

Texas Country Cats

Selkirk Rex

Policies and Information:

It's so much fun having a new baby in the house! And that's exactly what you have! Remember that your kitten needs to be kept safe from dangerous items such as household cleaners, medicines, toxic plants, loose strings and ribbons, plastic bags, and anything you would keep away from a new baby. Your kitten will also need exercise as well as rest periods—remember kittens sleep about 20 hours per day!

SAFETY: I am going to comment on this first so I hope you spend some thought on this topic. Babyproof your home before you bring in a youngster. I can not emphasize this enough. The younger the kitten you bring in, the more careful you need to be. We recently had a family adopt a 12 week kitten and didn't understand the seriousness of this after I covered this topic with them and they let the baby loose in a large family gathering unsupervised and the kitten was crushed in an accident after only two days there. Young kittens have no fear or very little fear of anything; they are curious, inquisitive and will try out everything or get into situations that may be dangerous for them. We protect them as babies and control their environments very strictly. We do not let our babies run helter skelter all over our home till they are old enough to know what not to get into, they are protected and controlled and kept safe. My home is going to be different than your home.... Introduce them to things slowly and don't think they know what's safe or not. Remember they only will know what you introduce them to and teach them as you take them in your home. They are a baby. They are curious, playful, they run and scoot underfoot or get in something so fast you may not see it. Certainly, accidents do happen, but many don't ever have to. You need to consider their safety and anticipate what could happen in all situations or you could end up with a **baby crushed in a recliner chair**, find it in a washing machine or dryer or dish washer, find it in a cabinet or a stuffed in a child's toy, or used by the family dog as a play toy..... if you have an active family and an active lifestyle, I will suggest this, bring in an older

kitten over five or six months old or an adult because they have a good sense of how to protect themselves then from normal household activities or children or other pets.

NEW HOME INTRODUCTION: Bringing in your new baby is so exciting for both you and the kitten....It is very important for you to bond together and have a safe, warm protected environment for the first two to four weeks. If you can, I suggest your master bedroom and bath. Set up the litter box and keep separate food, water bowls just for the kitten away from the litter box. Provide a bed your crate makes a good bed, take the door off so it wont close them. Drafts: Make sure you don't let them get chilled A chilled kitten will be a sick kitten, so keep them in a warm environment. This will also allow you one on one time and limit confusion and stress they are exposed to the first few days...also you want them to get used to their kitty box in a controlled area, letting them have full run of the house with a box in a wash room, they may get lost and have an accident, you have to think they are so little compared to how big your home may be....you don't want them either to get overwhelmed and scared and hide....all this makes sense!! And you will have a little purr box on your pillow all night too.

Poisons: Many plants are poisonous to cats. Every part of the lilly plant is deadly to cats even the pollen. All essential oils are deadly and many other products do a search on line to find more.

FEEDING: Your kitten will eat about one half can of food per day. (S)he has been eating American Journey canned chicken and turkey. Feed free choice dry American Journey for all life stages food and we recommend you continue this for at lease four weeks if you plan to wean your kitten to a different food. I do not recommend feeding any canned that is a gravy and bits type. The dry food and fresh water should always be available. We feed a combination of dry and wet foods to all our adult cats. Do not change their food rapidly as it will or can cause diarrhea and or vomiting. Do not feed out of plastic bowls, use glass, stainless steel or ceramic as plastic can harbor bacteria and cause chin acne or mouth ulcers.

LITTER: I like and use Frisco Multi-Cat Unscented Clumping Clay it is very dust free. It is a chewy.com brand or any low dust unscented is ok. Introduce your kitten to one or two rooms only for at least 2 weeks, too much space or free run of your home may allow them to get "lost" in your home and have an accident if

they cant find their way back to their new box, also the more confined area. This also allows you to bond with your kitten so they do not become overwhelmed and frightened in too big an area till they learn where they are and there's that safety issue also to remember...If you have a large house or more than one cat, put out two boxes. Make sure you have enough cat boxes situated in your home if its large with many rooms and your kitten has full run of the house. Remember to scoop solids out daily. Damp litter smells to a kitty so make sure you change it so they don't look for another place to use the bathroom...no one likes to step in or use a dirty bathroom.

