

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Foods</b>             | Fussy Cat<br>BFF Packets<br>Wellness Core or Wellness Kitten  |
| <b>Litters &amp; Box</b> | Dr Elsey's Precious Cat Litter<br>Dr. Elsey's Pelleted Pine Litter<br>World's Best Cat Litter ~ <i>made from corn cob</i><br>Sweet Scoop ~ <i>made from wheat hulls</i><br>Pet Mate Hooded Litter Box |
| <b>Toys</b>              | Cats Claw Teaser - Feathered Flyer<br>Star Chaser Turbo Scratcher   |
| <b>Grooming</b>          | Metal comb - standard<br>Safari cat brush - soft<br>Furminator Cat deShedding Tool<br>Allerpet Grooming Solution  |
| <b>Hairball Treats</b>   | Defurr-UM Treats  |
| <b>Cord Sprays</b>       | Bitter Apple spray  |
| <b>Flea Control</b>      | Revolution or Profender   |

### **First Day Reminders**

- Show the kitty the litter pan, food and water as soon as you get home.
- Kitten's room should have food and water, and a litterbox.
- The litter box should not be right next to the food & water
- Be aware that reactions to litter dust are a major allergy issue.
- Do not ever chase the kitten for any reason - allow the kitten to come to you.
- If you have ANY concerns about your new kitten, please call us right away.

## **NEW HOMES**

This is your kitten's first time away from home, so it will startle easily. Allow the kitten time to adjust and become secure in your environment. Keep the room quiet and introduce it to family gradually. Learn to let the kitten come to you. When a child chases or tries to capture the kitten, it will learn to run away from them. Use a wand toy or drag a little bell on a string, teaching the kitten to come to you. **Don't startle the kitty and never chase it when it hides.**

Start out in a smaller room which becomes "Home" for the first days. Introduce one room at a time, allowing the kitten time to explore. Wait a few days before expanding territory. It is usually fine to carry the kitten to the living room for playtime and naps on your laps, but only if it is not afraid.

## **LITTER BOX**

When you get home, show the kitten the litterbox. Put the box in the room they will call "home". Another litter box stays in the permanent location. Always add a litterbox when moving them around, and leave the old one in its place for several days. Your new kitten needs a litter box of its own. If you have any accidents, Dr Elsey also makes a "Kitten Attract" clay litter. Litters are made from many different things. The commonest are clay, pine sawdust, wheat hulls, corn cobs, and newspaper. ***Be aware that reactions to litter dust are are a large allergy issue.***

## **STRESS**

For a few days, the kitty will be lonely and cry for their litter mates. They might get skittish, hide, or refuse to eat. Stress and food changes may cause diarrhea. Call your vet if you the kitten has watery diarrhea, or a fever. Change foods gradually, mixing the new food in with the old.

## **OTHER PETS**

If you have other pets, allow the kitten to settle and be comfortable before introducing them. Do not leave kitten alone with other pets until you know they are friends (it might be days, or several weeks). Let the animals get to be familiar with the new animal's smell by placing them in adjacent rooms. They can sniff under the door and play "paws" for a while until they are ready to meet each other. Other pets might not like the kitten using their food and water dishes at first.

## **FOOD & WATER**

Dry food and fresh water are left available to the kitten at all times. Premium foods have animal or fish proteins as the first ingredient (not by-products). Kitten should obtain protein from meat not grain. Foods containing corn, wheat, and soy are poorly digested. Introduce new foods mixed with the current food. Start with 20% new and gradually increase over several weeks.

Siberians mature slowly, so feed kitten food or premium dry food for TWO years unless your vet says the kitten is overweight. Canned wet food may cause gum disease, but does provide the extra water cats tend to need. **Do not give the kitten milk, it can cause bloody stools,** .

We recommend metal or china dishes, as plastic bowls can harbor germs in the surface that can cause serious chin infections called "feline acne." that are difficult to cure. Cats need to drink lots of water, and will drink more water from a fountain than a dish. We plastic fountains weekly with bleach solution.

