



Kneading Kitty's Rescue

I'm Adopting Today. What Do I Purchase For My New Kitty?

If you haven't had a kitty before, you are probably wondering what you need to make them feel welcome in your home. We know the choices can be overwhelming, so we've created the recommendations below to help you get started. If you're starting from scratch, be prepared to spend about **\$200 - \$300 today** for the basics below.

Cat Carrier (Must Have: Cost \$30 - \$50)

Each kitty adopted from KKR **must be taken home in a carrier to keep them safe**. You'll also need a good carrier for any future vet visits (a quality hard sided or soft sided carrier, not the disposable cardboard box carrier).

Recommendation: Choose a hard sided carrier to fit a 15-20 lb. pet. If you are adopting a kitten, they'll grow into it! Once home, just add an old towel or blanket to provide some added comfort for future trips. Hard sided carriers provide better protection for your baby and are easier to clean than soft sided carriers.

Pro Tip: Get a carrier that also opens on the top; It's less stress for your kitty and the vet techs!

Litter Box, Cat Litter, and Litter Scoop (Must Have: Cost \$30 - \$40)

For your happiness and theirs, each kitty should have their own litter box.

Recommendations:

Litter Box: These come in many shapes and sizes, ranging from simple plastic boxes on up to space age automated self-cleaning units. Let's be honest, litter boxes don't fit well into any home's decor, so you might like the idea of a covered and/or self-cleaning box. But keep in mind that if a kitty is scared of a covered box or the noises from automated cleaner, they will refuse to use it. It's best to start with a basic **uncovered plastic litter pan**. It's usually the cheapest option, and the kitties are already pros at using them!

Cat Litter: Comes in many varieties, brands, and sizes. Our kitties are pros at using **clay clumping litter**. Some kitties don't like strong perfume scents and litter dust from digging can make both you and your kitty sneezy, so look for unscented, low dust formulas. **A 15-20 lb. bag will fill a large litter box** with some left over. The center typically uses **Dr. Elsey's Precious Cat Ultra Unscented Clumping Clay Cat Litter**. Confirm with the volunteer before purchase.

Litter Scoop: Almost any will do. Plastic ones are inexpensive but break easily. Metal ones are a little more expensive, but a good one will last a long time.

Food (Must Have: Cost \$20 - \$30)

Please ask your KKR volunteer what **food to purchase for your kitty**.

Recommendation: For today, it's best to purchase the food your kitty is currently eating (**the Center typically uses Science Diet or Royal Canin Adult or Kitten food**). This will lessen the chances of upset tummy or loss of appetite. **A 4-5 lb. bag of kibble** will last at least a couple of weeks, and your adoption kit may even contain a coupon.

Longer term, a kitty's health needs, your budget, and other considerations come into play when choosing what to feed your baby. Spend time to do research, consult with a vet or experienced kitty owner to make an informed choice on food content and brand. Most vets recommend a diet that includes both kibble and moist food. If you do select a new type of kibble, transition from old to new slowly to give your kitty's system time to adjust.

Food and Water Dishes (Must Have: Cost \$25 - \$35)

Each kitty should have their own food and water dishes.

Recommendation: The ideal purchase is **(3) food grade stainless steel dishes**, as these are durable (don't chip or crack) and easy to keep clean (put in the dish washer to be sanitized). They don't need to be fancy if you're on a limited budget.

A set of 2 matching bowls on a stand that presents food and water together side by side is very convenient. It's also important to have **at least one "back up" water dish** located somewhere else in the home away from the food. Some kitties prefer to source their food and water in separate places and may not drink from a water bowl adjacent to their food.

Toys (Must Have: Cost \$10 - ???)

Kitties of all ages need to play to burn off energy and exercise their natural hunting instinct. It's best to have stuff that you want them to play with to lessen the chances they decide something expensive is a toy instead.

Recommendations: Get at least one **wand toy/teaser** of some kind (with a feather, etc.) to interact with your furry friend and get a few different **ground toys** (i.e.: stuffed ball, mouse, etc.) to bat around, toss, and chase. It's impossible to know exactly what toy(s) a kitty will love, so the more choices you can offer the better!

Pro Tip: Kitties love free stuff too! Some things you probably have around the house: an old shoelace to twirl, plastic soda bottle caps to bat, toss, and chase, an Amazon box for hide and seek, etc. Your trash is their treasure!

Scratchers / 2-Tier Cat Condos (Must Have: Cost: \$25 - \$40 / \$55 - \$110)

Kitties like to climb, perch, and scratch to keep their claws healthy as well as leave their scent in their favorite places. Like litter boxes, scratching posts and cat trees are generally not awesome home décor. However, it's better to give them something you want them to climb/scratch than have them decide your sofa is their mortal enemy!

Recommendation: Start with a **standalone 24" tall scratching post** that you can easily move from room to room **and/or a 2-tier cat condo** (like you see in the Center). If your kitty attacks the back of the couch, put the scratching post next to the couch and direct them toward it instead. If they go after the office chair, put the post there instead. You'll quickly get a feel for where and how many you need. Kitties also like to scratch at ground level. To help lessen attacks on your favorite rug or carpet, a **sisal scratching mat or cardboard scratch ring** are great choices too.

Cat Beds, Tall Cat Trees (Not necessary on Day 1)

Kitties will pick their spots to sleep based on where they feel safe. This is tough for you to predict, and their preferences will likely change as they become more comfortable in your home.

Recommendation: Start with **old towels/blankets and cardboard boxes/plastic totes** that you already have (ie: free to shop at home). If you buy an expensive bed just because you like the look of it, you may be disappointed when your kitty ignores it.

So how do you figure out what bed your kitty may like? Just observe them! Does your kitty lie sprawled out on the living room rug in the open? They may prefer an open cushion style bed in that location. Does your kitty snuggle tightly into the corner of the couch? They may like a bed with raised and padded sides. Does your kitty like to sleep hidden under the bed or dresser? They may like an enclosed tent style bed. Does your kitty like to sleep on top of the armoire or refrigerator? They may like a 5'-6' tall Cat Tree with a platform/bed at the top. Once you have an idea what they like, then buy a nice bed or tall cat tree for them.

Our volunteers are happy to help with any questions or if you need additional assistance shopping for your new fur baby.