

Breeds

There are 7 main breeds of cats recognised by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF), that come in a variety of colours and fur types

- 1) Long Haired Persian
- 2) Burmese
- 3) British Shorthair
- 4) Siamese
- 5) Oriental
- 6) Semi Long Haired
- 7) Foreign

Some of the breeds that fall into these categories are Norwegian Forest Cat, Manx, Ragdoll, Rex, Birman, Bengal, Angora and many more that form the Pedigree breeds of cats.

Non Pedigree cats are classed as domestic shorthair or domestic longhair.

Biological Data	
Male	Tom
Female	Queen
Young	Kittens
Birth Weight	Depends on Breed
Weaning Age	Weaning from 21 days completed completed 6-8 weeks, pending upon litter size and breed
Eyes Open	10 days
Adult Weight	2.7 - 9kg
Oestrus	Female are induced ovulates for 1 - 3 days every 14 - 21 days and call out when in heat.
Gestation	56 - 63 Days
Average Litter Size	4 - 6 Kittens
Sexual Maturity	Female average age of first litter 6 - 8 months. Female 3 - 4 months, Male 4 - 5 months,
Neutering	4 - 5 Months, Male & Female seek veterinary advice
Segregation	10 Weeks onwards
Life Expectancy (Average)	12 - 14 Years

Kitten (1 - 6 Months) - Adult (6 Months +) Feeding Guide	
KITTEN:	
Types of food available	Complete foods that have been specially prepared

Kitten (1 - 6 Months) - Adult (6 Months +) Feeding Guide

Nutritional requirements	Amino Acids are when help your kitten grow healthy and strong: arginine, methionine, histidine, phenylalanine, isoleucine, threonine, leucine, tryptophan, lysine, valine and taurine*.
Frequency of feeding 2 - 3 Months - Quantity	From 2 months of age should be fed small meals 4 times a day at regular intervals around 60 - 75g in total split in to equal portions.
Frequency of feeding 4 - 6 Months Weaning - Quantity	Kittens from 4 - 6 months should be fed 3 times per day Morning, Afternoon & Evening around 70 - 100g in total split in to equal portions.
Treats	Chicken, de-boned cooked fish, scrambled egg and rabbit
Water	Should be available at all times especially if on a dry diet. Change daily and keep as fresh as possible at all times, lack of water can cause serious illness and even death
Food <u>NOT</u> to give a cat of any age and why.	<p>Chocolate: Contains theobromine it can cause Ingestion, heart problems, muscle tremors, or seizures.</p> <p>Alcohol: Can cause liver and brain damage.</p> <p>Caffeine: Can cause heart tremors, rapid breathing, become restless,</p> <p>Dairy Products: some cats are lactose intolerant, if induced can cause vomiting and diarrhoea.</p> <p>Raw Meat/Fish/Eggs: Have a high risk of Salmonella which can cause Vomiting, diarrhoea and even pancreatitis.</p> <p>Grapes & Rasins: and they contain anecdotal, which is toxic to cats.</p> <p>Onions: can cause anaemia if consumed in large quantities.</p>
Transition to Adult food	From approx 1yr of age, mix with kitten food over the space of a week
ADULT:	
Nutritional requirements	Amino Acids are when help your cat stay healthy and strong: arginine, methionine, histidine, phenylalanine, isoleucine, threonine, leucine, tryptophan, lysine, valine and taurine*.
Frequency of feeding 6+ Months Weaning & Quantity	Cats 6+ months should be fed 2 - 3 times per day Morning, Afternoon & Evening around 100 - 150g in total split in to equal portions.
Treats	Chicken, de-boned cooked fish, scrambled egg and rabbit
Water	Should be available at all times especially if on a dry diet. Change daily and keep as fresh as possible at all times, lack of water can cause serious illness and even death
Transition to Adult food	A Kitten is not classed as an adult cat until 1 year old and should be slowly introduced to adult food over 7 - 10 days. if you are unsure then seek veterinary advice.

