



Important Kitten Care Guidelines

Updated 2017

Thank you for purchasing a Boyds Bengal! The following are important guidelines/suggestions on taking care of your Boyds Bengal. Of course, every kitten is different, and care depends on your kitten's specific needs.

Introduction to the home. Once you bring your Boyds Bengal home, we recommend that you keep him/her 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 his/her food, water and litterbox, prior to taking him/her on short excursions throughout the house, until he/she becomes familiar with his/her new surroundings. He/she 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 him / her time to come out on his/her own and explore. They need to feel secure in their new home. If your Boyds Bengal was shipped, please show him/her extra love and attention, hold him/her close and comfort him/her, and he/she will love you for "rescuing" him from the airport. 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 the kitten. Please show them the proper way to hold the kitten. Bengals are wonderful with small children, and they make great companions. **Be relaxed** around your new kitten because they will pick up on your nervous energy and anxiety (trust us, we've had this happen before – the more relaxed the client, the less issues with the cat!)

Litterboxes. Boyds Bengals are used to using a hooded litter box, like the one shown below, with the flap removed. But while the kitten adjusts to your home, remove the lid from the box, because it will make it less scary for them. Place the litterbox in the kitten's bedroom and in the living room (if that is where the family normally gathers). Our bengals are used to being in a room with at least one litterbox in each corner, with their dry food and water in the middle of the room, within eyeshot of their dry food bowl and water bowl. **Do not place the litterbox in the laundry room or another floor of the house – 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.** We also use **pine pellet litter**, so *please* use the same, at least for the first week or two – if you want to change out to a different type of litter, place one litterbox with the pine pellet litter and another litterbox with the new litter side by side, while your kitten adjusts.



We place our litterboxes within eyeshot of the kitty's food and drink bowl. So, when you first bring your Boyds Bengal home, try and do the same, so the little one does not get lost trying to get to the litterbox. We also suggest that you show them their litter box first thing upon their arrival, and watch them carefully after they have just eaten or drunk 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 very rare cases, some 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 for some kittens to leave the familiarity of our cattery their littermates than others.

To ease in your little one's transition, we recommend that you buy a similar type of litter box as shown above **and remove the lid for the first few days.** **Do not use an automated litter box for your Boyds Bengal until they are at least 6 months old!** We also suggest that you put litter attractant on in the litter to help the kitten find the box.

Introduction to Pets. If you have other pets in the house, one way to introduce your Boyds 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. **If you have other felines in the house, you must isolate your kitten for 2 weeks, otherwise you will void our health warranty.**

Veterinarian visit. Our contract requires that you take your new kitten to the vet **within 3-business days**, unless you notify us, in writing – the longest time we will allow is 5 business days. **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 (evidenced by a Patient Chart) and cleared as healthy to leave our cattery.** If your kitten has not been exposed to any other animals for 2 weeks, and your kitten starts showing signs of an infection (e.g. upper respiratory, conjunctivitis) or diarrhea, please notify us right away. **Our warranty is void if your kitten has been exposed to other animals during this 2-week period, because there is no way to tell how the kitten caught the infection.**

Food. Our kittens are fed raw chicken ground while being weaned from mom and they have dry kitten food (Royal Canin) that is left available for them at all times. Please be advised that kittens have very sensitive stomachs, so make sure that you change out the food gradually from what they are fed here, over a week or more. Your baby should eat kitten food for the first 12 months, since kitten food has the extra calories and nutrition for your kitten to grow strong. After 12 months, you can switch to adult cat food (again, gradually). However, we do recommend keeping them on a raw diet, as we have found that this improves their coat and adds to their size. For canned cat food, we recommend no more than one can a day, otherwise your kitten may end up just wanting canned food.

Litter. Boyds Bengal kittens use Equine Pellitized Pine Bedding, a wood-pellet litter product, which we buy in bulk from Tractor Supply. An alternative that is available at most pet stores and supermarkets is Feline Pine. You are free to use another type of litter (e.g. clay), if you wish, but again, 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.' **We recommend getting Kitten Attract and sprinkling this on top of the litter when you first bring your kitten home. This helps them find the box.** If your kitten is still having problems, we suggest getting **Cat Attract Litter** and placing this in another box, next to the box with the pine.

Toys. Boyds Bengals love toys! They love to chase balls, feathers, lures - pretty much anything that moves! They also like the sisal rope scratching posts and cat trees.

Socialization, Training and Discipline. Bengals are very smart, but 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. **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.**

Our Guarantee. Our guarantee only covers your BoydsBengals kitten. If you have a multi-cat household, and your other feline(s) comes down with health issues after your kitten arrives, we are not responsible for any veterinary expenses for your other feline(s), as we are not responsible for their health. Similarly, if your BoydsBengal kitten comes down with health issue(s) after exposure to your existing feline(s), we will be responsible only if the issues are congenital issues. You need to make sure that your existing felines are up to date on all vaccinations and have been regularly checked by your veterinarian prior to introducing them to your new kitten. This also applies to any other pets you may have in your household.

