

Shopping for Your New Cat

Preparing your home for a new cat is important for the happiness and safety of your pet as well as your family.

Food

Choose dry food for healthier teeth and gums. Premium brands are recommended for their nutritional content and because of ingredient quality and consistency. Avoid foods with coloring. Be sure to buy a product formulated for the age of your cat. Have fresh water available at all times.

Litter Box

Choose a box large enough to accommodate your cat. If buying for a kitten, be sure you select one large enough to accommodate her when full grown. If you have a multi-cat household, consider having one litter box per cat. There are a variety of litter types depending on your household needs.

Bowls

Use stainless steel or ceramic bowls without painting on the inside for food and water. Stay away from plastic which can smell and absorb bacteria.

Treats

Choose hard treats to keep your cat's teeth and gums healthy.

Carrier

Confining your cat to a carrier provides safety in transportation and sense of comfort and security while visiting the veterinarian for checkups. A variety of styles are available in cardboard, plastic, and luggage style.

Collars

For their safety, cats and kittens should wear only breakaway collars specifically designed for felines. An ID tag can be purchased to include your cat's name and your address and phone number if your cat goes outside. Permanent identification can be considered with a microchip ID.

Toys and Scratching Posts

Provide toys to amuse, entertain, and exercise your cat. By providing your cat with a proper scratching post, you can reduce wear on your house and furniture.

Grooming Aides

- Nail Clippers. Use a style appropriate for your cat to keep her nails trimmed. Keep a bleeding inhibitor, like styptic powder, on hand in case you cut too close.
- Flea Comb. Be sure to use a flea comb to check for fleas regularly. The combing is also good for the skin.
- Brushes. Regularly brushing your cat will keep his coat in good condition.



**Animal Health
Care Center**
of Hershey