

KITTY SUPPLIES

The What, Why and Where (based on years of experience....)

- 1) **Collar & Tag** - Safety collar has stretchy insert or entire collar is stretchy. Engraved plastic tag recommended - easily readable at a distance, for the hard-to-catch cat.
- 2) **Food & Water Dishes** - separate dishes much easier to clean. Put on opposite sides of room to prevent food crumbs from dribbling into water. Gravity waterer preferred - gives illusion of fresher, running water. Cat drinks more, help prevent FUS, and saves you time (refill about once a week).
- 3) **Cat Box** - buy one large one now. Small is cheaper, but cat will soon outgrow it, then you will have to buy a bigger one anyway. The bigger the better - most cats object to bumping tail on side. Cover is generally preferred - provides privacy, odor control, and control of litter scatter. One disadvantage to cover: can't see when dirty as easily - must clean faithfully! Location of box - somewhere private, quiet, easy to reach without obstacles such as dogs or kids in the way, where you are likely to check it daily.
- 4) **Cat Litter** - 2 basic kinds:
 - A) Regular clay
 - 1) Advantages - scatters less; if you aren't religious about scooping, can be cheaper to use
 - 2) Disadvantages - if you are religious about cleaning box, more expensive to use; litter harder on your feet; odors build up in box; harder to dig in-some cats don't like as well.
 - B) "Clumping" litter (Everclean, Better Way, etc.)
 - 1) Advantages - less expensive to use for faithful scooper; odorless! urine discarded with litter when scooped; flushable; easier on your feet and theirs-declawed cats prefer
 - 2) Disadvantages - more expensive and odorous to use for less than faithful scooper; scatters more easily

****Recommendation: try the clumping kind, see if it works for you. If not, switch to regular clay.**

5) **Cat Scratching Post** - cats feel safest up high, so will use tall (5 ft +) post with less training required. Type with open tray at top is favored by most cats-provides sleeping place. Cats scratch to leave a visible territorial marking, so locate post in heavily traveled area of house such as a walkway in the family room, NOT in a corner or back room. Can gradually be

moved at a later date, when training complete. As always, you get what you pay for: the more expensive posts tend to last *much much* longer.

6) **Hairball Remedy** - (Petromalt, Primalt Gel, etc.)

Weekly use allows hairball to pass before big enough to require emergency surgery. Use before signs of hairballs appear. Especially important during shedding seasons and for longhaired cats.

****Cats usually like the stuff!!****

7) **Grooming supplies**

A) Shorthairs

- 1) 100% boars bristle brush--flat head is most effective. Can get at any beauty supply store.
- 2) Flea comb--removes fleas, fleas debris, and shedding hair!

B) Longhairs

- 1) "Slicker" bush--type with curved head works best.
- 2) Wide toothed comb, metal--needed if hair is thick. Use before using brush, to get deep tangles out. (Brush just skims over.)
- 3) Flea comb (not as fine as for shorthairs)--if hair not as thick as Persian's. See above for reasons.

C) All cats--cat claw scissors. Better than dog nail clippers--cuts from both sides so doesn't shred nail. Expensive, but stays sharp for years, and lots cheaper than new sofa! Check nails weekly. Trim at point where nail suddenly narrows--should be at least 1/8" beyond pink area (the "quick", which will bleed if clipped.)

8) **Miscellaneous Supplies**

A) Water squirt bottle--for discipline. See separate instruction sheet.

B) Flea sprays for house--most effective use of money for flea control, as over 90% of fleas are off your cat at any one moment. Look for "IGR" or "Precor" or "Insect growth regulator hormone" on label--keeps eggs already laid from hatching. Spray under furniture, cushions, around baseboards as well as the obvious areas.

C) Flea spray/dip/shampoo--use those with "pyrethrin" as main ingredient--safe and effective. Takes 15 minutes to kill all fleas, in spite of what label says. NEVER use products labeled only for dogs on a cat--they can kill!

D) Enzyme products for cleaning up "accidents"--(Outright, Nature's Miracle, Odormute, etc.) DON'T clean area with soap or disinfectant first--you need those friendly bacteria! Soaps & disinfectants remove the smell to your nose, but the cat can still detect the smells, and will use area again.

The bacteria will break down the urine/poop so kitty can't smell it.