**-Bluedreamer Ragdolls-**

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**Take Home Instructions:**

**\_\_\_Vet Check completed** within 72 hours. (Take pet folder with you!)

\_\_\_**3rd dose FVRCP** (modified-live) due \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_Register Microchip** today <https://www.akcreunite.org/> . This will transfer the kitten’s microchip tag from me (Riverwyn Cavaliers) to you. Lifetime fee.

**\_\_\_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.

\_\_\_**Register Kitten** with registration paper provided by breeder online or by mail. Instructions are on our website.

**\_\_\_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

**Bluedreamer Ragdolls Kitten Care Guide**

Welcome to the Bluedreamer Ragdoll Family. We are so grateful you have made us your breeder of choice. Very soon we will be transferring from our hands to yours, a precious little one we have nurtured, snuggled, loved, and treasured for his/her first 12-14 weeks of life. This is an exciting time for you and a bittersweet time for us. We pray over each kitten, choosing the perfect home and family for each. While it is hard for us to say goodbye, we know your loving home is waiting. Ragdolls are a very special and unique breed. We are so happy we get to share them with you! Moving from our space to yours can be a stressful experience for a young kitten. Everything looks, smells and feels different. Kittens need help to make the very best transition possible.

 We recommend this $4.99 inexpensive e-book to all our Kitten Families to help your kitten make the best transition possible from our house to yours. A Ragdoll Care Guide (by Jenny Dean) <https://a.co/d/eeijxyw>. Print format available in used copies. This book is a treasure.

 (Jenny is a Ragdoll Cat Blogger, and has become my friend. Many times I often check her blog first when I have a question about nutrition, behavior, health etc. <https://www.floppycats.com/>)

 **Everyone ordering the book will receive a special toy in their pick up bag ($5 value). Just text or email me when you have placed your book order!**

**Feeding 101:**

**Dry Feeding Instructions**: Free Feed Dry food or portion into 3 meals/day.

-We feed Orijen Kitten <https://a.co/d/gTUOSeh>. It is a very nutritious food.

-Please feed kitten the same dry food for the first 6-9 months to avoid gastrointestinal upset. Orijen also has an all Life Stage Variety that you may gradually change over to at any time.

-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.

-**Sensitive Tummies**: Ragdolls tend to have sensitive tummies as kittens, however most grow out of it and adult food changes are quicker and easier. Keep kitten out of other cats’ food and dog food. Again, tummy upset is likely if they eat what they are not accustomed to or they experience a quick food change.

**Wet Feeding Instructions:** Please add extra water to wet food to increase hydration. More fluids is what most cats need. Increase amount as kitten grows, leveling off at 9 month of age. Wet food is better nutrition, more easily digestible and much better for cats than dry food. I encourage you to invest in wet food. It promotes better kidney health and hydration for cats, increases silky coat texture, prevents urinary crystals from forming (dry food is a major cause of urinary blockages!) Yes, wet food costs more, but dry food really isn’t good for cats. Mainly dry food is a convenience for people. Kittens here eat 4 times a day at 6-9 weeks, 3 times/day 9 weeks-12 weeks.

Choose feeding times that work for you: Timing is pretty important to kitty, as he/she will start to anticipate a certain time of day, and will let you know with frantic meows if your timing is off.

 -3oz can/day divided into 3 meals. We use:

 -Blue Buffalo Kitten Chicken Pate: <https://a.co/d/1b6bWNA>

 -Weruva Kitten Chicken Breast in Hydrating Pate (Pink Can) <https://a.co/d/cgnR26j>

 -Tikicat Velvet Chicken in Chicken Broth (Orange Packet) <https://a.co/d/aPzI3TB>

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

-Other Brands we Like: **Blue Freedom, Tastefuls, Tiki Cat, Weruva, Blue Buffalo** are brands you can introduce gradually. It is best to by products etc. Read the labels and compare. First ingredient should always be a meat such as chicken (not a by-product).

**Diet Changes: Ragdolls are sensitive to diet changes. Dry food change not recommended. If you MUST change foods, here is how:**

To limit the number of changes your new kitten will 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. We have seen occasional digestive issues develop with high fat foods.

**Raw Food (optional and great for cats).** It’s great to supplement nutrition with extra protein, which help builds bone in growing kittens. I love ❤️ supplementing with frozen or dehydrated available at any retailer. 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. It has not worked for us, but some people swear by it.

**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 ways. 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 now 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 being to explore the rest of the house in a few days. BUT, make this 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. Allowing your kitten to roam outdoors cancels our genetic health warranty. Leashes, backpacks and strollers are ok, but keep in mind once you let them out, they will always try to escape out the door.

**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 Box 101:**

Your kitten has been trained to use large/small, covered, uncovered, shallow/deep litter boxes, as well as the Litter Robot 3. We begin litter training in a shallow pan at 4 weeks of age. As they show success, we enlarge their play space. By 8 weeks, they have free run of the main part of our home and are completely litter box trained. When they transition to ***your*** home, everything is new. They will need to learn where the litter box is located. It is essentially important they begin life with you in a small space such as a bedroom or bathroom. The litter box will go here.

**What kind of cat litter**? Your kitten has also been exposed to:

*Fresh Step Unscented*

*Dr Elsey’s Litter Multicat (Blue Bag)*

*Catit Pea Husk Litter (available at* [*https://www.catit.com/*](https://www.catit.com/)

*Wood Pellet Litter as tiny kittens*

To start, make sure kitten is in a small space, so they learn right away where the litter box is. Something optional to speed up the process is to use  **Dr Elsey’s Kitten Attract or Cat Attract litter for the first 2 weeks.** Most people do not like this litter long term, but it draws kitten to the box very quickly. After 2 weeks and kitten knows where the litter box is, totally ok to change brands. 😊

 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!

If you decide to **change** cat litter brands and your kitten/cat isn’t digging the change over (some cats don’t). 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, only  leaving the one with the new litter. Just 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 sometimes 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.

**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.

**We are always available for questions. 913-488-6773. Usually texting is the best way to reach me. Text me too if you need me to call you. (Sometimes I do miss voicemails**.) We hope you will follow Bluedreamer Ragdolls on Facebook, Instagram and send us updates and pictures!

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