

QUICK NOTES

FEEDING, FOOD, LITTER, VACCINES, SPAY, NEUTERING, VET. PLEASE READ.

FIRST: DO NOT ALIENATE YOUR KITTEN OR CAT! Do **NOT** put them in a room all by themselves. Set them up in **YOUR** room, or a child's room so they start to bond with you. Keeping them all by themselves is a recipe for disaster and the pet will become withdrawn.

WORK WITH YOUR NEW PET! It is not uncommon for a new kitten and **ESPECIALLY AN OLDER CAT** to not eat for the first few days, and hide. Pull them out, put them on, or next to you on the couch for 20 minutes at a time. Pet them and speak to them so they know it's OK and safe. Try to do this about 3 times in AM, 3 times in PM if possible.

WORK WITH YOUR CAT: Please do not call me in 3 days to return a cat of a year old or more because you haven't given the pet the appropriate time for adjustment. An "older" cat can take up to a month to readjust! **PLEASE GIVE THEM THE TIME, PATIENCE AND ATTENTION TO READJUST!**

FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS: Dry food – **Purine ONE adult or kitten dry food is what they are eating right now, and suggested to stick with this for the first year.** Purina ONE "Tender Select Blend", chicken flavor, teal colored bag. Can mix in Blue Buffalo or Iams, or a hairball blend 10 months or so down the road. Dry food is left out **ALL DAY** to graze on, with plenty of fresh water. Absolutely no milk products.

CAN FOOD: Give one small 3.3 oz. can in AM, and one in PM for the first 5 to 6 months, then one small can in AM only. (Or PM if it's easier for you). For older cats, one can a day is fine.

CAN FOOD: Fancy Feast, Blue Buffalo, Purina, Friskies brands are OK. **NO POUCH FOODS! BEST WAY TO UPSET OR STRESS OUT THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM IS TO IMMEDIATELY CHANGE FOODS! CAN CAUSE DIARRHEA. DO NOT CHANGE DIET OR FOODS FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR, AND IF YOU DECIDE TO DO SO, DO IT OVER THE COURSE OF A COUPLE OF WEEKS.**

LITTER, BOXES, SYSTEMS: Use a simple, open box type. Use a "clumping" litter like **CATS PRIDE** – sold in WalMart, and most stores. White plastic jug, blue label, PINK cap. Although it says "scented", it really is not. **ABSOLUTELY NO FRAGRANT OR SCENTED CAT LITTER!** A lot of cats and kittens are allergic to the fragrances, as well as people. **Use "Dr. Elsey's Kitten Attract" if kitten is having issues adjusting to your type of litter, or frequent accidents outside the box.** Carried at PetSmart, Petco, Walmart, Chewy.

LITTER BOX: When you get home, show them where it is by putting them in the litter box. If an accident occurs, pick it up and put it in the litter box – do not cover it. Then place the cat or kitten in it.

SPAY, NEUTERING, ALTERING: Do **NOT** spay or neuter your pet until they are at least 10 – 12 months of age. It is much better for the cat the longer you wait, especially for males. They will be much better developed.

LEUKEMIA VACCINE: Do **NOT** do leukemia vaccine unless you feel you are at **high risk**. My cats have either been tested, vaccinated, and do not have outdoor exposure, or exposure to other cats. More cats will die from this vaccine, than all the other vaccines combined. Assess your own situation and the pet's risks. If you have a lot of kids going in and out with the doors always being flung open, then that would be a high risk. If there is a great chance of your cat getting outside, or there is another cat in the house that goes outside, this is a high risk.

MUTIPLE VACCINES: Do **NOT** do 2 vaccines on the same day, like distemper and rabies. Try to **put 4 weeks in between ALL vaccines and surgical procedures.** This will stress out their immune systems and is a recipe for disaster!

DIARRHEA – PROBIOTICS: It is common practice in catteries to do all cats and kittens routinely with dewormers, chemicals, drugs, medications. These are all meant to kill certain organisms. However, they also kill off the "good" bacteria or flora in the gut. This lack of good bacteria can result in loose

stools, dry diarrhea, or wet. It can take months to rebuild. Use a **GOOD probiotic** to re-establish good gut flora like “Tummy Works”, sold by Chewy.com. Sprinkle on food. It may take a month to work. **GIVE NO MILK PRODUCTS.**

COVID, VIRUSES, AND KEEPING YOUR PET AND FAMILY SAFE

The world today has definitely changed since Covid, which is still with us. We don't know when the next “worse” mutation will arise, or another type of super virus will emerge. As a breeder, along with other breeders, we've all had to make adjustments on how we sell our pets to reduce contact, and keep everyone involved as safe as possible. Most breeders now will not allow home visits. Pre-selection of a pet is an absolute must through photos. Most breeders will not even allow you to handle a potential pet. It's a sorry situation, but it's the way of the world for now.

For those of you with concerns, and for the safety of your pet - EVERYONE MUST WASH HANDS FIRST BEFORE TOUCHING YOUR KITTEN OR CAT!