## **INDOOR vs OUTDOOR**

Many fatal feline diseases such as Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV), FIP, Feline Aids and respiratory viruses are common in outside cats. Cats also fall prey to dogs, coyotes, and fierce automobiles. A majority of outdoor kittens do not survive their first year. Please do not allow your kitten outdoors without a leash or an enclosed run. One disadvantage of introducing your kitten to the outdoors is that the kitten learns to wait at the door, looking for opportunities to slip outside.

### **DECLAWING**

We discourage declawing. A declawed cat cannot defend itself, and may learn to bite. Litter box habits change due to permanently tender feet. Do not use plastic Claw Caps. They cover the claws forcing them to remain extended, and painful. Use laser surgery if you are going to declaw your cat. Train your kitty to a sisal rope tree instead furniture. It needs to be tall enough for the cat to stretch upright on when full-grown. They like posts in prominent areas, or in the middle of the room.

### **HEALTH CARE**

Our kittens are given a vaccination at 8 -10 weeks, sometimes a booster before they leave. Kitten are examined by our vet prior to leaving our cattery. Health records will accompany the kitten. Our cattery is maintained free of feline diseases and parasites. Take your kitten to the vet within three days.

### **GROOMING**

Siberians present little grooming problems. Their coats are easy to maintain and a weekly combing is all that is generally needed except during spring shedding.. Pay close attention to the softer hair on the britches and under arms which tends toward matting. If your kitten develops mats under the arms or britches, have those areas shaved shorter.

Prior to routine combing, moisten your kitten with **Allerpet** grooming solution which prevents loose fur and allergens from becoming airborne and provides an excellent waterless bath.

If you have a flea problem, obtain Revolution or Profender from your vet. Mild flea shampoos are fine. **Please note, Hartz Flea Drops are toxic to cats.**

The kitten can be taught to be accept baths calmly. We bathe and gently blow dry cats and kittens as needed. A shampoo with aloe, oatmeal or lanolin will keep the skin from becoming too dry. If you choose to take your cat to a groomer, ask them about their grooming process. Do not let them tranquilize your cat, and do not let them leave your cat unattended with a blow dryer. Your kitten has been raised with love and care, so please find a groomer that will work with you.

### **TEETHING:**

Sometimes when teething, kittens will chew on things that are not allowed. Treat cords with bitter apple sprays. If they are teething, give them a wood chopstick to chew instead. Do not allow nipping or biting behaviors to develop.

**Teasing your kitten in the belly or around the tail will lead to biting and clawing behaviors.**

### **KITTEN COMMANDS**

Four simple commands are all the training your kitten really needs. Each of these “single word” commands has a distinct tonal quality, and will confuse the kitten.

### **1. NoBite**

Nipping or biting should be immediately but gently disciplined, even little “Love Bites”. Immediately blow in their face and say "**NoBite NoBite**"

I am reluctant to increase the ante, as it can cause problems, however if blowing does not cure the situation within several days, then gently tap the kitten on the nose and say "**NoBite NoBite**".

If play biting becomes common, increase rigorous activities for the kitten, as boredom and the lack of playmates is a common cause of biting.

### **2. KittyCome**

Start just a foot or so away from the kitten and say "**KittyCome KittyCome**", then reward Kitten with chips of bacon or other little treats. Find a treat he will always come to, such as fried liver in little chips that are fully dried, or a taste of sardines.

Choose a toy the kitten loves, and only use it to teach “Come” - put it away otherwise. A little bell on a string works great, or a long feather wand toy. Spend 5 to 10 minutes three times a day teaching the kitten to chase after you. As you drag the toy along the floor, say "**KittyCome KittyCome**".

Make a little felt bag filled with rice and sew on a few fluffy feathers. Slide it gently away from you until he chases it. Slowly teaching him to bring it back and set it next to you. Keep up the game for several minutes. In time, you will be able to slide the toy to another room and Kitten should bring it back repeatedly. Again, "**KittyCome KittyCome**"

Use a small holiday type bell and teach kitten to come from anywhere in the house. If they get outside accidentally, it will help get them home.

