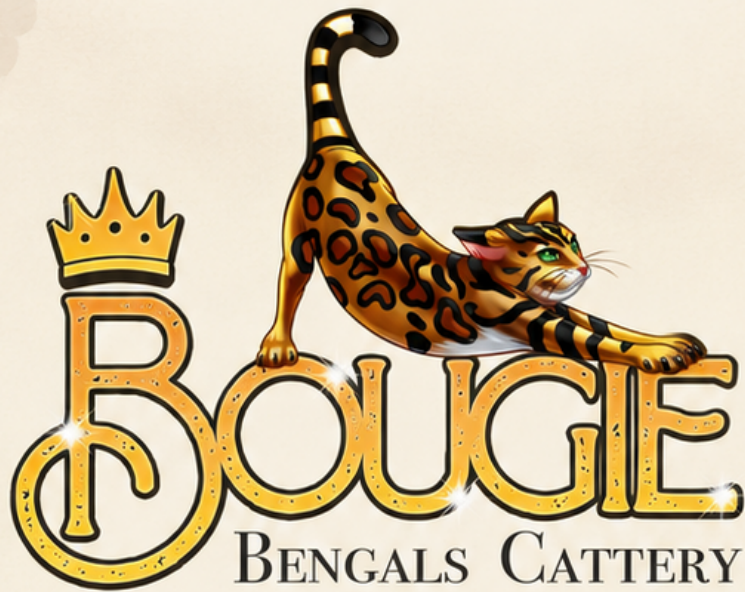




WELCOME HOME KITTEN HANDBOOK

— *A guide for your Bougie Bengals family* —



A beautiful beginning

Congratulations on welcoming your newest family member. Bringing home a kitten begins a beautiful relationship built through patience, safety, trust, and shared experiences.

This handbook was created to make the transition feel clear and supported. It will guide you through preparing the home, establishing a calm starter space, building healthy feeding and litter habits, offering meaningful enrichment, introducing other animals, and continuing the natural-rearing foundation your kitten began with us.

Your kitten has been thoughtfully raised, handled, enriched, and prepared for family life. Every kitten still adjusts at an individual pace, so allow confidence to unfold naturally rather than rushing the process.

I encourage you to contact me throughout your kitten's life whenever questions arise. I am here to help you understand what your kitten is communicating and to offer guidance as their needs change through kittenhood and adulthood.



*With love,
Alexa Rodriguez*

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Preparing Your Home

A safe, thoughtful environment gives your kitten the confidence to explore, connect, and learn healthy household habits.

Bengal kittens are intelligent, athletic, curious, and highly observant. Preparing the home before arrival lets you guide those natural qualities toward safe choices instead of correcting problems after they begin.

Begin with the spaces your kitten will enter first, then look at the rest of the home from a kitten's perspective: anything climbable, chewable, moveable, or small enough to swallow deserves consideration.





Bengal-proof before arrival

Secure clever access points

Bengals are intelligent and observant. Secure drawers, cupboards, pantry doors, medication, cleaning products, breakables, and any space you do not want your kitten to enter. Assume a determined Bengal may eventually learn how a latch, door, or faucet works.

Protect cords and small objects

Teething kittens may chew electrical wiring, strings, foam, rubber, plastic, hair ties, and other unsafe items. Use cord covers and keep small swallowable objects out of reach.

Keep laundry areas secure

Curious kittens may climb into washers, dryers, hampers, or piles of laundry. Keep laundry room doors closed when possible and always check appliances before starting them.

Protect high and open areas

When your kitten first begins exploring, secure balconies, open stair rails, loft edges, windows, and any high place where an inexperienced kitten could fall or become trapped.

Manage water access

Many Bengals are fascinated by moving water. Keep sinks, tubs, toilets, and faucets safe and supervise water play. A pet-safe drinking fountain offers an appropriate outlet for that interest.

Home safety checklist

- ✓ Secure cabinets, drawers, windows, and exterior doors
- ✓ Cover or hide electrical cords
- ✓ Remove toxic plants, chemicals, strings, and small objects
- ✓ Protect fragile decor and unstable furniture
- ✓ Secure laundry rooms and check appliances before use
- ✓ Block unsafe balcony, loft, and railing access
- ✓ Choose a safe, quiet starter room

Scent and litter habits

Cats are attracted to scent and appreciate a clean house. Keeping dirty towels and clothing off the floor helps maintain healthy litter box habits.

Protect paper habits

Bengals can be attracted to paper such as toilet paper and paper towels. Your kitten has not had access to these items while with us, and it is important to continue this through adulthood.

