



Cascade Kaperkats

Care Instructions Preparation: Supplies for a new Pixiebob kitten

First, prepare to welcome your kitten home by making sure you have these items on hand:

- Food and water bowls. We recommend getting a running water fountain so your kitten stays hydrated. We use ones similar to these examples. You can find them on [chewy.com](https://www.chewy.com) Amazon or at your pet store.



IMAGES



- The kittens have a rotating protein rich wet food regimen with dry food with a high water content. Nulo cat and kitten Wet food ensures they get lots of moisture in their diet. We also use Tik Cat after dark wet food. Try to stay away from proteins with lots of fish. We highly recommend a high protein wet diet for your little carnivore. We purchase our food from chewy.com



- Treats: As a treat we recommend these freeze dried chicken bites!



- Cat bed: most cats prefer one that they can hide in, if given a choice



- Cat toys: These are our favorites.



- Cat brush: We recommend a shedding brush and a flea comb for normal grooming and a mat brush if they get mats.



- Cat litter box and litter (We use Pine pellets for Horse bedding that we get at our local feed store, if you prefer a clay litter we recommend using a non clumping litter because the clumping litter if ingested can cause harm.)



- Scratching post or strips: A tall cat condo is always a hit. If you don't have the space for a large cat tree, than small scratching posts will do the job.



Helping Your Cat Adjust to a New Home

The ride home

Your pixiebob kitten should be confined to a carrier at all times in your vehicle. Do not let your new pixiebob loose in a moving car or allow children to excite him. Keep your kitten in his carrier until you are safely inside your home. Although most kittens will wait until they are home to use the bathroom there is always the exception. We recommend lining the bottom of the carrier with potty training puppy pads in case of an emergency.

The new home

Allow your kitten several weeks to adapt. During this period, the kitten should be carefully confined. He/she needs to get used to you as the provider of love, shelter and food. Be sure that all windows and doors are kept closed and that all screens are secure. A scared kitten can easily get out of a high open window.

It's not uncommon for kittens to display behavior problems during the first days in a new home, but these usually disappear over time. New kittens often bolt under furniture. Some may spend hours or even days hiding. Sit and talk quietly to the kitten. If you must take the kitten out of his hiding place, carry him gently to a quiet protected area where he will feel secure. Be sure food, water and a litter box are nearby. If you have a larger house, we recommend placing multiple litter boxes around the house.

The first day

Introduce your pixiebob to his new home gradually, restricting him to one room at first.

Isolate other animals from your new kitten during this time. Supervise children, advising them to always be gentle with the kitten and speak in a calm quiet voice. Have the litter box ready when you remove the kitten from the carrier. Show him the location of the litter box. Offer a bowl of water but do not provide food for an hour. Your kitten may be bewildered, fearful or curious. Do not overwhelm him with attention or demands. Remember to keep doors and windows

closed. It is not unusual for kittens to leap on top of very high furniture in order to explore or to feel secure. Do not panic, shout, or run to the kitten. When he is ready, he will come down alone.

Try to spend several hours with your new pixiebob as he becomes accustomed to your home. Your sensitive handling of the initial transition can ease the trauma and set the stage for a happy settling-in.

Sleeping arrangements

Most pixiebobs choose several favorite sleeping spots where they can be comfortable, warm, and free from drafts. Providing a bed for your pixiebob may discourage him from sleeping on furniture. A cozy box or basket lined with soft, washable bedding and placed in a quiet corner makes a suitable cat bed. Pixiebobs also enjoy cat trees to sleep on, don't be surprised if your pixiebob chooses to not use his bed.

Some cats enjoy continually picking new (and sometimes surprising) sleeping spots. A cat's sleeping spot should be respected as his own. Don't allow children to disturb your cat when he is resting. Cats need solitude and quiet time.

Introduction to other animals

The ability of animals to get along together in the same household depends on their individual personalities. There will always be one who dominates. A new kitten will often upset the existing pecking order or the old cat or dog may feel it necessary to establish dominance immediately. Wise handling of the "getting acquainted" period is an important factor in the successful introduction of a new kitten. The first week or two may be hectic, frustrating and time consuming. Be patient. The adjustment will take time. It's important to make sure all of your current pets are up to date with their vaccinations before introducing a new pixiebob to them.

