reach.
- Regularly inspect floors, furniture, and other accessible areas for anything that has been dropped or overlooked.
- Return small household items to their storage location immediately after use.

Open Appliances

- Open household appliances present a serious hazard to exploring kittens.
- Kittens will climb into washing machines, dryers, refrigerators, and dishwashers if the door is left open.
- Household appliances are not toys and should never be used as a place for your kitten to play or hide.
- Always ensure your kitten is not inside the appliance before closing the door or starting a cycle.
- Keep appliance doors closed when not in use to prevent your kitten from gaining access.

Furniture Hazards

- Recliners, sofa beds, and rolling office chairs present a serious risk of crushing injuries, entrapment, or death to kittens.
- Kittens will climb underneath and inside furniture if given the opportunity.
- Ensure your kitten is not underneath a recliner before using the reclining mechanism.
- Ensure your kitten is not on, underneath, or inside a sofa bed before closing it.
- Ensure your kitten is not underneath or behind a rolling office chair before moving it.

Cleaning Products and Chemicals

- Cleaning products, detergents, pesticides, chemicals, and other household products present a risk of poisoning or chemical injury to kittens.
- Kittens investigate their environment using their mouth and paws, increasing the risk of exposure to hazardous substances.
- Store all cleaning products and chemicals securely and out of your kitten's reach.
- Allow surfaces cleaned with chemical products to dry completely before allowing your kitten access.
- Never leave cleaning products, buckets containing cleaning solutions, or chemical containers unattended while in use.

Medications and Supplements

- Human medications, vitamins, supplements, cannabis products, nicotine products, and medications prescribed for other pets should always be kept securely out of your kitten's reach.
- Never administer any medication or supplement unless you have confirmed it is appropriate for cats and are following the recommended directions for use. Many products that are safe for people or other animals can be harmful or toxic to cats.
- Curious kittens may investigate tablets, capsules, liquids, creams, ointments, and supplement containers if they are left accessible. Always store medications and supplements securely and return them to a safe location immediately after use.

Open Flames and Heat Hazards

- Open flames and hot surfaces present a risk of burns to kittens.
- Kittens are naturally attracted to movement, warmth, and flickering light.
- Never leave candles or other open flames unattended while your kitten has access to the area.
- Keep kittens away from fireplaces, wood stoves, hot cooktops, and other hot surfaces until they have cooled completely.

- Keep fireplace doors or protective screens securely closed whenever a fire is burning.

Essential Oils, Diffusers, Plug-In Air Fresheners, Candles, and Wax Melts

- Essential oils are toxic to cats and should not be used around your kitten. Exposure may occur through inhalation, skin contact, or ingestion.
- Diffusers and plug-in air fresheners containing essential oils continuously disperse these compounds into the air and onto household surfaces, where they may be inhaled or transferred onto your kitten's coat during normal daily activities.
- Burning candles, wax melts, and wax warmers present additional hazards. Open flames, heated surfaces, and hot wax can all cause serious burns if knocked over or contacted by a curious kitten.
- Kittens are naturally curious and may investigate flickering flames, warm surfaces, unfamiliar scents, electrical cords, and hot wax.
- Keep all essential oils, diffusers, plug-in air fresheners, candles, wax melts, wax warmers, and related products completely inaccessible to your kitten.
- Never leave burning candles or heated wax warmers unattended while your kitten has access to the area.
- At Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery, we do not recommend the use of essential oils, diffusers, plug-in air fresheners, candles, or wax melts in homes with cats. While we cannot control the products used within your home, we believe families should understand the potential risks so they can make informed decisions for their kitten's safety.

Windows, Balconies, and Outdoor Access

- Open windows, balconies, and exterior doors present a serious risk of injury, escape, or death to kittens.
- Kittens will climb, jump, and squeeze through surprisingly small openings if given the opportunity.
- Window screens should never be relied upon to prevent a kitten from falling or escaping. Determined kittens can push through or damage window screens.
- Never allow your kitten access to an unsecured balcony.

