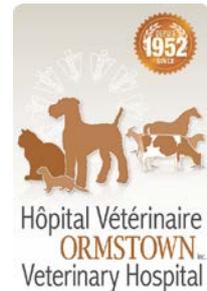




KITTEN BEHAVIOUR

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Litter box:

- It is recommended that you have one more litter than the number of cats in the house. For example if you have 2 cats there should be 3 litter boxes. They should be located in different rooms in the house or on different floors.
- Cats usually prefer bigger litter boxes that are uncovered. They also tend to prefer unscented clumping litter (the one that resembles sand).
- It is preferable to clean the litter box at least once a day and to empty it completely at least once a week.

Biting and chasing:

- As soon as your kitten tries to bite you, scream loudly as if he had really hurt you and then stop playing, fold your arms and avoid eye contact with him. Kittens hate being ignored and therefore this is a form of punishment. After a few minutes you can resume playing with him. If he bites you again, repeat the procedure.
- Do not slap the muzzle because this can excite the kitten and can therefore encourage the biting or scratching.
- If this technique doesn't work you can use a water vaporiser to spray the kitten in the face every time he bites you or starts chasing after you.

Scratching:

- Scratching is an innate feline behaviour. Cats scratch to remove the sheath from their claws, to mark their territory and to communicate with others. Cats' nails should be trimmed regularly every month.
- It is important to provide either a scratching post or an area he will be allowed to scratch. Every time the kitten uses the desired area you can pet him and give him some treats to encourage the behaviour. If the kitten scratches on the furniture spray him with a stream of water. If the scratching is done when you are not home you can place some aluminum foil or something noisy near the area he is scratching



to attempt to scare him off. Most kittens will not destroy once they have learned to use a scratching post or desired area.

Hunting:

-If your kitten goes outside he can easily start hunting. A cat that hunts has a higher risk of parasites and infectious diseases. One easy way to discourage hunting is to add a bell to the cat's collar to warn the prey that the cat is near.

Desensibilisation :

- It is important to start desensibilising your kitten to manipulations early on. You can brush his teeth regularly, clean his ears, cut his nails, brush him and manipulate the different body parts. The kitten can be rewarded when he is calm and accepts the manipulations. The more often you manipulate him the more he will be used to it and will be less stressed when he is brought to the vet or manipulated at home. The manipulations should always be positive and pleasant for him to get use to it. If your cat is anxious when he comes to the vet we recommend stopping by with him often so that we can give him treats and affection. The cat must be able to make positive associations with his veterinary visit to become less anxious.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at the herewith number or contact Dr. Vicky Sedgwick by e-mail at vicky.sedgwick@hvovet.com.

☛ **Consult our website for more information on canine and feline behavior.**

