

## WHAT DO I NEED FOR MY CAT or KITTEN?



### **Cat carrier**

Your cat must always be transported in a secure carrier. Look for something sturdy that will wash easily. A carrier with a top that opens is easier to place the cat inside. Once home you can take off the door of the carrier and it will provide your cat with a warm place to hide. Then when it's time to go to the vet it will not be afraid to go into it.

**Litter tray & litter scoop** - larger cats need larger trays or even deeper sided plastic boxes; kittens need shallow sided trays to start with. Look around, there are different types and sizes. If you are going to use a litter tray with a hood you will need to get your cat used to it without the hood first or it may choose to toilet elsewhere

**Litter** - there are several types of cat litter to suit every pocket, cat and human preference. Ideally, at least in the beginning you should continue to use what the cat is used to and if you decide to change it do this gradually by mixing the old and new types of litter. Don't use clumping litter for kittens as they may eat it. Put the litter tray in a quiet place away from the feeding area if you can.

**Optional** : You can buy a larger base or mat to catch any stray litter which makes it easier to clean the area or use a deep sided plastic box for adult cats to prevent spillage.

**Bowl(s) for food and water** - If you feed both wet and dry food you may want to have separate bowls for each. Ceramic bowls are best. You may want to put the bowls on a waterproof mat for any spillage (especially if your cat loves playing with water!). If you get ants in summer you can get special raised feeding platforms to prevent them getting in your cat's food. You might want to invest in a puzzle toy or small Kong so that your cat has to work for it dry food.

**A scratching post** - ideally this will have different levels, have platforms wide enough for your cat to sit on and be tall enough for it to stretch up on and climb. A scratching post encourages your cat to climb and exercise and allows them to keep their claws healthy. Search online, on Facebook marketplace, Gumtree and ebay for cheaper scratching posts.

**Toys** - You are trying to copy a cat chasing and catching its prey so try different types of toys to see which they like best. String/wand toys are good for you to use when playing with them so you can encourage them to chase, but other toys such as pom-poms, ping-pong balls etc are great for them to play with when they're on their own. Some cats like playing in cat tunnels. You can get some great cheap wand toys from Kmart. You can make toys at home - search online and in youtube for examples. Try to play with your cat several times a day for a few minutes at a time, but especially before bed time so that they can get rid of any excess energy before they go to sleep.

### **Should I get my cat a bed?**

Some cats like beds, others don't and prefer to sleep on the lounge or your bed! Before you buy a bed take some time to find out where and how your cat likes to sleep. Try giving them a cut down cardboard box with a soft blanket or towel inside. If they use it they might like a bed. If they don't, they probably won't use a bed either and you will have saved some money.

### **Should I get pet insurance?**

This provides cover for future vet fees but it is purely a matter of personal circumstance and choice. Check with your vet for help.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact us.