- Ensure exterior doors are not left open unnecessarily. If an exterior door must remain open for an extended period of time, confine your kitten to a secure room until the door has been closed.

Toilets, Tubs, and Standing Water

- Toilets, bathtubs, sinks, buckets, and other sources of standing water present a risk of drowning to kittens.
- Kittens will investigate standing water if given the opportunity.
- Ensure the toilet lid is closed after use.
- Drain bathtubs after use.
- Drain sinks after use.
- Never leave buckets containing water accessible to your kitten.
- Empty buckets immediately after use.

Hairbrushes and Grooming Tools

- Hair left in your hairbrushes and combs can be ingested by kittens and may contribute to gastrointestinal irritation or digestive complications.
- Kittens will chew on hairbrushes, combs, nail clippers, mat clippers, and other grooming tools if given the opportunity.
- Remove hair from brushes and combs immediately after use.
- Store hairbrushes and combs safely when not in use.
- Store nail clippers, mat clippers, and other grooming tools safely when not in use.
- Do not leave grooming tools accessible to your kitten.

Holiday Decorations and Seasonal Hazards

- Holiday decorations and seasonal celebrations introduce additional household hazards for kittens.

- Kittens will investigate, chew, climb, and play with seasonal decorations if given the opportunity.
- We do not recommend the use of tinsel in homes with cats or kittens due to the risk of intestinal obstruction if ingested.
- Kittens will climb Christmas trees. Secure your tree to help prevent it from tipping.
- Keep garland, ribbons, bows, tape, wrapping paper, gift bags, and other gift-wrapping materials out of your kitten's reach.
- Seasonal plants, including lilies and poinsettias, should be kept out of your home or otherwise inaccessible to your kitten.
- Balloons and balloon ribbons should be kept out of your kitten's reach.
- Dispose of gift-wrapping materials immediately after gifts have been opened.

Important Reminders

Kittens are naturally curious, intelligent, and highly active. Exploring their environment using their mouth, paws, and climbing abilities is a normal and essential part of healthy development. They do not recognize danger or understand the consequences of their actions. Instead, they rely entirely on the adults in their home to identify potential hazards and provide a safe environment in which to grow and thrive.

Many household accidents are preventable. Developing safe daily habits, storing potentially hazardous items appropriately, and taking a few extra moments to assess your kitten's surroundings can significantly reduce preventable household hazards. Prevention is almost always simpler, safer, and less costly than responding to an emergency after it has occurred.

No home can ever be made completely risk-free. As your kitten grows, their confidence, strength, agility, and curiosity will continue to develop. Activities and abilities that were impossible only weeks earlier may suddenly become routine. Regularly reassessing your home from your kitten's perspective can help you identify new hazards before they become preventable accidents.

The Recommendations provided throughout this guide are based on the standards, daily practices, and practical experience developed within our cattery. They reflect the approach we believe provides the safest possible environment while supporting the long-term health, welfare, and well-being of our kittens.

Ultimately, you are responsible for the environment you provide and the decisions you make regarding your kitten's care. We cannot control the choices made within your home; however, we can provide practical Recommendations and ensure you are aware of potential risks. If you choose not to follow these Recommendations, you should understand that doing so may increase the risk of preventable injury, illness, or death.

Our goal is not to create unnecessary rules or unrealistic expectations. Our goal is to share the knowledge, experience, and practices that have guided our breeding program, helping you recognize potential hazards, make informed decisions, and provide the safest possible home for your kitten throughout every stage of their life.

KNOWING WHEN TO SEEK VETERINARY CARE

Why This Matters

Even with excellent care, kittens may occasionally become ill or injured. Becoming familiar with your kitten's normal behaviour, appetite, water intake, litter box habits, activity level, and daily routines allows you to recognize changes more quickly.

Many minor concerns can be monitored at home using practical judgement and common sense, while others require prompt veterinary attention. Understanding the difference helps you make informed decisions while avoiding unnecessary worry over normal variations in behaviour and development.