New cat to resident dog

Keep your dog confined until the cat feels secure in his new home. Introduce them indoors with the dog under control on a leash. Do not allow the dog to chase or corner the kitten, even out of playfulness or curiosity. Supervise them carefully and

don't tolerate any aggressive behavior from your dog. The pixiebob kitten should have a safe retreat, either up high or in a room inaccessible to the dog.

Allow your animals to accept one another in their own time and don't leave them alone together until this is accomplished. Never force interaction. Many cats and dogs become companions and playmates while others simply tolerate each other. Be sure to give your dog lots of extra attention to avoid jealous reactions.

New cat to resident cat

Even if the pixiebob kitten you are adopting is good with other cats, there is always the possibility of problems when introducing strangers to each other. There are several steps that you can take to reduce the likelihood of problems. Before bringing your new pixiebob home, create a separate “territory” for him. This area should be equipped with food, water, a scratching post, a litter box, access to natural sunlight, and comfortable resting places.

Your other cats should have their own separate territory. Make certain that both areas (the space for the new kitten and the space for the other cats) contain multiple hiding places so the cats can easily retreat if necessary. Large cardboard boxes with holes cut in two sides make great

hiding places. The second hole allows the cat to escape if cornered by another cat. The boxes will come into play once you start allowing the cats to interact directly, but it can be helpful to introduce the boxes first, so that the cats become accustomed to using them. Keep in mind that cats like to hide in high places, so remove fragile items from shelves or block access to the shelves.

Place your new pixiebob kitten in her space as soon as she arrives home, and spend a minimum of one hour with her (and the other cats in the household) per day. Play with them regularly and watch them closely for signs of stress or anxiety, such as hiding, aggressive behavior, decreased appetite, and/or excessive vocalization. If you see any of these signs, your kitten could be suffering from stress. If the signs persist for more than several days and/or if your kitten stops eating, consult with your veterinarian.

If any kitten is showing mild signs of stress, give him or her time to acclimate to the new situation. If all the cats appear comfortable in their spaces, place the new kitten in a different room (equipped with the same amenities) after two days, and allow your other cats to enter the new kitten's original territory. This will allow each cat to become accustomed to each other's scent in a non-threatening way. Allow the cats to acclimate to their new areas for one day.

Leash training

Indoor cats live substantially longer than outdoor felines — 12 to 20 years versus just one to five years — but some cats just want to go outside now and then.

If your cat gazes longingly out the window and often tries to dart out the backdoor, he might be a good candidate for leash training. Taking regular outdoor walks can keep cats healthy and reduce boredom-related behavior problems.

While most cats can be trained to walk on a leash, kittens are naturally more accepting of wearing a harness.

Purchase a harness or walking jacket designed for cats, and make sure the leash attachment is located on the back of the harness — not the neck. It's not safe to walk cats on traditional collars. We prefer the simple harnesses over the other brands. Like the one below.



Getting comfortable

Start draping the harness over the animal's shoulders to help him get used to the feel of it. Distract him with treats and remove the harness after a few seconds. Continue this process until you can snap the harness on.

Now that your kitty is wearing the harness, practice adjusting the fit. You should be able to slip two fingers between the harness and your pet's body. Leave the harness on for a few minutes, feeding treats as a reward. If your cat gets upset, distract him with food or toys and remove the harness.

Attaching the leash

After a few days of practice, take your harnessed cat into a room where he can't easily snag his leash on anything and attach the leash. Let the leash drag behind him as you feed him treats and play. Once he's comfortable, pick up the end and gently leading him around your home. Keep the leash loose and let him go where he wants. Give treats and pats for good behavior and praise your pet often.

When he's used to the leash, practice guiding him by applying gentle, persistent pressure on the leash — but don't jerk it. When your cat comes toward you, reward him with a treat.

Venturing outside

If your cat hasn't been outdoors before, he'll be nervous and easily startled, so start in a quiet area free of people and other animals. Simply sit with your leashed kitty and wait for him to explore on his own. Follow him as he ventures into new areas, but don't force him outside his comfort zone. Keep in mind that walking a cat isn't the same as walking a dog. While some cats might love to walk the sidewalk and explore new areas, others might prefer to stay close to home.

More leash-training tips

- Put the harness on away from the door and carry your cat outside. Letting him walk out on his own might encourage him to dash out between walks.
- Set a regular walking schedule, so your cat won't pester you to go outside whenever he feels like it.
- If your cat gets scared while walking, don't pick him up. Instead, retreat to a previous area that he's explored.
- Never tie your cat's leash to something outside and leave him.