Please make allowances. 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 he/she 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 flew by air or have been in a car for several hours). Some kittens may not eat and/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 she/she first arrives. But, if your kitten starts vomiting, has diarrhea (or blood in his/her stool), 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.** We cannot help you if we do not know about the issue. We want to be kept up to date on our kittens' health and well-being. By letting us know about the issue, you can also help us improve our health protocols and our breeding program. We may not be able to help you if you wait a week, two weeks, etc. before telling us that your kitten has had health or behavior issues. It's better to tell us right away so that we can help figure out a solution.



Getting Ready for your Bengal

Food, Litter, Toys -2017

Food. Our kittens are weaned with raw chicken ground in the bone (for pre-packaged raw, **try Blue Ridge Beef Chicken Mix**). Kittens should be fed $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of the raw each feeding. We recommend feeding $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of raw three times a day. Don't be flustered if your kitten doesn't automatically gravitate to your raw recipe! Chicken tastes different everywhere and kittens notice this! If they do not care for your raw chicken, feed them canned kitten food.

Our kittens are free-fed dry kitten food. We are currently feeding our kittens Royal Canin Babykat. **(Please check with us after your have reserved your kitten to make sure this is still the case, as we will occasionally switch over to another brand if our research shows that another brand is preferable).** Royal Canin Babykat is readily available at most pet stores. If you are planning to change to another brand, you need to SLOWLY mix in the new dry food (over the course of at least week) to avoid upsetting the kittens' digestive system. We do not typically feed canned – we prefer to feed raw (at least 2 times a day) and leave the dry food out for them. We occasionally feed canned food, so when you first give your kitten, please do NOT give them canned more than once a day (half a can in the morning and half at night), otherwise some bengals are very smart and some may starve themselves knowing that they will get their canned good!



Babykat is designed for kittens up to **16 weeks** of age. At 16 weeks, start switching your kitten over to a high protein, grain free food. We recommend Evo, Fromms or Orijen for the dry cat food. They are available online or at most pet food stores.

Litter. Feline pine (or any other type of pine pellet litter). We recommend getting **Precious Cat Dr. Elsey's Ultra Litter Attractant** to sprinkle on top of the litter while the kitten is adjusting to its new home.



Litterbox. See photos below. **For kittens, the box needs within eye shot of their food. Please do not put the box in the laundry room or on another floor of the house – the kitten will most likely find it while it is adjusting to your house!** Kittens use the front entry box until they get older. We recommend the top entry boxes for cats that are 6 months or older. When the kitten is first introduced to your home, **remove the top cover for the first few days, until the kitten feels secure.**



Supplements. While the kitten is adjusting to its new home, we recommend supplementing its diet with L-Lysine, that helps boost their immune system, and makes them less susceptible to infections. We give our kittens **Vetoquinol Enisyl-F Oral Paste For Cats, L-Lysine HCl Nutritional Supplement 100 ml**, which we get from www.amazon.com. We give this to them before they leave our cattery, to help protect them from infections while they adjust to their new environment.



This is easy to administer – either add to the kittens' wet food, or just put it on their lips so they will lick it off. Adult bengals love the taste and lick it right off our fingers.

We also add **Kitty Bloom VM 900+** to their raw food and on their dry kibble. Formulated with 15 Vitamins, 10 Minerals and Taurine, Kitty Bloom VM 900+ comes highly recommended and is used by many bengal breeders. Kitty Bloom is a concentrated powder form with real cheese, so it's great for finicky eaters. You can get this from <http://www.thecatconnection.com/cat/Kitty-Bloom.html>



Treats. We suggest Halo Liv-a-Little freeze dried chicken treats. Available on www.amazon.com



4 week old kittens are not as responsive to this treat – wait until the kitten is 6 months old, then start giving it to them – it is also a great training tool!

Cat Trees. We usually buy Amarkat cat trees from www.amazon.com. Bengals LOVE cat trees, and they are a must for any home with a Bengal. Below are some of the cat trees / cat condos that we have in our kitten room.



If you are looking for a unique cat tree, go to www.furwoodforest.com. Their cat trees are pricey but they are great conversation pieces and they are built to last!



Scratching Post. We use the Smartcat Ultimate Scratching Post. We've found them to be very stable and sturdy! We buy ours from www.amazon.com.

Toys. Our kittens like the cat teasers on www.catteasersandmore.com. Let Lillian know we recommended her to you! Our kitties like anything with foil on them! Below is their 12" Foil Pick Teasers with a Ball.



Our kittens also like the teasers from **www.wicketeasetoys.com**. Let our good friends Jen or Pris know we recommended you. Their teasers are pricier but they last longer than the average teaser. The one below, the “Wicked Desire” is our personal favorite. They are worth it!



We also recommend (left to right) "Da Bird"; "Cat Dancer" and Kong Kickeroo - all available on www.amazon.com



Cat Wheels. We have the cat wheel by “One Fast Cat” which is also available on www.amazon.com.



This is a new company and some people have had issues with their wheel, but our cats love theirs. They have “how to install” videos on their website and Facebook page and are best contacted via Facebook messenger.