

◆ **ARRIVING HOME:**

When arriving home with the kitten, it should be greatly fussed over as the newcomer will miss it's mum and litter mates. Confine kitty to the one room initially, making sure there are no open windows or doors. A strong cardboard box lined with a blanket or woolly jumper to curl up and sleep in or retreat to when he/she feels insecure is ideal.

◆ **KITTY'S TOYS:**

Toys to amuse can be made simply and inexpensively. They can be a toy mouse from soft material filled with cotton wool, a table tennis ball, or even a piece of paper attached to a string to make a butterfly to chase.

◆ **KITTY'S LITTER TRAY:**

Have a toilet litter tray which can be filled with kitty litter. Keep the tray in the same place and sit the kitten on it after its first meal. Change the litter frequently and wash the tray out with bleach or a mild disinfectant each time the litter is changed.

◆ **WHAT TO FEED YOUR KITTEN:**

Follow up the breeder's diet chart very carefully to avoid any gastric upsets. All food should be served at room temperature in a clean bowl with plenty of fresh drinking water available at all times. Introduce any new foods gradually.

◆ **WHAT TO DO TO STOP THE KITTEN SCRATCHING:**

A scratching post, made from a piece of wood and covered with carpet is ideal and should stop kitty from clawing the carpets and furniture.

Once your new kitten has settled in (and this can take up to a week), you should be able to look forward to many years of a healthy and loving companionship from one of the most beautiful creatures ever created.

Shiloh

(until HE comes)

Home of beautiful,
registered, *PURE*,
SIAMESE CATS



SANDRA SWEETMAN

Phone: 0402 40 9996

email: sandra_sweetman@iinet.net.au

◆ **CHOOSING A KITTEN:**

Kittens look so helpless, pretty and appealing—they are often brought on impulse without thought of the future. A sickly or badly reared kitten can cost a fortune in veterinary fees, especially those purchased around 6-8 weeks of age, before they have been wormed or vaccinated. Before deciding to buy a kitten, decide which type/breed would suit your household.

◆ **WHERE TO PURCHASE YOUR KITTEN:**

Pedigree kittens should always be purchased directly from a reputable breeder as you can see what sort of environment they were raised in. The best place to decide what breed of kitten to buy is to contact the breed Society and obtain some advice. Talk to the breeder beforehand who will be delighted to discuss the virtues of their special type of cat which they breed. If possible visit the Breeders home so that you can ascertain what sort of environment that the kitten has been raised in.

◆ **THE TEMPERMENT:**

Temperament is an important factor, so a busy, noisy household with young children is *NOT* the place for a very timid and sensitive type of breed, whereas the outgoing, mischievous kitten may be a little too lively for a peaceful, quiet household. Choose the temperament of the kitten to match your lifestyle.

◆ **THE PEDIGREE KITTEN:**

When a kitten is chosen there should be a pedigree supplied, a vaccination certificate, and, if the price warrants, a registration certificate.



◆ **SELECTING YOUR KITTEN—SIGNS TO WATCH OUT FOR:**

Remember, when selecting your kitten, make sure that the little one has been properly weaned and is able to eat solid food and lap water. The kitten should look lean and healthy, with no sign of a pot belly and with the backbone and hip bones well covered. When picked up, the muscle tone should be firm and there should be a weighty feel and the haw (third eyelid) should not be noticeable in the corner of the eye. There should be no discharge from the nostrils, the ears should be clean, with no sign of black grit inside. The coat should be soft and shiny; no signs of fleas or black flea dust at the base of the tail or when the hairs are parted. There should be no sign of straining under the tail from diarrhoea and the teeth and gums should look clean and healthy.

◆ **TAKING YOUR KITTEN HOME:**

When you return to collect your kitten, you should have a carry basket, made of either cardboard, basket weave, plastic or wood. It is a good investment which will last for years and may be used for future visits to the Vets, for holidays or Cat shows and is the safest means of transporting kitty. The basket should be lined with a warm blanket. On a cold day a hot water bottle can be added and perhaps a tempting toy.

◆ **COMPANIONSHIP FOR THE LONELY KITTEN:**

If you live in a home unit or are out at work during the day then consider buying two kittens, as a lone kitten coming from the company of its brothers and/or sisters may become bored and neurotic when left alone continually. If there are two kittens then there is always companionship, endless games to play and a friendly competition at meal times to keep the appetite alive.

