

Thank you for adopting a kitten from Bluedreamer Ragdolls.

Take Home Instructions:

1. **Vet Check completed** within 72 hours. (Take pet folder with you!)
2. 3rd dose FVRCP (modified-live) **due** _____
3. **Register Microchip today** (very important!) If lost, the call will not come to you, and maybe not to anyone at all!
4. **Parasite Control** Kitten needs next dose of Revolution or other vet recommended product on _____. Available through Veterinarians. We use Revolution monthly. Another breeder friend of mine uses Stronghold, which has the same active ingredients, but less expensive. Price check and see if another place is cheaper than your vet!
5. If desired, **register kitten** with registration paper provided by breeder online or by mail.
6. **VACCINATION RECS: Rabies vaccination due at 6 months** of age (not before and not with another vaccination-strong reactions have occurred).
 - Due to a known Ragdoll sensitivity, we **DO NOT** recommend the FELV vaccine for Feline Leukemia, or FIP vaccine. I do not know of one single Ragdoll Breeder who does.
 - We only recommend **one** Vaccine per visit to protect due to the connection between multiple vaccines and auto-immune diseases in cats and dogs.

Feeding 101

**Dry Feeding Instructions: Free feed dry cat food all day.
We feed: Purina ProPlan Kitten (Chicken and Rice)**

If kitten seems to be overeating, divide into 3 meals according to recommended daily amount on food bag.

-If kitten seems hungry more dry food is great. The **ONE RULE** is to **gradually** increase the amount, OR risk litter box consequences. Their tummies need a little adjustment period to get used to increased portions. This can be done a variety of ways. Sometimes I scoop the daily amount into a ziploc bag, then divide into portions from there, To increase daily amount, start by adding $\frac{1}{8}$ cup to the daily total in the ziploc bag for a few days, then $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, etc.

-As he/she grows, the amount fed daily will increase, so keep an eye on the feeding directions on the bag. If you work outside the home, you might consider an automatic pet feeder. You do not have to stick to the exact feeding amount on the bag, as it is just a guide. If kitty is looking thin, add a bit more. They will continue to increase their daily intake until 9 months, when it will level off.

-The goal is to eventually be able to free feed the dry food all day, but to avoid kitten gorging and overeating before his/her tummy is ready. The stools will get soft, smelly, mushy and liquidy if they overeat.

-Keep kitten out of other cats' food and dog food. Again, tummy upset is likely if they eat what they are not accustomed to.

Wet Feeding Instructions: Your kitten is eating 1/3 of a 3 oz can (once/twice daily) of **WELLNESS KITTEN CHICKEN PATE. Please add some extra water to increase hydration. Increase gradually to the entire can as kitten is 9 months old. You may divide into 2 meals as well. Wet food is much better for cats than dry.**

Blue Freedom, Tiki Cat, Weruva, Blue Buffalo are brand you can introduce gradually. It is best to avoid grains, by products etc. Read the labels and compare. First ingredient should be a meat such as chicken. Avoid bi-products as much as possible

Wet food Tips: The packets provide more moisture.

Wet food can be served once daily, as whatever time is good for you. We usually feed this in the evening, but morning is fine too. Consistency is pretty important to kitty, as he/she will start to anticipate a certain time of day, and will let you know if your timing is off! If you **add a little extra water** to it, they will take in more fluids, essential for future long-term kidney health.

-I offer wet food every morning and evening.

-Your kitten has been fed mostly chicken varieties in both dry and wet food. Please introduce other proteins gradually.

Diet Changes:

Ragdolls are sensitive to diet changes.

To limit the number of changes your new kitten will need to experience in the first month use **the brand we've been using**. If you want to change brands later, slowly (over the course of 10 days), mix 25% new brand in with the old brand (75%) for 3 days. Then increase to 50/50 for 3 days, then 75/25 for 3 days, then 100% new. If soft stools develop, back up to former mixture for 3 days and then increase. It's not the best idea to feed a different dry food with a higher fat content than Pro Plan Kitten. We have seen occasional digestive issues develop with high fat foods.

Raw Food (optional). It's great to supplement nutrition with extra protein, which help builds bone in growing kittens. They have a variety of options available now in frozen and dehydrated at any retailers. I prefer dehydrated bc I do not like handling raw. Start with very small amount and gradually increase. I do not recommend feeding a totally raw diet. I know several breeders who have done this, and aren't doing it anymore!

Never feed a cat:

dairy, onions, chocolate, alcohol, raisins, grapes, currants, caffeine, raw eggs, bones.

Bringing Kitten Home 101:

Getting Settled:

Kittens feel more comfortable in a new home when they have something near them that smells like their old home, so we have included a small blanket that smells like your kitten and his/her siblings. Place the **blanket** in the carrier for the ride home, and leave it in the carrier for your new pet to sleep on the first few days. If you place a new bed in the carrier, be sure to place the blanket inside the bed.

When you bring your new cat/kitten home, put their food, water, toys, scratching post and litter box in a quiet room you can close off, such as a spare bedroom or bathroom. If your kitten is shy, fearful, or you have other cats in your home, the use of the product Feliway (Amazon.com) may be helpful. **Feliway** is a product that was designed to help reduce anxiety in cats. It contains pheromones from the cat's face, used to communicate feelings of well-being. You may wish to spray Feliway in the cat's new room, in the cat carrier before and after you pick up the cat, and around the house, if you have other cats.

