

What to buy before bringing your kitten home

Cat post – Bengal's love to be high and love to have sisal wrapped posts for scratching and climbing.

Litter boxes – You may want to invest in high sided litter boxes as Bengal's like to really dig in and can make a big mess with low sided boxes. It doesn't need to be extravagant, I use Rubbermaid totes and the kittens prefer them to the little short litter pans from the dollar store. You may also want to keep more than one for your new kitty as he/she can become confused with the new environment, especially if you have a home with multiple levels. The rule is 1 box per cat plus one so if you only have one cat you should have 2 boxes, 2 cats need 3 boxes etc. Our kittens are used to pine pellets available at your local tractor supply or pet store.

Toys, Toys and MORE Toys! – Bengals love to play and interact, they have high energy levels and need stimulation everyday. If your baby starts to misbehave or become destructive, he/she may be bored and need more stimulation. Mind puzzles (usually sold for dogs) are also great for Bengals. Spring toys and wand toys are a must. A cat wheel is a great investment, I have a link to a site to purchase a wheel on my website. Its at the very bottom of the kitten page. It's called the Ferris Cat Wheel and it is preferred over its competitor One Fast Cat. The Ferris cat wheel is quieter and safer than One Fast Cat. Here is the link from my website

<https://www.ziggydoo.com/en/20-breeze-bengals>

Cat Carrier – Please remember to bring a carrier when you pick up your baby. They are safest in a carrier and feel more secure.

Cat food – All our cats are raised on raw. Either homemade or if we are in a bind, I will buy Carnivora from the local pet store. If you check out Carnivora raw, it is cheaper to buy the 25lb box than the small individual sizes and ask for the "diet" as this mix is only meat and organ, No veggies for our kitties. So, you can try chicken diet, beef diet, pork diet etc., there are many different proteins and it is encouraged to switch proteins so the cat does not eat the same thing all the time. You can also add some fish oil once a day if you wish.

Probiotics & Vitamins- A good probiotic added to raw food once a will help with maintaining normal gut health, improving immune health and improving digestive problems such as nausea, gas, vomiting, diarrhea and loose stools. My vet recommends Fortiflora although I have been using Floradox by Ubavet. If your cat is getting a balanced raw diet and you are rotating proteins then they should be getting all the vitamins they need.

Introduction of your new Kitten

Once you arrive at home, he/she will be scared and not familiar with his/her new surroundings. With the excitement of the newest family member the kitten may become very stressed. The added stress can make your kitten feel sick so its very important to have a "safe room" for your new kitten. A safe room can be a bathroom or spare bedroom. Don't worry, the kitten will be ok. He will feel much more comfortable on his own than thrown into a new environment with new people and pets. This way he/she can get used to the new smells/sounds of the household. A safe room is important for a couple reasons, to prevent the spread of potential infectious illnesses and to create a less stressful transition to the new home. You can still go into the safe room and play/interact with the kitten to make him feel comfortable. Don't forget to include toys and hiding places for the kitten to go, a box or a tunnel would work well. **Remember to book** a vet appointment within the first 72 hours of arrival as per our kitten contract. Also take note of the health guarantee – if other pets are being introduced during the quarantine period (2 weeks), the health warranty is void.

Quarantine

As mentioned above, our kitten contract states that the kitten you take home from our cattery must be kept separate and apart from all other pets in your home for a **full two weeks** as this is the only way to determine the timing (incubation period) of an illness should one crop up after arrival. During this time, you may observe him with full confidence that the kitten has not been exposed to any outside contaminants since arriving at your home. If your kitten has come in contact (grooming, biting/playing) with other animals in your home - especially those who are allowed outdoor access (a dog going for walks, or a cat who free roams) our health guarantee is voided, as we have absolutely no control over what illnesses or viruses your kitten could potentially be exposed to via the other pets.

We do our best to screen our breeding adults for common health related issues in Bengals. PRA (progressive retinal atrophy) can cause blindness and there are no treatments. PK deficiency is an inherited hemolytic anemia caused by insufficient activity of this regulatory enzyme which results in instability and loss of red blood cells. Both of these deficiencies are tested for and our cats are not carriers. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common form of heart disease in cats, and it has been diagnosed in Bengals. We screen our adults for HCM annually but that doesn't mean they can never get it. It is possible for our cats to develop HCM just as any other cat could. HCM is in many bloodlines and pedigrees and if one cat ever screens positive for HCM that cat should be pulled from the breeding program and reported as positive and made public knowledge so others breeders can trace

his/her pedigree. This is why it is important to do routine health checks as HCM can happen at any age. Also note that only a board certified cardiologist can perform HCM exams.

We also test for FeLV and FIV, we do not vaccinate our kittens for these viruses as they are indoor only cats and are not allowed to roam free outside. If outdoors they must be on leash under supervision or in a protective enclosure.

We do not guarantee against treatable nuisances such as upper respiratory infection, fungus, mites, or fleas, which are not life threatening. A minor upper respiratory infection or fungus can occur as a result of the stress of being relocated into a new home. Upper respiratory viruses are vaccinated against (FVRCP) at 8 weeks, 12 weeks and should be done again at 16 weeks, then 1 year later. Upper respiratory viruses include – Feline herpesvirus, calicivirus, chlamydia, mycoplasma and Bordetella. The first two are the most common and highly contagious, Up to 80% of **cats** develop a hidden (referred to as dormant or latent) infection and become carriers of FHV-1 for life. Most upper respiratory infections in cats will resolve themselves with a little extra TLC and time. However, more severe infections may require treatment, prescription pet medication or even hospitalization. This is why quarantine procedures are so important. We don't want to create more stress for the kitten resulting in lowered immune system.

There are tests for these viruses called PCR which is done in a lab, these test could result in a false positive once the kitten has started receiving boosters as they are modified live vaccines. Tests should be done before kitten receives first vaccine or before receiving one year booster shots. Just think about human flu shots.....have you ever gotten sick after you received your shots? And Herpes virus in humans, when we get stressed we usually end up with cold sores. In Cats, they get cat colds aka herpes virus.

Please follow quarantine procedures and have a kitten "safe room" to make transition easy for the kitten. If you have more questions please contact me and I will try to help.

Sincerely

Sabrina Hewer

Breeze Bengals