

# Behavior Tips For New Kitten Owner's

## Using The Litter Box

1. Until the habit of using the litter box is firmly established, confine the kitten to a small room with its litter box whenever it cannot be closely supervised.
2. Place the box in an area that is easily accessible and provides some privacy.
3. Provide at least two boxes if you have more than one cat.
4. Scoop the box daily and completely clean every week.
5. Avoid using strong-smelling disinfectants to clean the box.
6. Do not medicate, punish, scold or do anything else disagreeable to the cat when it is in the litter box.
7. If you change the brand of litter, gradually replace the old litter with the new over a 5 day period.
8. Don't rub the pet's nose in urine or stool if it misses the box
9. Neuter the pet soon after it reaches 4 months of age.
10. Call our office at the first sign of housesoiling for more help. Long term problems can be very difficult to correct.

## Scratching Furniture

1. Provide a scratching post in an easily accessible location.
2. Make sure the scratching post is sturdy.
3. Try scratching posts with different surfaces {wood, rope, carpet, fabric, etc} to find which kind the kitten prefers.
4. Whenever the kitten scratches the post, immediately give it a food reward.
5. Closely supervise the kitten and punish unacceptable scratching by squirting it with a water gun during the act.
6. When the kitten cannot be supervised, confine it to a room where the only acceptable scratching surface is its scratching post.
7. Booby trap furniture you want to protect:
  - A. Pin or tape balloons to the sides of furniture.
  - B. Place mousetraps (which have been set and placed upside down) on or around furniture.

## Chewing on Plants

1. Mist the plant with water, then sprinkle cayenne on the leaves.
2. Booby traps (see above)

## Play Biting

1. Don't encourage attacks toward your hand.
2. Direct attack-play behaviors toward thrown toys (try Ping-Pong balls) or toys on a string.
3. Discourage biting or attacking with a water gun or blast of compressed air (cans are sold at camera stores).
4. Some kittens will play bite after a predictable amount of petting. Anticipate this response and keep petting sessions short.

\*\* We want you and your new kitten to get off to a good start. If you have any problems or questions about training, please give us a call. GOOD LUCK!!!