I do not have many people in my home since March 2020. The practice of handwashing that was drummed into our heads with the pandemic is still a good idea to keep up for safety concerns. Living through the pandemic, we have all seen or experienced how easily transmissible a virus or disease can be. It has been reported that cats, dogs, and other animals can contract certain viruses from us. You can protect yourself by wearing a mask, distancing from others, washing your hands, and getting vaccinated. **YOUR PET CAN NOT DO THESE THINGS FOR THEMSELVES.** There are some steps you can take to protect your pets and keep them safe, especially during peak seasons, from pathogens.

When you touch, or pick up a bag of cat food, ask yourself these questions:

Who just handled this bag? Or can? Box of litter? Do they run a shelter? Do they have outdoor cats? Are they feeding and handling strays? Did they just do some gardening and not wash their hands? If you do NOT know any of these answers, assume yes. In which case they just could have transmitted a bacteria, virus or protozoa eggs to that item that you now have handled!

SINGLE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS TO WASH YOUR HANDS WHEN YOU COME HOME, AND WIPE DOWN ANY CAT ITEM YOU JUST BOUGHT – BAG, CAN, BOX OF LITTER, ETC.

If someone you know, or in your home is ill, treat your pet like you would treat others in your home. Limit your pets' exposure to this person. Do not let others from outside the house handle or touch your pet, or come into close contact if you believe they are ill. If your pet has come into close contact with a person who is **SEVERLY** ill with a transferrable disease or virus to animals, you may feel the need to bathe them. You can wash them in lukewarm water in your kitchen sink with the “original” **DAWN DISWASHING DETERGENT in the blue bottle. NEVER wash or use bleach or hydrogen peroxide on your pet, or to clean their coat or feet! These chemicals are extremely toxic to them and death can occur, ESPECIALLY WITH HYDROGEN PEROXIDE.** Fill sink with lukewarm water, lather them up, starting from the neck down. Gently scrub them with a washcloth. Re-fill the sink with fresh, lukewarm water and rinse them thoroughly. Towel dry, and keep them in a warm, draft-free place until they are dry.

If you feel your pet is ill, or has contracted something, **do NOT hesitate to call your vet ASAP. Fully explain the situation, and the “how and why” you think they may be sick. The sooner you do, the better for your pet.** Let's keep them as safe as possible.

PET SAFETY

HOLIDAYS, PARTIES, BBQ'S, FAMILY AND FRIEND GATHERINGS

Protect Your Pet!

Besides keeping your pet safe from germs and pathogens, you need to protect them from harm in other ways. **NEVER ASSUME THAT THEY WILL BE ALRIGHT with lots of people over**, or holiday events with friends and relatives. Pool parties, picnics, backyard BBQ's, Fourth of July fireworks, Thanksgiving feasts, Christmas with the family over, New Years' Eve house party, graduation get-togethers, and the list goes on and on. All of this is outside of their daily norm, and can add stress to their life. With people going in and out the door, carrying food outside, etc., your pet can quickly get "spooked" and dart outside. **ALWAYS BETTER TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION, RATHER THAN TO DEAL WITH DISASTER!**

Tips or things to do to limit stress for your pet, when you have a special event going on in your home.

1. If you are having family or friends over put your pet in a quiet room by itself, especially a new pet. Preferable someone's bedroom is best. Make sure it has food, water, litter box, favorite toys. If a puppy or dog, quietly take it out the back door for its walks, or whatever door is furthest from the crowd.
2. **ANYONE**, even yourself when you have people over **MUST** wash their hands before touching your new pet. You don't want to transfer something to your pet, from a guest in your home.
3. If someone wants to "see" your pet, do **NOT** let them get too close, and do not let them "snuggle" their face into your pet. Try to not let them "breathe" on your pet. Germs are transferable, and your pet may become scared, and even bite or nip out of fear. Let them "see" your pet away from the crowd, preferably in a quiet room. If your pet is really "fussing" and doesn't want to be held, either by you or the new person – leave her alone. She's telling you she's not comfortable with the situation. Don't force it.
4. A new pet in a new home is an animal under a great deal of stress already. This alone brings down the immune system. A kitten (or a puppy) already does not have a 100 percent up-and-running immune system. It takes time for it to become fully developed. Don't add more stress to their immune system by forcing them to "come out". Leave them alone in the privacy of the room, and check on them often, until everyone has left.
5. When your guests leave, don't think it's fair game to just open up the door and let your pet out. Give them a bit of time to adjust and process that everyone has gone, and things are transitioning back to a normal state. Clean up most of the area where your pet has access to in the house, and quickly wipe down hard surfaces where foods, and drinks were. These areas can harbor certain transmissible germs.

When guests are gone, assign someone to the pet. Let them off the hook for clean-up, and let them comfort the pet for a while, until things are cleaned up and settled down. They should wash their hands first from handling foods, glasses, and garbage. It sounds like a lot of precautions, but will be worth it in the long run. Let's keep our pets safe during holidays, and any event going on in your home.