Bacteria/viruses/mold can harbor in the pores of plastic, so clean you kitty box. Change the litter once per week if you have multiple cats and wash and rinse the box well, followed by a bleach rinse. Once your kitten has reached adulthood any litter is fine to meet your needs...for odor control, wood, scoopable or crystals do the best to prevent odors. ***A good trick to get kittens or cats acclimated a little quicker also to new cat boxes or new cat box locations, use CAT ATTRACT CAT LITTER for a time, this contains a pheromone that attracts the cats to the kitty box.

GENERAL CARE: We follow a strict grooming/health schedule that includes worming, application of Revolution. We clean ears and eyes and bathe as needed. Prior to leaving us your kitten will be updated on all preventive medical care. You will be provided a medical history and any instructions or recommendations to assist in the transition to your home.

HEALTH: Your kitten has been vaccinated 9 & 12 weeks with Eclipse 3 way Modified live vaccine. Your kitten was routinely wormed at 2, 4, 6 and 10 & 12 weeks. A health record will accompany it. We do not do comprehensive blood screening panels, urinalysis, or cultures on individual kittens unless a health condition warrants it. Kittens are from PKD neg, FELV/FIV neg. parents. To the best of our knowledge, this kitten leaves us at the time of sale in good health. Neuter or Spay done.

Texas law requires all kittens to be vaccinated for rabies prior to leaving us.

Also any cats shipped or sold out of state will also carry an additional charge

for a health certificate. we also recommend your kitten should **NEVER, NEVER** be allowed outside.

DECLAWING: Not allowed! It is amputating the first digits of their toes, you remove their first line of defense to protect themselves and ability to escape danger should they ever get outside. Your kitty's safety must be maintained if you consider this. Your kitten should be provided with a good scratching post and have its claws trimmed regularly. This is not difficult—your kitten will be happy and your furniture intact.

THE FOLLOWING SECTION PERTAINS TO PERSIANS, I am leaving it included here for general knowledge since Selkirk's do have Persian in ~~genes~~....**TEARING OR DRIPPY NOSES:** If a kitten has needed its eyes cleaned/wiped prior to leaving us, I will tell you, but more than likely we almost never have to wipe or clean eyes. We do not have carpet in our home, we have tile with rugs....our floors are mopped almost everyday and vacuumed. One thing you need to watch for is you kitty reacting to wall to wall carpet or going under furniture if you don't dust frequently under it. Carpet harbors a lot of things; they have not been exposed too. They may tear while getting used to the carpet and your heating system. This does not mean they have a upper respiratory infection, it means they are reacting to their new environment. I will recommend you using a triple antibiotic eye ointment and OPCON-A EYE DROPS during this transition time to keep the tearing in check if it happens so it doesn't progress to anything else till it stops once they adjust.

So bear with that adjustment time if you need to. Do not think its just Persian teary eyes, they won't have dirty eyes if you see it and address it quickly. Kittens do this much more frequently when changing homes verse an adult because they do not have their immune system developed yet. I wish I could tell you why Persians do this but they can, and it's part of the breed and upkeep. But do not let it get going because it can get out of hand or chronic if you ignore it. And it doesn't have to exist at all if you take care of it if it happens.

Any eye infection or injury you need to immediately address with your Vet.

Tearing in Persians comes from a couple of sources.....Dust, Dirty air,

pollens they are not used too, abrupt changes in humidity, seasonal changes usually in fall and spring, changes in air heating systems, upper respiratory infections or eye infections, eye injury, soap, grooming products, reactions to vaccines, changes of environments. Cats can also have a brown tinged tears, it will wipe off looking brownish stain, that's from red yeast that has gotten in the eye, its not an eye infection but more of an annoyance, your vet can treat this with chlorophenicol eye ointment but they may get this again, its something the cats can get from no where....it is treatable so you don't have fur staining.

OTHER PETS: If you own other cats, we strongly recommend that you keep your new kitten in a separate area, protected from your other cats for at period of 30-days. It should have its own separate food, water and litter box. Your home may have existing bacteria and viruses or dust that your current cat's immune system is used to but this kitten's immune system is not. The separation allows the new kitten to slowly adjust without stress, which promotes better health and the development of the immune system to acclimate to its new environment. Not doing this, you put your kitten at risk of developing an infection.

I also do not recommend bringing in new kittens or cats from different sources at the same time. Each kitty has to acclimate its immune system to your home and routine and may break with a cold exposing the other new kitty or vice versa, you then could have a issue to get cleared up medically. Isolate each new addition to your home for at least two to four weeks letting them get used to you and your routine and home and letting their immune system settle in. see below....