Introducing Kitten to your home and family:

This is absolutely critical and not a process to hurry along. People sometimes do not take this seriously. The kitten must feel safe at all times and not threatened. Behavior issues can occur if this is rushed. Even more-so if another cat is in the home.

Cats need to become thoroughly familiar with new surroundings before they feel comfortable. An entire apartment or house is frightening all at once. Many cats will hide under beds or furniture, sometimes for days. It will be much less stressful for your cat to learn about you, your family and your home a little at a time. This is even more important if there are multiple people and/or pets in your household.

When you bring your cat home, place him in the room you have fixed up for him, keep this room closed off, and let him explore that area first. Let the cat come out of his crate on his own; do not try to coax him or tip the crate to force him out. Cats are curious and most will soon come out to explore their surroundings. Leave the crate or carrier in the room with the door open to allow kitten to go back in if desired. If the cat seems very timid, you can leave the room for a while and check back later. If you really want to stay in the room, get a book and read, use your laptop. Have some toys or treats nearby. When the cat is ready to come out, stay where you are and let him come to you. Talk in a soft, reassuring tone, pet him if he seems interested, but do not try to pick him up. Let the kitten do the approaching. Give him time to learn that he can trust you.

Introduce other family members **slowly and quietly**. Have them come into the room one at a time to pet and play with cat. Have younger children sit down, and then show them how to gently stroke the cat's fur and offer him a few treats. Slow, gentle and quiet is always best. Have the child sit on the floor with you to interact, so the kitten does not fall. Any holding should be on the floor with you next to the child. Make certain that children understand that they are never to chase, scare, or roughhouse excessively with the kitten. They should learn to not bother the kitten while he eats, sleeps, or uses the litter box to help make a good transition. If there are no other pets, you can let the cat begin to explore the rest of the house in a few days. BUT, make this the kitten's PRIMARY home for the first TWO WEEKS.

Behavior:

What you teach right from the start, tends to stick. Some kittens seem to be more food smell crazed than others. Don't leave people food unattended.

Is your kitty doing something weird, naughty or puzzling? There is an incredible wealth of information on this website, Facebook blog, etc... everything from litterbox issues to scratching to recommended cat products. I recently met Jenny, and she is amazing!

<https://www.floppycats.com/>

Poisonous plants: https://www.petmd.com/cat/emergency/poisoning-toxicity/e_ct_poisonous_plants

Other Guidelines:

Indoor Kitten. We strongly encourage your Ragdoll kitten to be an **indoor** kitten. Ragdolls are unable to protect themselves outside and are known to approach other animals without concern. Outside cats may also bring disease inside. Our Ragdolls reside strictly indoors.

Declawing is not permitted. Plan to provide a variety of scratchers to encourage the right places in your home to scratch. We have both sisal rope and cardboard scratchers sprinkled with catnip in multiple areas of our home. With this method, we have not had adult cats or kittens scratching the furniture

Litter 101

What kind of cat litter? How about starting with one which will actually ATTRACT the kitten to the box? We love this stuff! **Dr Elsey's Cat Attract** is best when introducing a kitten to a new home. It helps them find the box more quickly. We have tried almost every litter out there. I really think this brand contains smell much better than most of the others! Use this forever or until kitten understands where the box is at your new home for weeks. If you end up moving the box, move it only a few feet each day to the new location, or kitty may get confused and potty where the box used to be! It's nice to have two. Scoop daily, even twice...kitties like clean boxes!

Your kitten has also been exposed to using Fresh Step Clumping Litter with Febreze and World's Best Cat Litter.

If you decide to **change** cat litter brands, place 2 boxes side by side, one with the old brand, and the other with the new. Allow the box with the old brand to get dirty and do not scoop it much. Keep the box with the new brand very clean. The kitty will start avoiding the dirty litterbox, and will start using the new, clean box. Eventually remove the old box leaving the one with the new litter. We also like the more natural lightweight litters, such as World's Best Cat Litter, but be patient with any type of transition, read product reviews, etc.

What kind of cat box? Cats can be finicky. Some like open containers, some don't mind a lid, some like larger boxes. Some get weird about cat boxes with a top (especially if they ever get ambushed by another cat or dog). Ragdolls get big, so I would recommend larger sized boxes. (If you get one with a lid, you might also have an open one in another location.) Because we use clay litter, I just found a large cat box I love that is non-stick! Much much easier to scoop! They have experienced cat boxes with a lid, and without in our home. See link on product list.

What about dogs? If you have a problem like we did—UGH! Dogs getting into the cat box, you can purchase a large, clear Rubbermaid type box with a lid, cut a hole in the top of the lid, and it's a pretty dog proof litter box. Just make sure kitty has a way to jump on top to she can climb inside. I have also seen people cut a hole in the side of the Rubbermaid box (instead of the top) and position the box near a wall- small enough for kitty to get in and out, but too small for the dog to access! We have also used a cat box with a lid, and positioned the opening near a corner—big enough to let a cat in, but not most dogs!

Non-stick Litter Box & Metal Litter Box scoop (See Product List below)both work wonderfully with clay litter

-Best urine odor remover for **washable fabric** is Oxclean Odor Blaster. Soak the item for 12-24 hours and hand wash or launder. I hope you never need to use it. -We breeders, do at times.