



KITTEN 101

AGE OF KITTEN	KITTEN	YOU
1 WEEK	Umbilical cord dries up and falls off Eyes and ear canals still closed Unable to retract claws Eats, sleeps, and passes waste Stays close to the mother, who cleans it	
2 WEEKS	Eyes open; vision will be blurry Sense of smell develops	
3 WEEKS	Hearing begins; noises might scare your kitten Ears begin to stand up Waste passes without prodding from the mother Teeth might start to develop Purring might begin Mobility could start; your kitten might walk!	Begin handling
4 WEEKS	Blue eye color starts to change Head is usually large compared to body size May be wobbly while moving around Claws are retractable Continues to stay close to the mother Curiosity develops; begins to explore the surroundings	Supervise introduction of the litter box; your kitten will have accidents and may try to eat the litter; use non-clumping litter only Kitten-proof the room the way you would for a child who climbs (e.g. childproof power outlets, remove anything fragile, tie curtains out of reach) Introduce canned kitten food Continue handling



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AGE OF KITTEN	KITTEN	YOU
5 WEEKS	Graceful on feet Playing and bonding begins Stalking and pouncing on siblings Regularly using the litter box; needs a smaller box with less litter than you would provide an adult cat	Begin socializing to people, other animals, places, things, and other sensory experiences Introduce to toys
6 WEEKS	Mobile and active	Continue socializing Introduce a scratching post Start on dry kitten food Take to vet for de-wormer
7-8 WEEKS	Eye color changes except in “color point” cats such as the Siamese Climbing and jumping onto high surfaces	Continue socializing Introduce your kitten to basic care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • groom hair • check for watery or squinty eyes • check ears for wax or mites • clean teeth • clip nails Take to vet for first set of vaccinations
9-10 WEEKS	Weaning process finished	Continue socializing Introduce a harness Take to vet for second de-wormer
11 WEEKS	Continues to roughhouse with siblings	Continue socializing Take to vet for second set of vaccinations
12 WEEKS		Continue socializing May separate from mother Take to vet for rabies shot and to microchip At TWO pounds, kitten may be old enough to be spayed/neutered

Disclaimer: All information in this checklist comes from my research, classes I have taken, and my experience as a cat trainer. I am not a veterinarian; please confirm all health care with your veterinarian.



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