Once mature and more developed, many cats can have paper available without bothering it because shredding was never practiced as a kitten. This protects the kitten's mind from developing destructive habits in the future.



Plan for natural behavior

Chewing, scratching, climbing, chasing, biting, tearing, and observing from above are normal feline behaviors. The goal is not to eliminate them, but to provide safe and appropriate places for them to happen.

Chew

Offer supervised, species-appropriate natural chews, especially during teething. Redirect chewing away from cords and household items.

Scratch

Place tall, sturdy scratchers in the safe room and main areas of the home. Each frequently used room should offer an appropriate scratching surface.

Climb

Provide cat trees, shelving, window perches, and safe vertical territory. Bengals often feel more secure when they can observe from above.

Chase

Use teaser toys and interactive play to satisfy stalking and chase behavior while strengthening your relationship.

Run

A stable cat wheel with a diameter of at least 48 inches provides an appropriate indoor outlet for high-speed movement.

Rest

Offer soft beds, caves, blankets, and quiet elevated areas where your kitten can sleep without being disturbed.



The Safe Room

Begin with a small, calm territory and expand only as your kitten shows confidence.



Set up a calm starter space

Choose a bathroom or small room

Prepare a bathroom or small room for approximately the first two weeks. Kittens begin life with a limited territory near their mother and gradually expand as confidence grows. Recreating that process can reduce overwhelm and support appetite, sleep, bonding, play, and healthy litter box habits. Choose a space with very few inaccessible hiding places.

Block access under heavy furniture such as a bed, behind cabinets, or inside deep storage areas. You want your kitten to have comfortable places to rest without disappearing somewhere that prevents you from observing eating, drinking, playing, and elimination.

On arrival: Carry your kitten directly into the safe room and gently place them in the litter box first. This shows them where it is and gives an immediate opportunity to relieve themselves after travel.

Comfort through your scent

Once your kitten is eating normally and becoming more acclimated, offer a blanket you have used for them to sleep on. This allows your kitten to become familiar with your scent in a calm, low-pressure way.

Safe-room essentials

- ✓ Unscented clumping litter and litter box
- ✓ Filtered ceramic or stainless-steel water fountain
- ✓ Food served on a plate or shallow saucer
- ✓ Soft bed with the kitten's Snuggle Kitty and familiar blanket
- ✓ Tall scratch post or compact cat tree
- ✓ Several safe toys and natural chews

Why a plate or saucer?

Some cats experience whisker fatigue when sensitive whiskers repeatedly touch the sides of a deep bowl. A flat plate or shallow saucer allows comfortable eating without pressing the whiskers backward.



EXPANDING TERRITORY

Let confidence set the pace

Confidence grows through successful experiences, not through being pushed into more territory before the kitten is ready.

1 Observe

Your kitten is eating, drinking, playing, using the litter box, resting openly, grooming, and engaging with you. These behaviors show the safe room is beginning to feel familiar.

2 Open gradually

Allow supervised access to one additional room or area at a time. When expanding into another room, provide all familiar essentials there too, including a litter box, water, food plate, scratcher, toys, and resting place.

3 Protect success

If your kitten becomes overwhelmed, hides for long periods, misses meals, stops playing, or has litter box trouble, reduce the territory and progress more slowly. Keep the safe room available as a familiar retreat.





CHAPTER 3

The First Days & Weeks

Patience, routine, play, and quiet connection create a smooth transition.



