



OhioPetSanctuary.com

## Your New Cat Checklist

- Break-Away or Safety Collar with ID Tags
  - We recommend also having your cat microchipped. Cats can escape open doors and windows even if you don't intend to let your cat outside.
- Food and Water Bowls
  - Stainless steel or ceramic bowls can help to reduce cat acne and are easily sanitized.
  - These should be cleaned often to prevent bacteria build up.
  - Cats also frequently prefer to drink out of fresh/moving water sources so you may want to consider a fountain in lieu of a water bowl.
- High Quality Food (appropriate for the cat's age)
  - We cannot stress the importance of consulting your veterinarian regarding diet for your pet. Internet sources are extremely unreliable and opinionated. Your veterinarian is looking at your pet as an INDIVIDUAL who knows your specific cat's current health and what is most appropriate.
- Litter Box, Litter, and Scoop
  - Litter boxes should be easily cleaned and sanitized.
  - Most cats prefer covered litter boxes or ones with high sides to keep litter from being kicked onto the floor.
    - Litter mats and rugs will also help contain the mess
  - There are a lot of litter choices out there. We recommend unscented due to a cat's highly developed olfactory abilities (they can smell everything a lot stronger than we can).
    - You may have to try several brands before you find the one you like.
- Scratching Posts
  - By providing your cat with something appropriate to scratch, this will encourage him/her to scratch on the designated post, rather than on carpet or furniture
    - There are wide variety of styles from simple cardboard to elaborate furniture. Your cat may prefer one type to another.
- Toys
  - Cats are hunters and active by nature. They should have a wide variety of toys to keep them entertained.
- Nail trimmers, styptic powder, brushes, ear cleaner, and other grooming supplies
- Carrier to bring your new pet home and for trips to the vet.
- Flea preventative if you intend to take your cat outdoors or have other animals that may transfer fleas to your cat.
  - Consult a veterinarian about which preventative is most appropriate for your pet.
- Calming diffuser recommended if you have other pets.