The Recommendations in this chapter are intended to help you recognize situations that warrant veterinary assessment.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Eye Health

- Wash your kitten's face daily using a soft facecloth moistened with warm water. This simple daily routine helps remove environmental irritants, dirt, and debris before they accumulate around or enter the eyes.
- A small amount of dried discharge ("eye crusts" or "sleep") in the corner of the eye is common and is more noticeable in lighter-coloured cats. Gently wipe away any discharge as it develops.
- If your kitten is repeatedly pawing at the affected eye, we recommend using a properly fitted Elizabethan style collar or soft recovery collar to help prevent further injury to the affected eye.
- If your kitten is squinting, the eye is swollen, there is drainage, and they are repeatedly pawing at the affected eye, seek veterinary care immediately.

Heavy, Coloured Nasal Discharge

- An occasional sneeze is not uncommon. Like people, kittens can occasionally sneeze in response to dust, pollen, household scents, cleaning products, or other environmental irritants.
- A small amount of clear nasal discharge can also occur from time to time. Mix approximately 1/16 teaspoon of NOW® Pure L-Lysine Powder into a Churu and administer it twice daily until the discharge has resolved.
- Steam from a warm shower can also help relieve mild nasal congestion. Sit with your kitten in the bathroom while a hot shower is running for approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Do not place your kitten in the shower or allow them to come into contact with hot water.
- If the nasal discharge becomes yellow or green, your kitten becomes severely congested, refuses food, or develops difficulty breathing, seek veterinary care immediately.

Constipation

- Kittens commonly pass stool shortly after eating, although it is also normal for some kittens to pass stool only once or twice each day.
- Feeding moisture-rich wet food and ensuring fresh water is always available helps maintain normal hydration and supports healthy bowel function.

- During your daily hands-on examination, gently massage your kitten's abdomen using small circular motions while applying gentle pressure with your fingertips. This gentle massage helps stimulate normal intestinal movement, and as you become familiar with your kitten, you will be able to feel stool within the large intestine.
- If your kitten is repeatedly straining to pass stool, cries while attempting to defecate, repeatedly enters the litter box without producing stool, or passes only small, hard stools, seek veterinary care.

Severe Vomiting

- An occasional episode of vomiting is not uncommon. Eating too quickly, becoming overly hungry, dietary changes, eating grass, or a hairball can all result in occasional bouts of vomiting.
- Ensure fresh water is always available and continue to monitor your kitten's appetite, behaviour, and comfort.
- Repeated vomiting, an inability to keep food or water down, vomit containing fresh blood, vomit with the appearance of coffee grounds, or vomit that is dark and foul-smelling can indicate a serious underlying problem and requires immediate veterinary care.

Severe Diarrhea

- Occasional loose stool is not uncommon and can occur during times of stress or following a dietary change.
- Ensure fresh water is always available to help maintain hydration. Continuing your kitten's daily Felix's Flora probiotic will help support normal digestive function.
- Most episodes of mild diarrhea resolve quickly with continued hydration, normal feeding, and ongoing probiotic support.
- If your kitten develops severe or bloody diarrhea, seek veterinary care immediately.

Blood in the Urine and Difficulty Urinating

- Blood in the urine is never considered normal. Your kitten should also be able to urinate comfortably without straining or difficulty.

- Ensure fresh water is always available to help maintain hydration. Feeding moisture-rich wet food also helps support urinary tract health.
- Become familiar with your kitten's normal litter box habits. Recognizing changes in their normal urination routine makes it easier to identify if something is wrong.
- If you notice blood in your kitten's urine, your kitten repeatedly enters the litter box without producing urine, strains to urinate, produces only a few drops of urine, cries while attempting to urinate, or is unable to urinate, seek veterinary care immediately.

Cuts and Bleeding

- Minor cuts and scrapes can occur during normal play and exploration. Most are superficial and heal quickly with basic care.
- Gently clean the affected area using lukewarm water. Minor bleeding will stop within a few minutes by applying gentle, direct pressure using a clean cloth or paper towelling.
- Deep wounds accompanied by heavy bleeding are an exception and require urgent veterinary care.

