

RAGS REIGN CATTERY

Food - Litter - Transitioning and Other Tips

Adding a ragdoll kitten to your life is so much fun! With all that companionship comes the basics of food, litter and adjustment to a new environment. But regardless of what your kitten has been used to, with your help they can transition to what you have planned for them.

DRY FOOD: When you pick up your kitten, you will get a large ziplock bag of the dry food mix they are now eating. I like to mix several together. You can use my bag to create a 50/50 mix of yours with mine. Just increase your preferred dry over the next couple of weeks. I advise to go with a dry food that is over 32% protein and lists meats as the first 2-3 ingredients. For the first year, leave dry food out all day. You can measure out ½ a cup...and add more as needed. Let them eat as much as they want the first year. Keep it fresh by not putting too much out. It can get stale. If you chose an "all stages" food, I recommend mixing in a kitten specific dry food as well.

Here are the dry foods I use at present:

ROYAL CANIN MOTHER AND BABY CAT (Kitten from 1-4 month)

FROMM KITTEN

TASTE OF THE WILD TURKEY (All Stages)

FUSSY CAT BRAND GUINEA FOWL AND TURKEY MEAL (All Stages)

Nicole with All Star Rags is a fan of Nutro Kitten Chicken and Brown Rice. She also likes the brand Solid Gold.

WET FOOD: When you pick up your kitten, you will get a few cans of the wet food I use. See below. I feed a generous amount of wet food 1-2 times each day. I am more about good wet food than treats since there can be good nutritional value in the wet food.

CANNED FOOD Your kitten was weaned with Royal Canin Mother Babycat canned wet food. They continue on that wet food with Royal Canin Mother Babycat dry added in...plus KMR Milk/water. I will send a few cans of the Royal Canin home with you...but again, your kitten will transition to what you give them. While they are under 6 months, you may prefer to feed them wet chicken or turkey rather than seafood since it can be easier on their digestion.

RAW FOOD Your kitten has been fed Blue Ridge Beef Kitten Mix since they were 7 weeks old. I have been ordering this product thru a local specialized pet store since 2019. Nicole recommended it to me for overall health and weight gain. Cats are carnivores. They crave meat. I will give you 2 tubes that are 2 lbs each if you like when you come for pickup. It is frozen so bring a cooler. You do not have to continue them on the raw food.

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WATER: Keep fresh water out daily. I recommend pet fountains since they keep the water moving which attracts the kitten.

LITTER: All of my cats are on pine pellets for the benefit of my kittens age 4 weeks to 8 weeks who can be tempted to eat clay. But know that a cat's favorite litter is clay. If you decide to continue with pine pellets after researching online, you can buy Feline Pine at your local pet store or pine pellets at Tractor Supply like Nicole and I do. You will want to order a specific litter box that is for sifting pine pellets from Feline Pines website. They are around \$35 with shipping but are the best for pellets. If you want to use clay, let me know and I will send a small bag of pellets with you for transitioning. I recommend Precious Cat Brand clay since they have a kitten litter. Nicole likes The World's Best Brand litter. Keep your litter box cleaned out daily. Keep it away from loud traffic areas. Have an additional litter box for the number of cats you have. I also recommend all natural citrus bathroom spray to keep by the box. I use Pure Citrus Orange. You can find it at Walmart and everywhere. The less the odor, the happier the family, the more you may want another ragdoll kitten lol!

TRANSITIONING: It can take up to 2 weeks for your kitten to transition to your home. They will look for their siblings and other cats from the cattery. The smells and sounds will differ from what they have known. Other pets and family members have to transition along with the kitten. It will take patience for a few days but the benefit is a blessing!

- 1.) Keep your carrier out and the door propped open for the first few days. You will be given a blanket or small towel with the scents of her mother and siblings. Keep it in the carrier. The kitten may want a refuge from the change and pick this spot. Put the carrier in the room you are keeping the kitten in at that time throughout the day.
- 2.) Keep your kitten in a bathroom or small room when you are not home or sleeping. That room should have food, water and a litter box.
- 3.) Close doors to as many rooms of your home as you can for the first few days. This will allow the kitten to find the litter box and not feel lost.
- 4.) If you have a second story landing, weave cardboard thru the railing...or close off the openings in another way to prevent falling. The kitten will gain more depth perception as they mature.
- 5.) If you have other pets or small children, put the kitten in the carrier at times to introduce to others. The kitten is restrained in the carrier so others can curiously approach.

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- 6.) If you have other pets, let them work out sharing their home. Your pet may act out of character hissing or chasing. This is normal and necessary. As long as the response is not aggressive to the kitten, let them work it out for short periods of time. Then put the kitten back in the carrier or the room you chose for when you are away or sleeping.
- 7.) If your kitten tries to follow you out of an exterior door, place a plastic container at the door with balls, etc. so you can toss one to distract while you exit. Your kitten has been in a busy environment. If they are alone, they will need to adjust to that and may follow you more initially. (This is one reason why ragdoll owners often buy another ragdoll.)
- 8.) The first few days, your kitten may not eat as much or use the litter box. This is due to stress. It will pass. Just be patient and they will eat and use the box.
- 9.) Always but especially the first couple of weeks, try to not constantly pick up the kitten. They will come to you more if you get on their level be it on the floor or if they are on a couch for example. They will run from you if they think you only bend over and pick them up. They will possibly resist that. So...sit and wait. Dangle a toy. Spend time teaching them to come to you for interaction. If they hide, don't dig them out. Dangle something beside the furniture and wait. The first few months are important in establishing your relationship. Just think about how the kitten is viewing your actions. It will pay big rewards. If you want a cuddle kitten, you can encourage it by lightly wrapping them in a small blanket to restrain them while they are in your lap. Rub them between the eyes and across their face. They will begin to crave that handling. If they resist after a few minutes, let them go...but do it again later. Do all the training for short periods of time. If you like, use small amounts of catnip to train also...just a pinch. You can rub a pinch in a blanket or on your favorite chair occasionally.

The internet is filled with information on bringing a new kitten home and how to transition them. Every kitten is different. Some relax and accept the changes quickly. Others take a little longer. It can be a stressful time if you have certain expectations. It is best to just give the kitten and family members time to adjust. I am happy to help in any way I can, especially if your answer is not found after looking on-line. Enjoy the time of transitioning. Laugh and have fun with your new friend! The joy is never-ending!