Daily Health Check	
Anus/Genitlas	Look inflammation and redness, Matted & discoloured fur as it can indicate diarrhoea.
Body	Should be firm with no protruding ribs or spinal bones. Younger cats (Kittens) should be active with good limb movement and clean nails. A large almost swollen looking stomach can indicate an end parasite infestation.
Coat	Look for evidence of ecto parasites. No scaly or bare patches & has a shiny smooth non matted coat.
Ears	Look for brown crust, redness hairless & scratch marks as these can be a sign of ear mite (parasite infestation).
Eyes	Clear without undue wetness. Any signs of pus indicates an eye infection.
Mouth	Make sure gums are a nice bright healthy & pink and the jaw has full range of movement with no deformity
Nostrils	Free from discharge & crusting.

Housing & Husbandry

Holding area for cats and kittens must be of the correct size, some kittens at a young age will still need a safe heat source (Heat lamp out of reach, heat mat, heat pad, bedding) , cats of all ages are adventurous and playful. and must have plenty to keep them entertained. Moving toys and climbing frames can keep them entertained for hours at a time.

Bedding

Kittens need disposable or washable bedding and must be cleaned/replaced daily or more often if required. cat litter must be placed at the opposite end of the cage to the food & water stop contamination. Clean fresh water must be provided at all times and food and water bowls must be kept clean using a pet safe disinfectant & must be anti - viral and phenol free as it can cause neurological conditions, liver failure and even death.

Handling

When handling cats/kittens it important to move slowly whilst talking to them as to not scare them away. The best thing to do is allow the cat/kitten to approach you. When picking up cat/kitten it is always best to support their bum/rear legs with one hand whilst the other hand supports their front legs, a gentle but firm approach is always best, but remember don't squeeze.

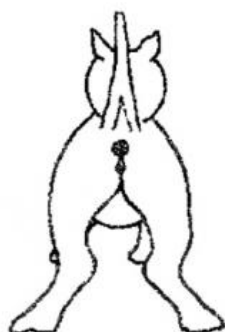


Disease, Illnesses & Disorders

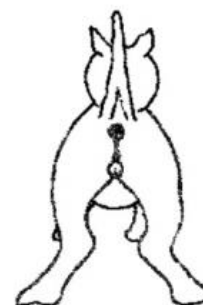
	Cause	Symptoms	Course of action
Coccidiosis	Bowel Parasite Highly contagious, to young kittens after weaning, usually passed on from a infected queen.	deteriorating condition and blood in diarrhoea.	Isolate the cat and seek immediate veterinary advise and treatment.
Dermatitis	Bald patches and skin irritation, caused by parasites, change of diet, allergies or hormone imbalance	Dry flaky skin with visible red inflamed sore's.	Seek veterinary advise for diagnosis, preventive care & treatment.
Diarrhoea	Change of diet, can be caused by several disease's.	Loose bowels watery smelly stools, Kittens can become extremely dehydrated and can cause severe issues with a kitten.	Seek veterinary advise and treatment.
Ear Mites (Otodectes)	Caused by an ear mite More common in long hair breeds of cats/ kittens .	Red/brown crusty scaled ears, can cause an allergic reaction resulting in intense itching due to discomfort.	Seek Veterinary advice for treatment and for a insecticidal spray that is non toxic for cats.
Otodectes Cyanotis Mite	Found behind the head, Neck rump & tail.		Spot on treatments, Ear drops are usually effective. If you have more than one cat it is best to treat them all.
Feline Infectious Enteritis (Feline panleucopenia)	Virus - Serious disease. Common when kept in large numbers/groups, incubation period is 5 - 9 days. Contracted from an infected animal.	Sudden death, Lack of appetite, Bloody Diarrhoea & Vomiting. Pyrexia and abdominal tenderness. if pregnant can cause brain damage to unborn kittens.	A Vaccination is available, seek veterinary advice asap as it is life threatening.
Feline Leukaemia Virus			
Feline Pneumonitis: Chlamydia	Upper respiratory disease caused by bacteria.	not a recognised disease that can cause death although pneumonia is a killer.	A Vaccination is available, seek veterinary advice.
Feline upper Respiratory Disease (Cat Flu)	Disease caused by 2 viruses, Spread by dropout infection.	Sneezing, High temperature & possibly Pneumonia.	A Vaccination is available, seek veterinary advice. once a cat has ha the disease it the symptoms can re-occur.
Fleas	are an external echo parasite, only infecting the cat for meals and breeding.	Scratching and irritated skin, Flea dirt (blackish droppings) can be found by wetting some tissue or wool when running it through the cat/kittens fur it will turn pink/red from the droppings.	you can find treatments at a pet shop or veterinary practice such as spot on that can kill the larvae and the adult fleas remember to treat your home and the cat/kitten at the same time.

