



New Cat Shopping List

This list includes Underdog's recommendations for new cat owners. The brands and styles chosen have been picked based on their success with many cats over several years. Have questions or want more recommendations? Email adoptions@underdogpetswa.org for more!

Feeding:

Preferred brands: Anything you can find at a Mud Bay or All the Best Pet Care will work. We typically avoid grocery store brand *except* Friskes and Fancy Feast. Kittens need a higher caloric and nutrient need, so check feeding instructions. Use dry food to supplement feeding for kittens only- adult cats need wet food for better health. Experiment with different textures and protein types to find what your cat likes, but be sure to look at caloric needs to make sure they're getting enough food.

Kittens:

- Kitten specific wet food
- Kitten specific dry food

Adults:

- Wet food only

Both:

- Ceramic, metal, or glass dishes that are flat enough that their whiskers don't press on the side
Avoid plastic dishes. Can cause allergic reactions, bad acne, etc

Litter box:

These are the recommended supplies to ensure your cat uses the litter box appropriately. The rule of thumb is 1 litter box per cat in the house PLUS 1 extra box. Once you get to know your cat, you can try changing litter type (avoid scent always) or style of box. But some cats won't use covered litter boxes or different styles of litter.

Required:

- Large, uncovered litter box, large enough for a full sized cat to stand with all 4 feet in comfortably, and turn around fully. Even for kittens, get a large box!
- Unscented clumping clay litter
- Poop scoop rake

Optional

- Litter box liners for easy clean up
- Litter tracking mat to reduce litter scatter



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Treats/Bribes

Treats are a great way to help win new or shy cats' love. Here some brands we know cats love

- Churu- This tube style treat helps them make positive affiliations with hands. Like a yogurt for cats, this treat needs you to squeeze it for them to lap up, or put onto a plate.
- Temptations- Though a bit junk-foody, they're great in moderation. Most come in a plastic bin that, when shaken, help cats audibly learn to anticipate good things to come, and can train them to come to you if you need to find them
- Friskes Party Mix- a fan favorite
- Weruva BFF- This is a stinky pouch food that can help win finicky eaters over

Toys/Scratchers/Pet Furniture

Enrichment is really important to keeping your cat happy and engaged appropriately.

- Safe toys- toys without string, bits, etc to chew off and swallow
- Kicker toys- fun for cats who like to kick with back legs
- Wand toys are great, but always supervise and put them somewhere they can't get it when not watching.
- Scratchers- cardboard, carpet, sisal rope, etc. Cats often have different preferences, so experiment with different textures if they don't use one type
- Cat trees/furniture- cats love high places to watch. Cat towers and trees are great, and come in a variety of styles and sizes now.
- Bedding- while your cat may not opt to use a bed, some may. Some cats enjoy having a covered bed to hide in while getting acclimated. Just be aware that any bedding close to the litter box may either get "confused" for a litter box, dragged into the box to cover, or otherwise dirtied.

Grooming:

While you may want to wait until the cat is more settled to attempt to do any routine grooming, it's good to have supplies ahead of time. Some cats like brushing, and this can help with bonding.

Required:

- Scissor style nail trimmers
- Some kind of brush (soft bristle, soft metal slicker, rubber curry comb for short hair)
- Long haired cats: metal comb to comb down to the skin (to prevent matting)

Optional:

- Cat safe grooming wipes- good for crate accidents, but most cats can take care of their own bath needs. Avoid bathing whenever possible to keep stress low.
- Not recommended, but if you are going to bathe your cat, be sure to use kitten safe shampoo for kittens, cat safe for older. **Do not bathe young kittens, reach out to Underdog if you feel your kitten needs bathing.