Noticeable Changes in Behaviour

- As you become familiar with your kitten's normal temperament, behaviour, and daily routine, you will quickly recognize when something changes.
- It is not uncommon for kittens to have a quieter day following periods of increased activity, excitement, or travel.
- If your kitten develops a sudden and significant change in behaviour, becomes unusually withdrawn, hides continuously, cries excessively, appears to be in pain, or behaves in a way that is clearly abnormal for your kitten, seek veterinary care.

Persistent Lameness

- Kittens are active, energetic, and adventurous. Minor slips, awkward landings, or overexertion during play can occasionally result in a temporary limp.
- Restrict activity and continue to monitor your kitten closely. Ensure fresh water is always available and provide a quiet, comfortable area to rest.

- If your kitten is unable to bear weight on a limb, the lameness does not improve with rest, the limb appears swollen or deformed, or your kitten appears to be in pain, seek veterinary care.

Poisoning

- If you know or suspect your kitten has ingested a potentially toxic substance, do not wait for signs of illness to develop.
- Do not attempt to make your kitten vomit unless specifically instructed to do so by a veterinarian or a poison control service.
- If possible, take the product packaging, ingredient list, or a photograph of the product with you. Knowing exactly what your kitten was exposed to helps determine the most appropriate treatment.
- Seek immediate veterinary care.

Important Reminders

Early recognition and prompt intervention lead to better outcomes.

You know your kitten better than anyone. Becoming familiar with your kitten's normal behaviour, appetite, water intake, litter box habits, and activity level allows you to recognize changes more easily.

Use practical judgement and common sense. Not every minor change requires immediate veterinary attention, but changes that persist, worsen, or are accompanied by additional signs of illness should never be ignored.

PET INSURANCE

Why This Matters

No one expects their kitten to become ill or injured. However, despite the highest standard of care, unexpected illness, injury, and medical emergencies can occur at any stage of life. While many health concerns are minor and easily treated, others may require emergency veterinary care, diagnostic testing, surgery, hospitalization, or referral to a veterinary specialist.

Unexpected veterinary care can become expensive without warning. Preparing for the unexpected before it occurs allows families to focus on their kitten's care during an already stressful time rather than worrying about how treatment will be managed.

Preparing for a new kitten involves more than purchasing food, litter, scratching posts, toys, and other essential supplies. It also means considering how unexpected veterinary care would be managed should it ever become necessary. We believe this is an important part of preparing for your kitten's long-term health and well-being.

Every kitten from our cattery leaves with a complimentary 30-day Trupanion trial and a Veterinary Certificate of Health issued by our primary veterinarian. We provide the complimentary trial because we believe pet insurance should already be in place should an unexpected illness, injury, or medical emergency occur, not arranged afterwards.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Pet Insurance Is Strongly Recommended

We strongly recommend pet insurance for all kittens. Insurance is intended to be in place before it is needed, ensuring coverage is available should unexpected illness, injury, or medical emergencies occur.

Complimentary Coverage

- Every kitten from Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery leaves with a complimentary 30-day Trupanion trial.
- Families are responsible for activating the complimentary 30-day Trupanion trial before pickup using the information provided in their kitten package.
- Proof of activation is required prior to pickup.
- Every kitten also leaves with a Veterinary Certificate of Health issued by our primary veterinarian following their final health examination before placement.

Continued Coverage

- We strongly recommend maintaining continuous pet insurance coverage for a minimum of one year following placement.
- The first year following placement is an important period of growth, development, and adjustment. Maintaining continuous coverage during this time helps ensure insurance is already in place should unexpected veterinary care become necessary.

Important Reminders

Pet insurance cannot prevent illness, injury, or medical emergencies. It is one way of preparing for the unexpected before it occurs.

We sincerely hope your pet insurance is never needed. However, if unexpected veterinary care does become necessary, having insurance already in place can help reduce financial stress and allow you to focus on what matters most, your kitten's care and recovery.

Whether you choose to continue pet insurance beyond the recommended minimum of one year is a personal decision. Our recommendation is based on the approach we believe provides the greatest level of preparedness during your kitten's first year in their new home. Preparing for the unexpected before it happens is one of the many ways families can help protect their kitten's long-term health and well-being.

