

## What will your new kitten need?

### **The Essentials**

**Food** - We highly recommend a raw diet as much as possible. Cats are obligate carnivores, meaning they only need meat, organ, and bones - in the right ratio - for all their nutritional needs. Anything else in foods is either simply unnecessary or can cause extra stress on their digestive systems. If you are ever interested in making your own raw blends, I have a handy calculator to help make sure you are getting the right ratio of meat to bones to organ! (Psst: Raw fed cats have poo with almost no smell and super easy to scoop out - bonus!)

In addition to home-made raw blends, Syringa uses the following:

**My Pet Carnivore** -cat blends (pork, beef, and chicken/turkey are favorites but rabbit/duck also). All kittens are weaned onto this brand. This is home delivery via FedEx.

**Texas Tripe** Chicken, Bully, and Chicken/Pork/Salmon blends are favorites. Local pickup and home delivery to some areas in CO, shipping available outside CO. <https://www.texastripe.com>

(There are other pre-made raw brands that are available in different areas of the country. I will always help you source your raw food if you have any questions at all.)

Pet Store Options (I use these if I forget to place an order but also to give kittens variety):

**Steves Raw Quest** - pork, beef, and emu (frozen in "pellets" and convenient).

**Instinct** has a decent pre-made frozen raw as well as a wet/canned line that is limited ingredients.

Dry food is sometimes offered during growth spurts (eating a lot and sleeping more!), when traveling, or as a treat. **Orijen Regional Red** is the dry I use. Orijen is the only dry I recommend after comparing a multitude of ingredients lists.

Supplement recommendations will be sent separately. The only daily supplement I would encourage is **food grade diatomaceous earth**. Add 1/4 tsp to every dish of raw/wet food and *make sure it is mixed in well* so it is not inhaled when they smell the food.

**Food Dish** - Choose one with low sides to prevent "whisker fatigue". I love stainless with a silicone bottom like this one: <https://amzn.to/2x66ZC4> I recommend having two. Clean dishes with soap and water and I rinse with peroxide every other day or so for sanitization.

**Water Fountain/Dish** - Many cats don't like to drink water from a dish and need encouraging to drink at all! (Raw diet provides a lot of moisture so their nature isn't to drink a lot of water.) To encourage water drinking, I do recommend a fountain. There are so many to choose from so look for ones with a replaceable charcoal filter and easy to clean (clean monthly when you change the filter). This is an inexpensive one as an example: <https://amzn.to/2VTVaYd>

**Treats** - Only real food treats. We LOVE PureBites and some will be sent home with each kitten: <https://amzn.to/2zmJoxl>

**Litter box** - This is a family preference and there are so many options! At Syringa, we use a Breeze Box system and equine pine pellets from Tractor Supply with Amazon brand pads. (The Breeze pellets are too hard anyway.) We have found this to be the easiest and cleanest and happens to be inexpensive as well.

The most basic option is a simple box with a clumping litter. Note: I do NOT recommend clay litters. If you choose clumping, Worlds Best and Boxicat are two good options.

An automatic cleaning litter box like the CatGenie is kinda cool.

If you want luxury, many love the Litter Robot. I have never tried it myself!

Litter boxes should all be cleaned weekly using a peroxide spray. Take them apart/remove all old litter, rinse in hot water, wash with a hot soapy brush or sponge, rinse in hot water, spray with peroxide and let sit for 60-seconds, rinse in hot water again. Ideally set them in the sun to dry. (I do not know cleaning process for the self cleaning boxes or robot so look at those instructions.)

**Carrier** - Soft sided carriers are ideal. Window vents and sturdy construction are the only real things to look for. Such as this one: <https://amzn.to/351xzJe>

## **Grooming and Care**

**Clippers** - Keep claws trimmed by clipping every couple of weeks (more when they are little). There are lots of different clippers but this type is easiest and works well: <https://amzn.to/2xPvWSS>

**Brush/Comb** - The more often you brush/comb, the easier it will be as they grow! Start with the comb most often and it may be all you need to use. Siberians typically shed 2x per year and you will want to keep that fur in the brush/comb rather than around the house. (Note: Your kitten will lose their kitten coat around 1 year and will shed what seems like a second cat! That only happens once so don't worry. Just brush it away for their silky adult coat!) Tip: Let them smell the brush/comb before each brushing.

Favorite brush: <https://amzn.to/3cGUQTa>

Favorite comb: <https://amzn.to/2Vz0f9m>

**Shampoo** - Castile soaps are the most gentle. Unscented or with natural fragrances but avoid strong ones and essential oils like peppermint. This is what we use: <https://amzn.to/2xLZFvX> Baths don't need to be often (generally every few months at most) until/unless you want to use a bath to help de-shed hair. Cats are incredibly clean on their own!

## **The Fun Stuff - Also Important!**

(Many of these items will be determined by personal preference, space, and budget.)

**Toys** - Balls, stuffed animals, tassels, feathers, sticks... Big and small, kittens will love them all! Be careful with tassels that break off as they could be eaten. Make sure balls don't have pieces that break off. Check toys regularly for broken and lose pieces that could be swallowed or pinch toes. Each kitten/cat ends up with their own preference in toys. I will be sending you a couple I know your kitten loves to get you started. A few examples available on Amazon are:

**Climber/Tower** - Siberians love to climb and be as high as possible. Most towers have scratchers incorporated but there are ones you can hang on the wall and even windows. This is a "bigger is better" scenario so will be based on your space and budget. Simple example: <https://amzn.to/3bFR4JN> Larger example: <https://amzn.to/3cKtagn>

NOTE: Check regularly for loose platforms and pieces.

**Scratcher** - This will save your furniture! It will also help keep claws shorter so it will be a longer time between clipping. A simple favorite is a tree branch leaning against a wall. Cardboard scratchers are great as well as the pole style.

## Other Ideas

**Harness** - If you ever plan to take your kitten/cat outside, a harness with leash is the safest way. There are many different styles to choose from here as well. We use this one: <https://amzn.to/2VSjgCA> But this is another great style: <https://amzn.to/2Y5ysz5> NOTE: Use size charts for the correct size

**Bed** - Cats will sleep where they choose and it can be difficult to force them to sleep anywhere they don't choose! That said, there are ways to encourage them to sleep in specific areas by creating quiet, secluded areas with bedding they may enjoy. A simple bed like this can work: <https://amzn.to/2y1L7bo> A covered one like this is great too: <https://amzn.to/2W0hoYi>

**Blanket** - Syringa sends a hand-made blanket home with each kitten as a special gift that we hope you will enjoy. It is also intended to help bring some of their mama/sibling/birthing home smell along with them to help ease the transition to their new home with you.

Note: Amazon links in this document are affiliate links. On some items, I may receive a small commission at no extra cost to you/your order.