

Cat-Proofing Tips

Toxic Items

Secure all cleaning products, human foods, medications, and houseplants. Visit aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control for additional informational.

Common Hazards to Remove or Secure

- Plastic bags and six-pack rings
- Electrical wires and electric blankets
- Small items: hair ties, ribbons, sewing supplies
- Cat toys with strings or feathers (only for supervised play)

Safety

- Keep toilet lids closed
- Use screens on windows
- Restrict balcony or porch access

Bringing Your Cat or Kitten Home

First Days in the Home

- Confine your new pet to one small room (like a bathroom) until they adjust—can take days to weeks.
- Ensure access to water, food, and litter box at all times.
- Spend quiet time in the room to build trust.

Gradually Introducing the Whole House

- Start with short, supervised visits to new areas.
- Monitor for unsafe gaps or hiding spots.
- Full freedom—including overnight—should come only after full adjustment.



Nutrition Tips

- Always provide fresh water.
- Avoid leaving dry food out all day.
- Measure food amounts and avoid excessive treats.
- When changing food, transition gradually over 7 days.

Helpful Resources

ASPCA Cat Care

aspc.org/pet-care/cat-care

Behavior Help

aspc.org/pet-care/cat-care/common-cat-behavior-issues

Dr. Emily Levine's Blog: petbehaviorblog.wordpress.com



New Cat & Kitten Care Guide

Cameron Animal Rescue



417 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042



(973) 744-2052



adoption@cameronanimalrescue.org



cameronanimalrescue.org/new-cat-kitten-care-guide/

Setting Up Your Home

Shopping Checklist

✓ Litter

Yesterday's News (recommended for kittens under 6 months to avoid ingestion hazards)

✓ Litter Box

Large enough for adult size; high sides help reduce spills. Avoid covered boxes for some cats.

✓ Food & Water Bowls

Large enough for adult size; high sides help reduce spills. Avoid covered boxes for some cats.

✓ Food

- Under 6 months: Friskies wet food + Science Diet Maintenance dry food (3–4x/day)
- Over 6 months: Same foods, 2x/day
- Choose food labeled for “growth” (kittens) or “adult maintenance” (adults)

✓ Carrier

Durable and roomy; avoid grate-top or screw-sealed models.

✓ Grooming

Fine-toothed comb (e.g., Furminator); begin brushing early.

✓ Nail Clippers

Use standard or human clippers (avoid guillotine-style).

✓ Toys

Avoid items with string, feathers, or small parts that can be swallowed.

✓ Scratching Post

Offer multiple types (rope, cardboard, upright/floor/hanging).



Socializing Your Cat

With Children

- Keep early interactions short and supervised.
- Teach proper handling:
 - Support chest and hindquarters.
 - Never lift by neck or legs.
- Show children how to read body language (hiding, ears back, hissing = “stop”).
- Never leave cats unattended with infants.

With Other Pets

✓ Initial Setup

Yesterday's News (recommended for kittens under 6 months to avoid ingestion hazards)

✓ Scent Introduction

Let pets sniff under the door; swap blankets or toys to share scents.

✓ Visual Introduction

Place the new cat in a carrier in a shared space (keep enclosed).

✓ Supervised Interaction

Introduce slowly over days or weeks—never rush it.

✓ Reassurance

Give resident pets extra attention. Let relationships develop at their own pace.

Routine Care Guide

Brushing

- Long-haired: 2–3x per week
- Short-haired: At least 1x per week

Nail Trimming

- Start young. Weekly for kittens; adults may need less frequent trimming.

Dental Care

- Use pet-safe toothpaste and a finger brush.
- Avoid human toothpaste (toxic to cats).

Litter Box Habits

- Clean after each use (especially for kittens).
- Scoop daily, replace litter weekly.
- Place in a quiet, always-accessible spot.
- Avoid strong-smelling litters and cleaners.
- One litter box per cat is ideal.

