



Kitten Care Guidelines - Revised January 18, 2009

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

Introduction to the home. Once you bring your Boyd's 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!). 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. Boyd's 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.



We place our litterboxes within eyeshot of the kitty's food and drink bowl. So, when you first bring your Boyd's 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 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 Boyd's Bengal until they are at least 6 months old!** This may traumatize your Boyd's Bengal and lead to bad litterbox habits.

If you have other pets in the house, one way to introduce your Boyd's 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 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.

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Please make allowances. Although our kittens are socialized, it is still upsetting for them to be in strange surroundings. He/she 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). This could be range from being sick, diarrhea or sneezing. Alternatively, some kittens may not eat and/or have a bowel movement for the first two days. Be sure that your kitten is drinking and try and encourage your kitten to eat. If any of these symptoms persist for more than 3 days, please do not hesitate to contact us or take your kitten to the vet.

Food. Our kittens are fed a mixture of Royal Canin (Babykat) and Hills Science Diet Kitten Development as they are growing up. By the time they leave us, they are solely on Hills Science Diet Kitten Development. This is available from PetSmart and should also be available at your vet. 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, or cooked chicken. We treat ours to Fancy Feast items in gravy, which they gobble up!

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.'

Veterinarian visits. 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.**

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

Grooming. Boyds Bengals only need basic grooming. Its soft, smooth, and silky coat looks best with regular weekly brushing.