



**SPCA Selangor | 动物防虐协会**  
**Persatuan Menolong Haiwan**

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# PERSATUAN MENOLONG HAIWAN

(Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Selangor)

## CARE OF YOUR CAT OR KITTEN

It is not wise to acquire a kitten younger than 6 weeks as a pet, as it will require considerable attention (bottle feeding and so on), and orphans have a high mortality rate at this age.

When adopting an adult cat, it is important to keep it inside the house for at least 3 days before allowing it access to the garden. By then it should know that your place is "home". Many people have released new cats immediately, only to have them run away.

### FEEDING

At about 8 weeks of age, a kitten will require 3 to 4 meals daily, consisting of finely chopped fish and/or minced meat. Its diet should be varied to include baby food or Nestum mixed with a little milk (soya bean milk is best as cows' milk can cause diarrhoea), to a porridge-like consistency. Vitamin tablets can also be given. As the kitten grows, the amount of food should be gradually increased and the number of meals reduced until the kitten is about 5 months old and can be treated as an adult.

A full grown cat requires 2 meals a day at regular times. These can consist of fish and/or meat (including offal), cooked and cut up in small pieces with the addition of a small quantity of cereal food. A mixed diet should be given as fish and meat alone can result in skin disease. Tinned cat foods are convenient but should be varied with fresh food. Some dry cat food should be available at all times. It is very important that kittens and cats always have clean drinking water available.

On no account should the cat be given meat or fish with sharp bones inside, as these can be swallowed, puncturing the stomach or intestines causing an agonising death.

### HEALTH

The ears of the cat should be regularly inspected and cleaned with a cottonwool bud.

At regular intervals, your cat or kitten will need to be dewormed. Your vet can check the faeces and advise you on this.

Your cat should have access to some grass as they sometimes eat this as an emetic.

If ever the cat appears unwell, stops eating or gets thin, seems to be in pain or is generally unhappy, qualified veterinary attention should be sought.

Kittens should be inoculated at about 8 to 12 weeks for both feline infectious enteritis and feline influenza; the two serious cat diseases which can be fatal. These should be boosted annually – your vet will advise you.

A cat should be brushed daily, if possible, to remove excess hair which can be swallowed while washing and cause fur balls to accumulate in the stomach.

