



kitten socialization

Kittens who haven't had enough contact with humans can be under-socialized. With a little affection, consistency, play time and lots of extra snacks, these kittens can become well-adjusted members of the family! Often bashful kittens will benefit from being adopted with a bolder kitten of a similar age. Not only will this give them both a playmate, the more bashful kitten will also have a role model!

housing

- Select a small quiet room to house your kittens: There should not be any hiding places the kittens can access which you cannot.
- Set up their food, water and litter box in places that are easily accessible.
- Set up several safe hiding spots which are easily accessible by you! Cardboard boxes with a towel in the bottom work well.
- Close off any small areas that kittens could possibly wedge themselves into, such as under the bed, between furniture and walls, and under dressers.
- Make sure that your kittens have access to plenty of toys!

the way to their hearts...

Is through their stomachs! You can free-feed your kittens dry kibble, if you like. Reserve canned food for times when you are in the room! Offering extra tasty treats when you visit them will ensure that your kittens associate you with GOOD THINGS! While your kittens are chowing down, sit with them, talk to them and pet their backs.

playing

Playing is a great way to build confidence! Kittens can lose themselves in a game and become much bolder! You will want to approach play carefully.

- Use small toys. Kittens can be overwhelmed or even frightened by toys that are too large.
- Start slowly at a distance from the kitten and entice it with the toy.
- Don't expect the kitten to immediately engage with the toy! You may spend 10 minutes dragging a wand toy across the room without getting a reaction, but keep trying!
- Never use your hands or another body part to play with the kittens!
- Do not scold or punish the kittens if they play roughly or with inappropriate items. Simply remove yourself or the item from the situation.

handling

Be sure to pet your kittens while you feed them tasty snacks! You can also offer canned food or baby food on a tongue depressor or spoon. You can use the tasty snacks to condition your kittens to being carried, having their paws touched, or being combed!

Keep petting and handling sessions short and end on a positive note with some extra tasty treat or a small play session.