

BBTLCS / The Last Chance Sanctuary

The Trials of a Kitten

So you're getting a kitten? Congratulations, I think! Please be prepared! Remember that adopting a kitten is like adopting a two year old human being. They will require constant supervision and lots of interaction! Be aware you are adopting a young, inexperienced being that is very vulnerable to the environment. Just as you would never leave a two year old human being unsupervised please take the same safety precautions with your new kitten (s). It is suggested that a very young kitten be confined to a small safe room when not supervised.

1. Test bookcases, shelves, curtain rods, TV stands, etc. to make sure they can withstand the weight of a flying three pound kitten.
2. Remove any and all breakables unless it was something mother-in-law gave you and you don't mind hitting the floor.
3. Secure bookcases to the walls with brackets.
4. Check sofa bed and recliner CAREFULLY before closing.
5. Watch out for ladder back, Windsor, or any chairs with slots – heads can get caught.
6. Screen off your fireplace so that there is no access. Warm ashes are tempting, and soot can look just like litter.
7. Cover all wastebaskets as kittens will inevitably turn them over and dig through them. Be aware of what you put in them.
8. Keep toilet seats closed, washer and dryer and dishwasher lids closed.
9. Check the fridge every time you shut it, it only takes a minute for a kitten to hop inside.
10. Be aware that toilet bowl disinfectants can be poisonous to your cat.
11. Don't allow the kitten near the bathtub unless the tube is empty. Hot water can easily overwhelm the cat, and once in it is close to impossible for them to hop out.
12. If you have a balcony or deck, be aware that kittens' sense of distance and safety may not be completely molded yet, and a bird, or butterfly or bug may cause your kitten to leap beyond safe boundaries.
13. Shade cords and blind strings can easily become entangled around a kitten's neck and cause strangulation. Be sure to tie all cords up high away from temptation.
14. Wire cords and electrical outlets can also result in fatalities, best to put outlet covers on your electrical outlets. Dangling cords and wires from any electrical appliance can become a plaything, but can result in heavy objects falling from above.
15. Kittens are teething, just like young children, and may chew on cords which can result in electrocution if the cord is plugged in.
16. Don't leave plastic bags lying around as they look and sound like great toys, but can be deadly.
17. Pieces of yarn, thread, string, and tinsel can all cause intestinal blockage that can be fatal.
18. Keep all human medications, cleaning products, etc. behind closed cabinets. Likewise, rat poison, mothballs, antifreeze, nicotine, chocolate, and batteries can be toxic and very dangerous to cats.