Keep the arrival gentle

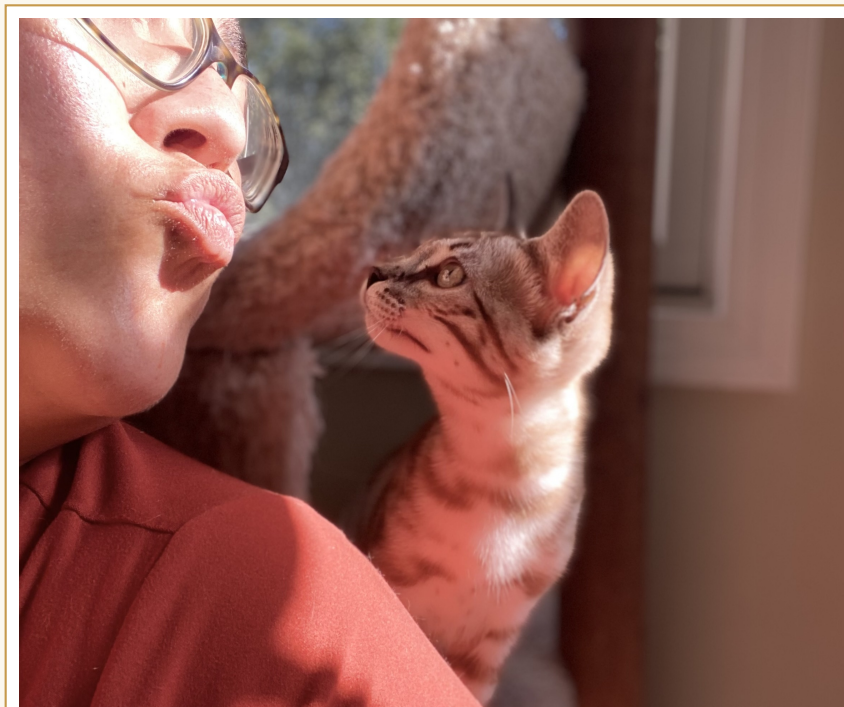
Allow your kitten to investigate the safe room without pressure. Sit quietly, talk softly, offer gentle petting when welcomed, and introduce a teaser toy. Some kittens engage immediately while others need more time.

The first three days are the biggest adjustment. It can be normal for a kitten to have a reduced appetite while processing travel, new scents, new people, and unfamiliar territory.

If appetite is reduced: Leave a counted amount of freeze-dried food that is safe to remain out. Your kitten may choose to eat overnight when the home is calm and quiet. Counting the pieces helps you know whether any food was eaten.

Normal adjustment can include sleeping more, staying close to a safe place, observing carefully, vocalizing, eating less, or showing less interest in play. If you notice any of these changes, please reach out to me so I can help support your kitten through the adjustment process.

Keeping the beginning experience simple protects confidence, so do not introduce resident animals until your kitten is acclimated to your home and bonded to you.



Adjustment does not happen overnight

3 days

Decompress

Your kitten may feel unsure, sleep more, observe carefully, vocalize, stay close to a safe place, eat less than normal, or have a lower play drive. Keep territory small and predictable while monitoring eating, drinking, litter use, and comfort.

3 weeks

Learn the routine

Personality becomes clearer. Your kitten learns household sounds, flexible meal rhythms, play patterns, family members, and the safe routes through the home.

3 months

Feel at home

Trust and a deeper bond continue to develop. The kitten understands the home, family, normal daily rhythm, and where to go for safety, play, food, and rest.

This is a general guide, not a deadline. Some kittens adjust much faster and others need additional time.



Build connection through shared experiences

Plan meaningful time together

Spend calm, focused time with your kitten in the morning, during the day when possible, and in the evening. This can include teaser play, ball play, grooming, touch conditioning, cuddling, or simply resting in the same space.

Support a healthy sleep cycle

Bengals may be naturally active at night. Regular enrichment and play - whether interactive play sessions with you or opportunities to self-soothe with safe toys independently - can help support a healthy sleep cycle.

Use the evening rhythm

A satisfying play session or loving engagement together, followed by a meal, natural chew, or calm resting period, can help your kitten settle. The goal is not to exhaust your kitten, but to provide enough appropriate enrichment throughout the day that it becomes easier for them to cuddle and sleep with you overnight.

Companionship matters

Bengals are social and high energy. If the family's availability changes significantly, another compatible high-energy cat or a well-matched dog may provide valuable companionship.



Feeding & Hydration

Support growth with generous meals, moisture, variety, and a calm perception of food.

How meals are offered

While your kitten is with us, we offer as much as they want to eat three times a day. They may not be hungry for every meal, and that is part of allowing the kitten to regulate food naturally rather than creating pressure or intensity around eating.

A calm perception of food

Flexible feeding windows help avoid begging, vocalizing, anxiety, and anticipatory behavior. They support a naturally healthy body condition without nurturing intensity around meals.

If you move away from a species-appropriate raw diet, I recommend maintaining a high-moisture diet such as wet food. When a dry option is useful, freeze-dried raw food is preferred. A filtered ceramic or stainless-steel fountain encourages healthy drinking habits. Place food separately from the litter box and water fountain whenever possible.

First 4 weeks: Continue the familiar food for at least four weeks after arrival. After that, make changes gradually and only increase the new food while poop quality remains healthy. I am happy to guide you through the transition.



Offer enough for healthy growth

How much to offer

Begin with approximately 1/3 cup per meal, three times a day. If the kitten consistently finishes, increase toward 1/2 cup per meal. You can reduce feeding to twice a day as your kitten gets older and you notice that they are regularly hungry for only two meals, but continue to offer as much as they want at each meal.