### **3. NoClaw**

Kittens should always retract claws when they're in your lap, or climbing up and down. If they use their claws inappropriately, very gently tap the claw with your hand and say "**NoClaw NoClaw**". Do Not tease your kitten on the belly, it will lead to biting or clawing behaviors.

### **4. KittyNo**

The last command is universal, any unwanted behaviors. The command needs to be reinforced from across the room by clapping your hands and saying "**KittyNO**". If he does not obey, then use a squirt bottle with a little bit of lemon juice in water.

## **REDUCING ALLERGIC REACTIONS**

Moisten the kitten with Allerpet Grooming Solution prior to combing the fur. This will reduce allergens released into the air during combing, remove excess oils and deactivate allergens. Frequent grooming with a moistening solution is very helpful in reducing reactions to your kitten.

Allerpet Solution can be purchased on Amazon, or directly from the mfg. [www.natlallergy.com](http://www.natlallergy.com)

Bathe kitten twice a month to wash allergens and irritants out of the coat. Pet shampoo containing lanolin, aloe, or oatmeal may reduce irritating your kittens skin. Dry with a towel and comb, or if the cat will allow it, use a hair dryer to warm and fully dry their fur

Place washable fleece throws on places that kitten likes to sleep, and wash the throws weekly in hot water with detergent and borax to deactivate allergens.

Maintain a calm environment. Cats under stress increase production of Fel d1 allergen. Typical causes of stress include having too many cats in the house, sudden noises or commotion, and a lack of quiet attention and grooming.

Reactions to young kittens from litter box dust are fairly common. Small kittens tend to play or scratch quite a bit in the litter box and get dust on their fur. Use a dust free litter such as Green Tea Litter, Feline Pine Litter, or Dr. Elsey's Precious Cat to reduce reactions.

Clean and change litter boxes frequently as Fel-d1 and other allergens are found in urine and feces. If possible, the litter box should be kept in the garage. Otherwise, place the litter box in a bathroom or laundry room that can be vented to the outdoors. Green Tea Litter has ground tea leaves that help eliminate odor and allergens. Please do not use herbal teas in the litter box.

Place the cat door through a wall into the garage and make a secure area with a top for the litter box. This will prevent kitten from playing in the garage or escaping. Rigid wire panels are inexpensive and available at [www.revivalanimal.com](http://www.revivalanimal.com)

Keep your kitten out of the bedrooms of highly allergic individuals. This allows the allergic person a period of recuperation (no exposure at night) and can strongly reduce daytime reactions.

Frequent vacuuming will reduce allergen levels. Remember to clean upholstered furniture at the same time. Air out the house after vacuuming when possible. Hepa filters on forced air systems are excellent at trapping allergens. Regularly damp mop hard floors to remove allergens from the rooms. Also wipe counters and other hard surfaces to eliminate dust buildup.

**Before your new kitty explores its new surroundings please check the home for safety hazards:**

Electrical and phone cords -- “Bitter Apple Spray” will stop chewing on cords

Toilet lids left up -- kitten can easily drown in a toilet bowl

Open fireplaces or on top of hot wood-stoves can be dangerous

Open stairways or lofts

Loose window screens

Reclining and rocking chairs -- can crush a kitten that has crawled inside

Long fringe or mini-blind cords -- can strangle kittens

Accessible garbage -- some bones can splinter and injure the kitten’s stomach.

Rubber bands -- if eaten can twist around the intestines

Plastic wrap and bags -- kitten can eat it, strangle on it, or suffocate in it

Cellophane and Christmas tree tinsel (it can cause severe internal lacerations)

Plastic bags

Styrofoam which the kitty could eat

Cigarettes

Needles, pins, and/or threads, knitting and/or crocheting materials

Cat toys -- remove small bells, eyes, other swallow hazards for kittens.

Open appliances - dryers, ovens, freezers, etc.

Keep your workshop and sewing rooms off limits

Photographs -- kittens will lick them

Tape --kittens will lick and try to eat it.

Cleaning products - many are toxic to cats including Lysol.