

# Rafoej Cattery

## General notes on caring for your kitten

**GENERAL:** Whether or not you intend to show it and/or breed from it, this kitten is sold to you on the understanding that it is primarily a pet, which will live as part of your family and not spend all or most of the time caged or kept outside the house. We also expect you to feed it appropriately, keep its vaccinations up to date and seek veterinary advice for all but the most trivial illnesses and accidents.

**FOOD:** The kittens have had "Royal Canin Babycat 34" and "Science Diet Kitten Formula", or occasionally "Whiskas Professional Growth Formula" or "Purina ONE Kitten Formula" available at all times. Water should also be available at all times. Each evening they have had a meal of fresh raw beef or chicken necks. Ox heart, ox liver, ox kidney, chicken necks, fish (can be raw or cooked with rice) or grated cheese are also suitable food. Liver is an excellent source of vitamins and minerals but should only be fed about once a week (or small amounts more often) otherwise problems of vitamin A poisoning and arthritis can ensue. Try to increase the size of chunks as quickly as you can to get the kitten chewing hard and keeping its teeth clean. Make sure that they regularly get food they have to put some effort into chewing, such as chicken necks and chunks of gravy beef, otherwise the teeth will deteriorate and this can be a contributory factor in kidney disease.

If the main part (at least 50%) of the diet is a commercial dry or tinned **kitten** food no supplements are needed. Otherwise you will need to supplement, particularly the meat meals, with a calcium additive.

**VACCINATIONS:** Depending on their age these kittens will have had one or both vaccinations against snuffles and infectious enteritis (triple vaccine - see the attached vaccination certificate) but will **need the second shot 3 weeks after the first if it has not already been done, and annual boosters**. If the second shot has already been given I will usually have asked you for an extra payment to cover it and it will be shown in the vaccination certificate.

Vaccination against infectious leukemia is also available. However, this disease is not as prevalent now as it was a few years ago and the vaccination does carry some risk. At present in most areas the risk of the vaccination is greater than the risk of disease and vaccination is not recommended. However, ask your vet whether there have been

any cases in your area and get your kitten vaccinated if there have. More information on all these vaccinations is available from your vet.

**WORMS:** The kittens have been wormed with VitPet Wormaway as a precautionary measure - I have seen no sign of worms. Continue to worm at intervals appropriate to the kitten's age, as advised by your vet. Your vet's surgery will sell you (over the counter) a very effective wormer that deals with both roundworms and tapeworms.

**HOUSETRAINING:** The kittens are trained to use a litter box. They have used a granulated recycled paper litter (Breeder's Choice). If you wish to change to another material get them used to the dirt-box using this first (I will give you some) then make the change. They will probably automatically begin to use the garden as they get older; if not, gradually move the dirtbox outside and spread some litter on the garden. They will continue to need a dirtbox at night or at any other time they are confined.

**NEUTERING:** Unless we have made specific arrangements to the contrary, you have been sold this kitten at a substantially reduced price on the understanding that it will be neutered/spayed before it reaches the age of 6 months and you will have also been asked to sign a standard NZ Cat Fancy agreement to do this. Please let us know when this has been done; we will then transfer the cat fancy ownership records to you. Until the kitten has been neutered/spayed (or the balance of the price of a breeding cat has been paid, with our agreement) the registration remains in our name. You will notice that the registered number is missing from the pedigree you have been given. This number will appear on the transfer certificate that you will receive from the registrar when the official ownership is transferred to you.

**HOUSING AT NIGHT:** Many cats of the South-east Asian breeds seem to have very poor road sense and are very adventurous so it is important to keep them in at night, particularly while they are young.

**PLEASE** keep in touch and let us know how you are getting on with the kitten, and enjoy it!