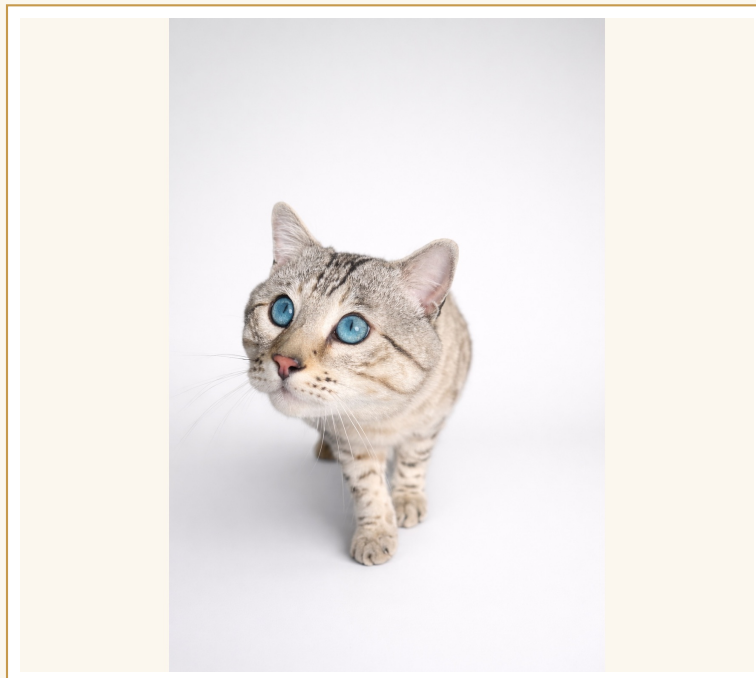
Why offered meals matter

Growing kittens should be allowed to eat as much as they want at each meal, and this approach can continue into adulthood. It supports a healthy perception of food, allowing cats to self-regulate and maintain a healthy body condition.

Keep meal timing flexible

A general morning and evening rhythm is helpful, but feeding at the exact same time every day can create intense anticipation. A flexible window encourages a calmer relationship with meals.

First 4 weeks: Continue feeding the food your kitten already knows for at least four weeks after arrival. Home transition and diet transition should not happen at the same time.



Change slowly and watch poop quality

Continue to watch poop quality throughout the entire transition. Only increase the amount of new food while stools remain well formed. If poop becomes loose, return to the last ratio that was well tolerated and remain there longer. Some kittens require a slower transition than this example.

Reach out for support: Appetite, energy, hydration, comfort, and poop quality all help us understand how the transition is going. Contact me whenever you need help adjusting the pace.

Days 1-3	90% familiar / 10% new
Days 4-6	75% familiar / 25% new
Days 7-9	50% familiar / 50% new
Days 10-12	25% familiar / 75% new
Days 13-14+	100% new only while poop remains healthy



Variety, balance, and moisture

Complete food and realistic intake

Bougie Bengals uses a variety of complete raw foods and proteins. A kitten may eat approximately 11.25 to 15 pounds of raw food per month, depending on age, body size, metabolism, and activity.

Protein variety

Ideally, feed at least four different proteins. Each protein offers a different nutrient profile, so variety supports an overall balanced diet. Your kitten is familiar with chicken, turkey, duck, beef, pork, rabbit, lamb, salmon, bison, venison, beaver, goat, and quail.

Whole-food balance

A cat's rotation should contain mostly white meats with red meats included for variety. Choose balanced whole-food recipes containing muscle meat, organs, and ground bone, with low to no synthetic vitamins and minerals and without unnecessary fruits, vegetables, grains, or carbohydrate fillers.

Taurine

Taurine is essential for heart health. Raw or freeze-dried hearts are naturally rich in taurine and make an excellent treat or meal addition.

Bougie Bengals specializes in nutrition and is happy to review any recipe or commercial brand throughout your kitten's life. Please reach out if you experience weight or digestive concerns.

Understanding fat content

Fat supports development of the brain, eyes, heart, and other body systems. Too much can contribute to loose poop, while too little may make it difficult to maintain weight and support development. A balanced rotation may include moderate, higher, and leaner proteins.

Fat-content protein examples

HIGH FAT

Beef, pork, lamb, duck, salmon

MODERATE FAT

Chicken, turkey, bison, venison

LOW FAT

Beaver, goat, quail, rabbit

Wet, freeze-dried, chews, eggs, and omega-3

Reminder: Additions should complement the complete diet rather than replace the muscle meat, organs, bone, moisture, and nutrient balance of the main meals.