	Cause	Symptoms	Course of action
Hair Ball	caused by grooming, does not usually cause an issue.	in extreme cases of excessive cleaning the hair ball can become hard in the cat/kitten stomach and can appear to strain in passing the object.	Vomiting or small amount of diarrhoea may be passed. If the cat remains unwell seek veterinary advice
Rabies	This Virus/fatal disease requires extreme quarantine and also requires passport if travelling abroad.	change in behaviour rapid onset of mania & a constant need to drink and quench thirst.	No Treatment available. Quarantine as has extreme high risk of zoonosis. DEFRA must be informed immediately. cats, upon travelling in and out of a country require a pet passport & certificates of rabies vaccinations from which they are going to.
Roundworm (Toxocara cati & Toxascaris leonina)	(Endo)Internal Parasite, Found in most kittens passed on through suckling at teen for milk and also from faecal matter.	Look similar to very thin garden worms, usually passed by vomiting or through stool.	Strict hygiene & more efficient cleaning. Worming tablets can be obtained through a pet shop or veterinary practice.
Tapeworm	(Endo)Internal Parasite, Tapeworms affect a adult cat and are rarely seen in kittens.	Pieces of tapeworm around the anus, they look like mini maggots called proglottids. Tapeworm can cause weight loss and the cat/ kitten coat to look scruffy.	Can be caused my eating an animal like rodents already infected with larvae. Eating uncooked meat. Worming tablets can be obtained through a pet shop or veterinary practice.

Sexing



Queen



Tom

At a young age can be difficult and sexed incorrectly.

Male (Tom)

Testicles are visible from 6 weeks old, for a kitten the undeveloped scrotum shows as a slightly raised area beneath which is the circular opening which conceals the penis

Female (Queen)

The vulva (the passage to the reproductive organs) appears as a slit almost directly below the anus.

Shopping list (for when buying a cat/kitten)

When buying a cat/kitten it is a good idea to make sure you have the following items:

Food & Water Bowl
Appropriate food for the age the cat/kitten
Bed/blanket
Scratching Post/Toys
Flea Treatment
Worming Treatment
Collar & Tag
Grooming Equipment
Transport Carrier
Litter/Litter Tray/Poop Scoop/Litter Liners (optional)
A milk Substitute for the Younger Kittens
A care guide/book

It would also be a good idea to think about micro-chipping incase the cat/kitten strays, to ensure a quick safe return to you. But make sure your details are always up to date.

Also do research into a good Pet Insurance, as this will help reduce bills/costs if your cat/kitten gets injured, or needs constant medication i.e diabetes, kidney problems etc.

Purchasing a Cat/Kitten

When looking to buy Cat/Kitten you need to consider the following: The animals requirements such as its pedigree, grooming, healthcare, where to place the animal if you go on a holiday

Cats have a distinct seasonal breeding pattern, at certain times of the year there will be an excess of kittens that have been bred and in others it will be limited

Where to Look: Hobbyists/ Private breeders

if you want to re-home a cat and give it a second chance you can look at the RSPCA or Blue Cross

These can be found online.

It is worth looking for a good local breeder to make sure cats/kittens are not overbred make sure they are vaccinated and have appropriate care to ensure health and well-being

Where to avoid: Newspaper/abandoned/unwanted surplus

As they are known to carry unknown diseases

Questions to ask when buying a cat

How old are they?

What kind of food are they eating?
Are they litter trained yet?
Have they started flea/worming treatment?
Have they had any vaccinations yet?
What sex?
What pedigree

Word count: 1976

References –

There are three important reasons to provide referencing in your assignments

1. To acknowledge the thoughts and ideas of others
2. To inform readers of the source and the thoughts and ideas of others so they can locate the original materials should they want to read it in more detail
3. To avoid plagiarism.

Therefore, all assignments must be fully referenced

References

PIFF Documentation for main context

Food not to give cats

<https://www.vets-now.com/2017/02/foods-poisonous-to-cats/>

kitten nutrition requirements

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/cat-care/cat-nutrition-tips>

Kitten Handling image

<https://www.wikiHow.com/Handle-a-Kitten>