If you have lost a cat recently to an illness, please share that with us. Some illness are caused by contagious viruses cats can have and the virus can live in an environment for some time after the loss of that pet. I will be happy to discuss this with you if you haven't discussed it with your Vet.

REHOMING STRESS, Please read this carefully :

Rehoming stress is something that may happen or may not happen...there is no way to predict this in any individual animal. When going from one environment to another, your kitten has to adjust emotionally and physically. This may affect its immune system in different ways. It is not unusual for its immune system to weaken and they are more prone to breaking with a cold/diarrhea/GI upset/sniffles. You can compare that to you going on a

trip, being exposed to different water/air, different food, being tired and feeling unwell or coming home and getting sick after your "vacation" or after starting a new school or a new job.

Its very important to observe for a change in your new kitten's condition and get it checked by your Vet. We are also an email or phone call away should you have a concern or question. Cats can get sick very fast and lose substantial body weight in a few days and I mean lose weight in a few days. Get in the routine of monitoring them. This can occur up to several months after you bring your kitten into your home. A kitten's immune system is not developed fully until they are older than six months old and therefore is not stable and if left unattended, can get sick very fast. I like to feel my cats between the shoulder blades and along the back bone in that area, there should be muscle and body mass there. When they lose weight, you will feel this thin out and feel the ribs and vertebrae there, then you need to check your kitty and figure out what's causing this and address it.

Controllable stresses should be limited the first few weeks you have your new baby....no exposure to different animals, limit small children handling the kitten with hand washing, no extreme temperature fluctuations, being kept in a clean and safe, stable, warm environment, monitoring food and water intake daily.

Young pets, just like small children need more care and more medical care at times. No breeder can predict whether any kitten will need more care than another than any parent can predict their children will never need to see a Doctor. If this is a responsibility you would like to avoid, please do not purchase this kitten.

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RELEASE OF KITTENS: Kittens are released when evaluated ready between 14 and 16 weeks old. NO kitten will be released until the breeder evaluates it as mature enough to handle the stress of rehoming. Each kitten matures at a different rate and each kitten will be evaluated individually and this is not negotiable as we will only consider the well being of the kitten and will not guarantee a release date on an immature kitten.

Should the kitten not be available for sell due to bad health issues that are unforeseen at this time and untreatable; the buyer will be offered a refund or offer replacement kitten of equal quality and type as a priority to the buyer when one is available. **This is non-negotiable and the decision of the seller whether a kitten is available for placement or not or when its ready to leave.**

VETERINARIAN CARE: Once a kitten/cat leaves us, we do not have control over its care and needs. As an owner, it's up to you to provide this kitten/cat with a safe environment, adequate shelter, food and health care to sustain optimal health and life. We are not responsible for inadequate care given by an owner or the needs of this kitten/cat not being met for any or no reason. We are also not responsible for inadequate Vet care or the inability of a Vet to treat a condition a cat or kitten may have.

SHIPPING: We will not ship a kitten until fourteen to sixteen weeks of age or older. If shipping this kitten, final payment is due 2 weeks before shipping date along with all shipping costs that are extra (flight, vet charges/cert., crate, rabies vaccine).

TRANSPORTATION: All transportation costs are the responsibility of the buyer, from and to the seller. The seller will not be held liable or responsible for any mishap, injury, accident, death or exposure to illness once the kitten/cat leaves the seller's possession, during transport or delivery or in the possession of the buyer. If the buyer does not come in person to pick up the kitten/cat, they assume any risk to its health or wellbeing while being transported to them. There will be no refund or replacement should this happen. If a cat/kitten is replaced per our guarantee, all transport costs are the responsibility of the buyer.

PURCHASE: You will be notified when your kitten is ready. We will make arrangements for you to pick your kitten up/set a date for shipping or delivery and we will not hold a kitten for more than ten days after you are notified it is ready to go. If a buyer fails to return our calls/emails/or respond to a reg. Letter, we will assume they have voluntarily terminated their purchase of that kitten and are forfeiting their deposit. We do not refund deposits should a buyer change their mind about getting their kitten. So, should buyer change their mind about purchasing the cat/kitten for any reason or no reason, they agree to forfeit any deposit on the kitten and release any claim to the cat/kitten. The kitten will then be resold.

I strive to have happy healthy kittens go to happy forever homes. Hope this information is helpful for you.

Thanks,
Paula Briner