LIFELONG WELLNESS

Why This Matters

Small daily habits play an important role in your kitten's health, comfort, development, and well-being. Nutrition, hydration, grooming, oral care, environmental enrichment, physical activity, maintaining a healthy body condition, and daily observation all work together to establish a strong foundation for lifelong health and wellness.

Lifelong wellness is not determined by a single product, supplement, food, or care decision. Instead, it is built through consistent daily care and the healthy habits established over time. The routines developed during kittenhood continue to influence physical health, behaviour, confidence, comfort, and well-being throughout every stage of your kitten's life.

Many common health and behavioural concerns are influenced by daily care and management. Appropriate nutrition, oral care, environmental enrichment, physical activity, maintaining a healthy body condition, and ongoing observation all contribute to supporting long-term health, wellness, and quality of life.

The choices made each day have the greatest impact over time. Consistency, routine, preventative care, and attention to the small details help promote healthy development, encourage resilience, and reduce the likelihood of preventable health and behavioural concerns as your kitten grows and matures.

Providing care does not require perfection. It requires commitment, consistency, and a willingness to remain actively involved in your kitten's physical, emotional, and behavioural well-being throughout every stage of life. Every recommendation throughout this guide has been included to help establish healthy habits that support your kitten's lifelong health, wellness, and quality of life.

Recommendations

For your convenience, the products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into the dedicated Recommended Products and Resources section located at the end of this guide. The products included in this section are those used and strongly recommended by Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery to help families continue the same standards of care after bringing their kitten home.

Supplements Support Health, but They Do Not Replace Care

- Supplements and supportive health care products are intended to complement a well-managed daily care routine.
- No supplement replaces nutrition, hydration, oral care, maintaining a healthy body condition, environmental enrichment, or daily care.
- Omega-3, probiotics, taurine, and a multivitamin should be used as recommended throughout this guide as part of your kitten's supportive health care plan.

Healthy Body Weight Matters

- Maintaining a healthy body condition plays an important role in supporting long-term health, comfort, mobility, and well-being.

- Excess body weight places unnecessary strain on growing bodies, developing joints, and mobility.
- Maintaining a healthy body condition throughout your kitten's life should remain an important part of their ongoing care.

Consistency Matters

- Kittens thrive on routine, consistency, and daily care.
- Consistent feeding, hydration, supportive health care, grooming, oral care, play, environmental enrichment, and litter box maintenance help establish healthy habits that continue throughout life.
- Abrupt changes to food, litter, environment, routine, or daily care can create unnecessary stress and adjustment difficulties.

A Safe and Enriching Environment Matters

- Daily play, mental stimulation, physical activity, scratching opportunities, climbing, and a safe home environment all contribute to your kitten's physical and emotional well-being.
- Continuing to provide opportunities for exercise, exploration, and natural feline behaviours helps support lifelong physical and emotional well-being.

Small Daily Habits Matter

- Clean food and water dishes.
- Clean litter boxes.
- Healthy nutrition and hydration.
- Daily supportive health care, including omega-3, probiotics, taurine, and a multivitamin, as recommended throughout this guide.
- Routine grooming, nail care, and oral care.
- Daily play and environmental enrichment.
- Daily interaction.

- Thoughtful observation.

The small choices made each day have an impact on your kitten's health, comfort, and well-being. Consistent daily care helps establish healthy habits that support lifelong health and wellness.

Important Reminders

Lifelong wellness is built through the combination of small, consistent choices made every day. Nutrition, hydration, maintaining a healthy body condition, grooming, oral care, environmental enrichment, physical activity, and thoughtful daily observation all work together to support your kitten's lifelong health and well-being.

The habits established during kittenhood often continue throughout adulthood. Consistent routines, clear expectations, preventative care, and a safe, enriching environment help establish healthy behaviours while supporting your kitten's physical health, emotional well-being, confidence, and quality of life.

