



## Kitten Care Guidelines - Revised January, 2011

Thank you for purchasing a Boyds Bengal! The following are just some guidelines/suggestions on taking care of your Boyds Bengal. Of course, every kitten is different, and care depends on your kitten's specific needs.

**Introduction to the home.** Once you bring your Boyds Bengal home, we recommend that you isolate him/her for a while, so that he/she becomes accustomed to the new surroundings. He/she may cry for the first 48 hours or hide under the bed or other small, dark spaces (make sure you 'kitty-proof' the room before bringing your kitten home!). He/she may also have loose stools from the stress of moving. If this persists for more than 3 days, make sure you notify your vet, when you take your kitten in for its health check.

If your Boyds Bengal was shipped, please show him/her extra love and attention, hold him/her close and comfort him/her, and he will love you for "rescuing" him from the airport. We recommend that you place your kitten in a small area, such as a bathroom or a bedroom, with his/her food, water and litterbox first, and taking him/her on short excursions throughout the house, until he/she becomes familiar with his/her new surroundings. Boyds Bengals are used to using a hooded litter box, like the one shown below, with the flap removed. This box is readily available at PetSmart. If you have small children, please caution them against chasing and yelling the kitten. Please show them the proper way to hold the kitten. Bengals are wonderful with small children, and they make great companions.



We place our litterboxes within eyeshot of the kitty's food and drink bowl. So, when you first bring your Boyds Bengal home, try and do the same, so the little one does not get lost trying to get to the bathroom. We also suggest that you show them their litter box first thing upon their arrival, and watch them carefully after they have just eaten or drunk water, to make sure they know where to go. **Our kittens are litter trained when they leave us, but we have found that, in some very rare cases, some kittens find it harder to adjust to their new homes, become confused and have accidents when they arrive at their new home. Please be patient with your kitten.** It is more traumatic for some kittens to leave the familiarity of our cattery than their littermates than others.

To ease in your little one's transition, we recommend that you buy a similar type of litter box as shown above. **Do not use an automated litter box for your Boyds Bengal until they are at least 6 months old!** This may traumatize your Boyds Bengal and lead to bad litterbox habits.

If you have other pets in the house, one way to introduce your Boyds Bengal to them is to place the kitten in the pet taxi (or a crate), and place the pet taxi/crate in the middle of a room with the other pets. Let everyone sniff each

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other, and get acquainted. There may be hissing and spitting at first, but this is normal, and shouldn't last for more than a few days. Supervised play times are also suggested, until everyone is familiar with each other.

**Veterinarian visits.** For your own protection, the kitten's protection and ours, please take your new kitten to the vet within the 3-business day guarantee period. Boyds Bengals are vaccinated at 8 weeks and at 12 weeks. We will provide you with your kitty's health record at time of purchase, for you to provide to your veterinarian. You need to discuss with your veterinarian his/her vaccination protocols and make sure that a vaccination program is tailored for your kitten. We use the 4-way killed vaccine, against Feline Rhino, Calici, Panleukopenia and Chlamydia. We do not vaccinate against FIP because the effectiveness of this vaccine has not been established. Sometimes, this vaccine can make a kitten feel lethargic or feverish for a day or two after the inoculation. Our cattery is FeLV and FIP negative - our cats are not exposed to other cats, so your kitten has not been exposed to these diseases.

**Food.** Our kittens are fed Eukanuba Kitten Food, which is left available for them at all times. You are free to change to another brand of cat food, if you wish, but please be advised that kittens have very sensitive stomachs, so make sure that you change out the food gradually, over a week or more. Your baby should eat kitten food for the first 12 months, since kitten food has the extra calories and nutrition for your kitten to grow strong. After 12 months, you can switch to adult cat food (again, gradually). You can also treat your Boyds Bengal to wet cat food (Fancy Feast is always popular), or cooked chicken (usually a spoonful). We recommend you give your baby a treat when he/she arrives at your home (after he/she has settled down), so he/she will start loving on you sooner!

**Litter.** Boyds Bengal kittens use Equine Fresh, a wood-pellet litter product, which we buy in bulk. An alternative that is available at most pet stores and supermarkets is Feline Pine. You are free to use another type of litter (e.g. clay), if you wish, but again, you should change the litter out gradually, so that your kitten will become used to the new litter. Any sudden changes in the litter may lead to 'accidents.'

**Toys.** Boyds Bengals love toys! They love to chase balls, feathers, lures - pretty much anything that moves! They also like the sisal rope scratching posts and cat trees.

**Socialization, Training and Discipline.** Bengals are very smart, but you need to train them early on, to prevent destructive behavior. Do not encourage your kitten to play rough or to "play bite" and this will carry on to adulthood. If you have children, teach them not to play rough with the kitten, because when your kitten is grown up, he will play too rough. Keep a water pistol handy, as a discipline tool, if you want your kitten away from certain areas of the house (e.g. countertops and furniture).

**Please make allowances.** Although our kittens are socialized, it is still upsetting for them to be in strange surroundings. **Please give him/her time to adjust.** Adjustment could take as much as two weeks, before he/she is comfortable. We cannot predict how our kittens will act when he/she leaves the nest. Also, your kitten may also have some minor upsets from the stress of moving (particularly if they flew by air or have been in a car for several hours). Some kittens may not eat and/or have a bowel movement for the first two days. At a minimum, be sure that your kitten is drinking and try and encourage your kitten to eat when she/she first arrives. But, if your kitten starts vomiting, has diarrhea (or blood in his/her stool), sneezes, has a runny nose, acts lethargic or has no appetite, please take your kitten to the vet immediately. We cannot be responsible if your kitten's health if he is not given medical attention. **If you have any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact us!**

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