

What's for Dinner?

Your kitten is your new best friend and you want to give them the best foundation to grow and thrive. How do you know what your kitten really needs as they grow? Here are some common questions and a few important tips to help you put the perfect portion on your kitty's plate!

What's the most important thing to know about feeding your kitten?

Unlike people, cats are obligate carnivores. This means their body needs to eat meat in order to thrive; cats can't eat a vegetarian diet. They shouldn't exclusively eat muscle meat, though. Wild cats eat their prey whole - bones, organs, and stomach contents all included. So for your kitten, a balanced diet matters! To be sure you're feeding an appropriate food, check the bag for the AAFCO feeding statement to be sure your food is labeled for "growth" or "all life stages". Ask your veterinary team for more information.

How much do I feed my kitten? Wet or dry?

Ask your veterinary team to help determine the right amount of food for your kitten. Some cats are casual eaters and some will overeat, so you can't allow your kitten to decide! It's good to offer both wet and dry foods. Cats tend not to drink enough water because their kidneys are very efficient. This is useful when they are young, but can lead to kidney injury when they are older. Wet food can help them stay well-hydrated. Dry, crunchy food can help reduce plaque buildup and keep their teeth in good shape.

Which brands should I consider?

Most foods on the market are safe to feed. There are always fads in pet foods; the best choice is a cat food that has been around for a long time with few issues or recalls. Science Diet, Purina products, Royal Canin, and Natural Balance are good options.



More Thoughts:

Should I give vitamins?

High-quality diets should provide all the nutrients needed, making vitamin supplements unnecessary.

Is some diarrhea normal?

Even if your kitten feels great, they should not be throwing up or having loose stools. Call your vet if your kitten is having these issues.

How about homemade?

Homemade diets are risky for young animals. The chance for nutrient imbalance is too high during such a critical phase of growth.

What about treats?

Treats should make up less than 10% of your kitten's diet. Don't feed onions, garlic, chocolate, grapes, raisins, or dairy products (most cats are lactose intolerant). Avoid jerky treats and treats made in China.