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**KITTEN CARE SHEET**

Thank you for your interest in purchasing a Kings Dynasty Bengal and WELCOME to the Family! The following are important guidelines and suggestions on taking care of your Bengal kitten. Of course, every kitten and cat are different, and care depends on your kitten’s specific needs.

**INTRODUCTION TO HOME AND BONDING**

Once you bring your Bengal home, we recommend that you keep the kitten calm and comfortable until he/she becomes accustomed to the new surroundings. We recommend that you first place your kitten in a small area, such as a bathroom or a bedroom, with it’s food, water, and litterbox, prior to taking him/her on short excursions throughout the house, until kitten becomes familiar with their new surroundings. Kitten may cry for the first 48 hours or hide under the bed or other small, dark spaces (make sure you ‘kitty-proof’ the room before bringing your kitten home!). Remember, it is scary for a 12-week old kitten to leave his familiar surroundings! Lure him/her out with teasers and just give them time to come out on his/her own and explore. They need to feel secure in their new home. When they arrive at your home, try giving them wet kitten food and see if they will eat it – if they do not, that is normal as some kittens want to explore the sights and smells of their new house. If you have small children, please caution them against chasing and yelling at the kitten. Please show them the proper way to hold the kitten. Bengals are wonderful with small children, and they make great companions.

**INTRODUCTION TO OTHER HOUSEHOLD PETS**

If you have other pets in the house, one way to introduce your Bengal to them is to place the kitten in the pet taxi (or a crate), and place the pet taxi/crate in the middle of a room with the other pets. Let everyone sniff each other and get acquainted. There may be hissing and spitting at first, but this is normal and shouldn’t last for more than a few days. Supervised play times are also suggested until everyone is familiar with each other. We recommend MultiCat Feliway plug ins around the house to help with kitten and other household cat anxiety.

**VETERINARIAN VISIT**

Our contract requires that you take your new kitten to the vet within 72 hours. This is a strict requirement and you will void our health warranty if you do not follow this condition in the contract.

Kittens’ immune systems are still developing, and sometimes, the stress of the move will lower their immunity and make them more susceptible to infections. Your kitten has been checked by our vet prior to leaving a cattery and cleared as healthy to leave our cattery. If your kitten develops diarrhea most likely it’s due to the stress of a new environment.

**LITTER BOXES**

Our Bengals are accustomed to using an uncovered low sided litter box. Place the litterbox in the kitten’s bedroom and in the living room (if that is where the family normally gathers). Do not place the litterbox in the laundry room or another floor of the house hidden and out of sight– the kitten will not find it! The more litterboxes, the better, at least for the first month while the kitten adjusts to its new home. To ease in your little one’s transition, we recommend that you buy a similar type of litter box. Do not use an automated litter box for your Bengal until they are at least 6 months old. We place our litterboxes within eyeshot of the kitty’s food and drink bowl. When you first bring your Bengal home, try and do the same so the little one does not get lost trying to get to the litterbox. We also suggest thatyou show them their litter box first thing upon their arrival and watch them carefully after they have just eaten or drank water to make sure they know where to go. Our kittens are litter trained when they leave us but we have found that in some cases kittens find it harder to adjust to their new homes, become confused, and have accidents when they arrive at their new home. Please be patient with your kitten. It is more traumatic forsome kittens to leave the familiarity of our cattery and their littermates than others.

**LITTER**

Kings Dynasty Bengal kittens use Fresh Step Advanced Simply Unscented litter. You are free to use another type of litter if you wish, but you should change the litter out gradually so that your kitten will become used to the new litter. Any sudden changes in the litter may lead to ‘accidents.’

**FOOD**

Our kittens eat a combination of wet kitten food Fancy Feast and dry kitten food Science Diet Kitten Chicken Flavor. We recommend having wet food available to your kitten for at least the first month before transitioning to dry food only. If you are planning to change food you need to SLOWLY change to the new food (over the course of at minimum 2 weeks) to avoid upsetting the kitten’s digestive system.

**SOCIALIZATION, TRAINING and DISCIPLINE**

Bengals are very smart. They are also very active, so you need to train them early on to prevent destructive behavior. Do not encourage your kitten to play rough or to "play bite" and this will carry on to adulthood. If you have children, teach them not to play rough with the kitten because when your kitten is grown up, he will play too rough. Kitten claws are SHARP. Do not let very young children play with the kitten unsupervised and cut your kittens nails frequently. Be firm with your kitten from the very beginning, so they know what behavior is acceptable and what behavior is not. Reward them with treats for good behavior.

**TOYS**

Bengals love toys! They love to chase balls, feathers, lures - pretty much anything that moves. We recommend cat toy wands, laser pointers, and a scratching post is a MUST! Place scratching post in the room where the family gathers near the entrance to the room. Redirect any unwanted furniture scratching to scratching post to teach your kitten where it is ok to stretch and scratch. Bengals love to climb and be up high. Cat trees are a fun place for them to scratch, climb, and sleep.

**THINGS TO CONSIDER**

 Although our kittens are socialized, it is still upsetting for them to be in strange surroundings. Please give him/her time to adjust. Adjustment could take as much as two to four weeks before kitty is comfortable. We cannot predict how our kittens will act when he/she leaves the familiar environment of our cattery. Also, your kitten may also have some minor upsets from the stress of moving (particularly if they have been in a car for several hours). Some kittens may not eat or have a bowel movement for the first two days. At a minimum, be sure that your kitten is drinking and try and encourage your kitten to eat when it first arrives. Try wet food to keep your kitten hydrated. If your kitten starts vomiting, has diarrhea, sneezes, has a runny nose, acts lethargic or has no appetite, please take your kitten to the vet immediately. Please contact us immediately if you have concerns.

Bengals are highly intelligent, athletic cats, but they may not be for everyone. Make sure you have done your research and are sure a Bengal is the right fit for you and your family before committing to purchase one. Bengals are considered exotic cats. They are the result of breeding a small, wild Asian leopard cat with a domestic shorthair. Domesticated Bengals should be at least four generations removed from any ancestors with wild bloodlines. Bengals get along great with dogs and children. Kings Dynasty Bengals are socialized with other cats, dogs, and children in our home. A Bengal kitten may not be the best fit for a household with an older cat who is not willing to play. Don’t be surprised if your Bengal jumps into the tub or shower with you. These cats love water and running faucets. Bengals are very loving and make great companions.