No single product, supplement, food, or recommendation can provide lifelong wellness on its own. Long-term health is achieved through a comprehensive approach to daily care, with each aspect of your kitten's care contributing to the overall picture.

Early recognition of change remains one of the most valuable responsibilities you have as your kitten's caregiver. Becoming familiar with your kitten's normal appetite, water intake, body condition, activity level, behaviour, coat quality, and litter box habits allows changes to be recognized sooner and concerns to be addressed appropriately.

The Recommendations throughout this guide reflect the standards of care used within Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery and the practices we strongly recommend families continue after bringing their kitten home. While every family will develop routines that work within their own household, consistency, commitment, and daily care provide the strongest foundation for lifelong health, confidence, comfort, and well-being.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Kittens from our cattery leave with a strong foundation built through careful breeding, nutrition, early socialization, routine health care, and daily care. That foundation begins at birth and continues to develop long after your kitten leaves our care.

Once your kitten joins your family, you have stepped into the parental role. Your kitten will rely on you for guidance, nutrition, health care, safety, comfort, enrichment, and love throughout every stage of their life. The routines you establish, the environment you provide, the choices you make, and the commitment you provide each day all contribute to your kitten's lifelong health, confidence, comfort, and well-being. No family will do everything perfectly, and perfection is not the goal. What matters most is consistency, patience, daily care, and a willingness to continue learning as your kitten grows and matures. The small choices made each day have the greatest impact over time and help establish healthy habits that support lifelong health and wellness.

Throughout this guide, we have shared the practices and recommendations we believe provide the strongest possible foundation for your kitten's future. Every recommendation has been included because it reflects the standards and daily practices we follow within our cattery.

We give every kitten the best start possible. Once your kitten joins your family, their future health, comfort, confidence, and well-being are influenced by the environment you provide, the decisions you make, and the commitment you bring to their daily care. While we can no longer influence the environment in which your kitten is raised, we hope this guide provides the knowledge and confidence to help you make informed decisions throughout your kitten's life.

As your kitten grows from kittenhood into adulthood, questions will naturally arise. We encourage you to revisit this guide whenever you need additional information, guidance, or reassurance. The products and resources referenced throughout this guide have been compiled into a dedicated reference section at the end of this document for your convenience. If you require additional guidance or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to help.

Thank you for choosing Mythical Dream Maine Coon Cattery and for placing your trust in us. It has been our privilege to raise your kitten during the earliest weeks of their life. We wish you and your kitten many happy years together and thank you for allowing us to be part of the beginning of a journey that we hope will bring your family many years of companionship, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS AND RESOURCES

The products and resources listed in this section are referenced throughout this guide and have been compiled into a single location for convenience. Product availability, formulations, and Recommendations may change over time.

Foods Appropriate for Growing Kittens

Fancy Feast Kitten Variety Box

- [Turkey Pate \(Kitten\)](#)
- [Ocean Whitefish Pate \(Kitten\)](#)

Farmina N&D Prime Kitten

- [Chicken and Pomegranate Kitten Kibble \(Kitten\)](#)

Performatrin Ultra

- [Chicken Pate \(Kitten\)](#)

Tiki Cat Baby Kitten – Variety Pack

- [Chicken & Salmon Recipe Minced \(Kitten 8+ Weeks\)](#)
- [Chicken, Tuna & Chicken Liver Recipe Minced \(Kitten 8+ Weeks\)](#)
- [Chicken, Duck & Duck Liver Recipe Minced \(Kitten 8+ Weeks\)](#)
- [Chicken & Egg Recipe Minced \(Kitten 8+ Weeks\)](#)

Wellness Kitten

- [Chicken Pate \(Kitten\)](#)
- [Whitefish & Tuna Pate \(Kitten\)](#)

Weruva Kitten

- [Chicken Breast Formula in a Hydrating Purée \(Kitten\)](#)
- [Tuna & Salmon Formula in a Hydrating Purée \(Kitten\)](#)

Foods Appropriate for All Life Stages

Big Country Raw

- Breeder Blend Chicken (All Life Stages)
- Fare Game Chicken & Beef (All Life Stages)
- Fare Game Chicken, Salmon & Beef (All Life Stages)

