

Kitten's First Things

It's a good idea to have all the necessary items *before* the kitten is brought home. Here's a list of [Burmesepleez](#) recommendations to ensure a smooth transition. All of these items are available in pet supply stores.

High Quality Kitten Food: At [Burmesepleez](#), we feed our kittens Royal Canin "Baby Cat 34" and will send home a sample bag to get you started. You are welcome to change to any high quality kitten food (Iams, Eukanuba, Blue Buffalo, Purina Pro, Hills, etc), but do so gradually to avoid stomach issues. Please keep your kitten on a food specifically meant for kittens until 10 - 12 months of age as this is a time of rapid growth and kittens need more calories and protein than adult cats. Also be aware that cats (unlike dogs and people) are "obligate carnivores", or strict meat eaters, and need a food designed to support this. Please do not feed a raw diet.

Food & Water Bowls: Choose a small bowl for kitten food and a bigger one for fresh water. Glass, stainless steel, or ceramic are recommended. Avoid plastic as they may leach chemicals into your cat's food over time.

Cat litter: There are many types of litter to choose from, and the type of litter you purchase will depend on your personal preferences. We use "Simplicity Plus" scoopable litter, so recommend starting out with a scoopable litter for your kitten's initial comfort, then switching over to the type of your choice.

Litter box & Scoop: Select a container that is deep enough to contain litter and not get all over your floors. A covered litter box to minimize spills and odors is recommended, however be aware that some kittens will not use covered litter boxes, so this may not be an option.

Scratching Post & Nail Clippers: Providing appropriate places to scratch will help to avoid damage to carpets and furniture. Trimming nails frequently will also help prevent potential problems.

Carrying Case: Hard or soft sided, the choice is yours. Fleece blankets or towels work well as bedding to keep you kitten comfortable as you travel.

Bedding: Your kitten will likely choose their own place to sleep, but it is important to provide a warm, comfortable place where the kitten will feel safe.

Cat Tree and Toys: These items are optional, but will provide your kitten with opportunities to exercise, play, and satisfy their natural curiosity and love of climbing. Every cat is different, but we have found that Burmese especially love feather teasers on a stick, stuffed animals (to fetch and carry around), and brown paper bags. Please keep any tinsel type teasers away from cats as they tend to chew off and swallow the tinsel, potentially causing a life threatening obstruction in the digestive tract.

Bringing Your Kitten Home

Your kitten will be fine in the carrier on the journey to your new home. Unless it is a very long trip (over 6 hours) you do not need to worry about giving the kitten food or water in the car. **Burmesepleez** kittens are highly socialized and typically transition very well, but be aware that this is the first time they have been away from their home, their mother, and their playmates, so this is likely to be a *highly stressful time*, even though your kitten might not show it initially. You can help ease this transition by *moving gently, speaking in a calm, soft voice, and not handling the kitten excessively* at first.

When you arrive home, we recommend bringing the carrier and kitten into a single room and shutting the doors to the rest of your home to limit the kitten's environment. Place food and water in one area and the litter box in another. Allow the kitten plenty of time to explore. Be sure to put the kitten in the litter box so they are aware of this important facility. A kitten will explore endlessly until it feels totally comfortable in its surroundings. When the kitten starts to feel comfortable, its tail will go straight up. It may also start to groom itself. Keep the kitten in this room for a few days, until you are sure they are eating, sleeping, and using the litter box normally. After that, you can gradually increase the kitten's range as they are comfortable.

Be sure to *allow your kitten plenty of rest time*. Cats sleep about 22 hours each day. Adequate rest is necessary for optimum growth and development

Kittens and Kids - We love kids (we had 4, after all!) and the enthusiasm they show toward their new kitten. This is the beginning of a long relationship, and we understand their desire to shower the new arrival with attention. While an adult cat is perfectly capable of avoiding children when they need a break, a kitten is not. Remind your child that a kitten is not a toy, and that they need lots of sleep. It is best not to allow very young children to play with the kitten when you are not present to ensure the child is gentle with the kitten and avoid scratches.

Introducing Your Kitten to Your Other Pets

Introducing existing pets is a very important stage in successfully integrating your kitten into their new home. Well socialized dogs may readily accept the kitten, but a poor introduction could cause resentment from your existing pet. This should take place gradually and gently. Earlier we explained that your kitten should be isolated for the first few days. During this time you can **prepare your existing pet** by maintaining their normal privileges while you:

- Place a towel with the kitten's scent near your pet's food bowl to help them become familiar with the kitten's scent.
- Place the kitten in the carrier and allow your pet free range to sniff and explore the carrier while avoiding direct contact with the kitten.

-Let the kitten and pet sniff each other from the opposite side of the door for a few days so that they are able to interact indirectly. Give your pet a treat when they are in a relaxed posture.

When it comes time for a **face to face meeting**, choose "neutral" territory during play or meal times. Do not allow any aggression. Repeat the process until the pets begin to tolerate each other's presence.

Realize that though most dogs will typically accept the kitten, an adult cat will not appreciate invasion of their territory. They *will* show displeasure by hissing, growling, and/or running away and hiding. Total acceptance may take several weeks or even months until a hierarchical relationship is established. Remember to **be patient during this time**, and give lots of pets and affection for any signs of tolerance or acceptance.

Medical Care

Burmesepleez kittens have had two physicals by a licensed veterinarian, two FVCR-C vaccinations (at 8 weeks and 11 weeks of age), 2 doses of nemex wormer, and a 10 day dose of albon wormer before they are sent to their forever homes. All cats on the premises have tested negative for FELV, FIV, and intestinal parasites, so we **do not** routinely test our kittens.

We recommend scheduling an initial checkup within 72 hours of taking your kitten home in keeping with our health guarantee. Your kitten will not need any vaccinations until they are 14-16 weeks of age when they will be due for their final FVCR-C vaccination and their initial Rabies shot. Rabies and FVCR-C will need to be boosted in one year, after which time both shots are boosted every three years.

Female kittens should be spayed between 5 1/2 and 6 months of age, and males should be neutered between 6 and 8 months. Declawing IS NOT PERMITTED as specified in our contract.

We highly recommend a routine physical exam be scheduled EVERY YEAR for your cat regardless of whether a vaccine is due or not. By doing this, your veterinarian can monitor your cat's dental and medical health and advise you of a potential health issue BEFORE it becomes a major problem. Realize that cats age much more swiftly than humans, and that for every one human year cats age roughly 6 years. Imagine only seeing your doctor once every six years!

***Anesthesia:** Burmese are small, heavily muscled cats and tend to have more issues with anesthesia than other cats. Ketamine anesthetic has been a hot button issue among Burmese breeders, with many having had kittens die during neutering, possibly due to the use of this drug, while other breeders (and veterinarians) assure us it has never been a problem. From personal experience we have seen that Burmese tend to be highly sensitive to anesthesia, so we prefer to use the safest, most mild anesthetics at the lowest dose possible when necessary. We also make sure that cats are placed on a heating pad during and after surgery to keep their body temperature up while sedated. *Please consider discussing this* with your veterinarian *before* scheduling surgery for your Burmese.