Feline Natural

- Freeze-Dried Raw Beef and Hoki (All Life Stages)

Friskies Pate

- Friskies Turkey Pate (All Life Stages)

Friskies Shreds

- Turkey and Cheese Shreds (All Life Stages)

Performatrin Ultra

- Turkey Stew (All Life Stages)

Foods Appropriate for Adult Cats

Farmina N&D Prime Adult

- Chicken and Pomegranate Adult Kibble (Adult)

Merrick Purrfect Bistro

- Chicken Pate (Adult)
- Tuna Pate (Adult)

RAWZ Pate

- Rabbit Pate (Adult)
- Beef and Beef Liver Pate (Adult)

RAWZ Shreds

- Tuna and Salmon Shreds (Adult)
- Chicken and Duck Shreds (Adult)

Tiki Cat After Dark Pate

- Chicken Pate (Adult)
- Chicken & Beef Pate (Adult)
- Chicken & Duck Pate (Adult)

Tiki Cat After Dark Shreds

- Chicken Shreds (Adult)
- Chicken & Beef Shreds (Adult)
- Chicken & Duck Shreds (Adult)

Ziwi Peak

- Venison Pate (Adult)
- Beef Pate (Adult)
- Chicken Pate (Adult)

Treats

Churu

- Chicken (All Life Stages)

PureBites Freeze Dried

- Chicken (All Life Stages)

Probiotics

- Felix's Flora by Adored Beast Apothecary (All Life Stages)

Supportive Health Care

- NOW Foods 100% Pure Taurine Powder (All Life Stages)
- NOW 100% Pure L-Lysine powder
- Moisture-Proof Salt Shaker with Secure Lid
- UBAMEG EFA 675 mg Omega-3 Fatty Acid Capsules (All Life Stages - available through your veterinarian)
- Vetoquinol Omega -3 Capsules (Small Breeds)
- UBAVET MULTIFEL Daily Vitamin and Mineral Tablet (All Life Stages - available through your veterinarian)

Litter and Litter Pans

- Odour Beater Carbon Clumping Clay Litter
- Medium Cement Mixing Tub (Home Depot)

Food, Water Dishes and Fountains

- Clear Glass Water Dish (Anchor Hocking)
- White Water Dish (CorningWare)
- Stainless Steel Water Fountains
- Food Dishes (IKEA KALAS Children's Plates)

Insurance

- Trupanion

Oral Care

- Virbac C.E.T. Enzymatic Toothpaste
- Finger Toothbrushes
- Pet Toothbrushes

Grooming and General Care

- [Metal Carding Comb](#)
- [Boar Bristle Brush](#)
- [Fine Tooth Steel Comb](#)
- [Nail Trimmers](#)
- [Pet Clippers](#)
- [100% Pure Cornstarch](#)

Teething Toys

- [PetStages Dental Toy](#)
- [PetStages Dental Chew Toy](#)

Cat Wall Ideas (Optional)

- [Cat Wall Inspiration Ideas](#)

Anti-Fatigue Interlocking Floor Tiles

- [Foam Floor Tiles](#)

Cat Wheel (Optional)

- [Ziggy Doo Cat Wheel](#)

Pet Stroller with Safety Tether (Optional)

- [PawHut Pet Stroller](#)

Cat Harness and Leash (optional)

- [HalyPet Harness and Leash](#)

Pet Backpack with Safety Tether

- [PetsFit Pet Backpack](#)

Pet Camera

- [TP-Link Tapo 4K 8MP Pan/Tilt Indoor Home Security Camera](#)

Handheld Ultraviolet (UV) Black Light

- [Black Light](#)

Recovery Collars

- [Elizabethan Style Collar](#)
- [Soft Collar](#)

Toxic Indoor Plants

- [Houseplants](#)

Toxic Outdoor Plants

- [Outdoor Plants](#)

TICA (The International Cat Association) Breed Standards

- [Maine Coon/Maine Coon Polydactyl Breed Standards](#)