High-quality wet food

Wet food can be used when raw feeding is not feasible. Offer multiple proteins and textures to support nutritional variety, prevent food rigidity, and maintain hydration. Starting points include Weruva, Stella & Chewy's, and Tiki Cat.

Freeze-dried meals

Complete freeze-dried meals must be rehydrated with filtered water, pet-safe bone broth, and/or goat milk. Choose options without grains, carbohydrate fillers, fruits, or vegetables whenever possible.

Natural chews

Offer freeze-dried chews regularly so the kitten can play and chew. Examples include duck necks, duck feet, turkey necks, rabbit ears, trachea, and other appropriately sized natural items.

Eggs

Offer one farm-fresh chicken egg weekly, either in one meal or divided across the week. Three quail eggs equal approximately one chicken egg. Finely crushed eggshell contributes calcium, and the membrane contains naturally occurring connective-tissue components that support joint health.

Omega-3

Omega-3 fatty acids support a balanced inflammatory response, skin and coat, brain, eye, heart, and joint health. Offer oily fish such as salmon, trout, herring, mackerel, or sardines. When fish is not accessible, salmon or krill oil is added to meals daily.

Hydration

Cats receive most of their hydration through the diet. Raw food, wet food, rehydrated freeze-dried meals, broth, goat milk, and a filtered fountain all contribute to healthy fluid intake.



CHAPTER 5

Litter Boxes & Healthy Habits

Simple, accessible litter arrangements protect confidence, make changes easier to notice, and maintain healthy litter box habits.



Make the right choice easy

Start familiar

Provide at least one litter box per cat, plus one additional box, distributed across different areas of the home. Use a litter box within the safe room and avoid changing litter type during the initial 30-day adjustment period.

Keep it clean

Scoop litter boxes daily and wash boxes weekly with a mild, unscented cleaner. Cats may avoid a box that is dirty, difficult to access, frightening, or associated with discomfort.

Introducing an automatic box

Place the automatic box near the familiar box with the power turned off. Leave it off until the kitten uses it regularly. Then run a cleaning cycle only while the kitten is not inside. Once comfortable, leave the box operating normally.

Troubleshoot changes promptly

- ✓ Confirm the box is clean and accessible
- ✓ Remove dirty laundry or towels from floors
- ✓ Reduce territory if the kitten is overwhelmed
- ✓ Consider recent food, routine, or household changes
- ✓ Add another box in the problem area
- ✓ Reach out to me so I can help identify patterns and offer supportive advice



CHAPTER 6

Enrichment & Bengal-Proofing

A fulfilled Bengal needs safe ways to move, climb, hunt, chew, scratch, and solve problems.





Create a feline highway

Bengals are active, athletic tree-dwellers. Vertical territory allows them to move through the home, observe activity, rest away from traffic, and build confidence.

Use several types of height

Combine sturdy cat trees, tall scratch posts, window perches, wall shelves, and safe furniture routes. Ideally, place a sturdy tall cat tree in every room where the family spends significant time, such as the living room and bedrooms.

Add scent soakers

Scratchers, beds, blankets, and frequently used resting places collect the kitten's scent. Spreading familiar scent throughout the home supports a sense of ownership and security, which builds confidence and comfort. Scent soakers are most useful along the kitten's regular routes and in the places where they frequently walk, play, observe, or rest.



Channel energy with purpose

Special note: Bougie Bengals does not recommend laser toys because the cat cannot physically catch the light. This can mistakenly nurture obsessive behaviors, including following shadows.

Teaser play

Use wand and teaser toys for stalking, chasing, jumping, and pouncing. End the session with an appropriate catch, then offer a meal, ingestible chew, or calm rest.

Interactive toys

Track and concealed-motion toys promote self-soothing through play. This is important for development so the kitten does not become reliant only on family members to regulate and entertain them.

Natural chews

Freeze-dried duck or turkey necks, duck feet, trachea, bully sticks, and dehydrated rabbit feet offer play, enrichment, and self-soothing through chewing. This is especially important around 5-7 months, though teething can begin earlier or continue later.

Kicker toys

Large fabric toys allow safe gripping, biting, and hind-leg kicking. Catnip may be added to refillable kicker toys. Inspect toys for loose strings or damaged pieces.

Cat wheels

A wheel provides a valuable indoor energy outlet. The wheel must be at least 48 inches in diameter; a smaller wheel can force the back into an unhealthy curve. Use a One Fast Cat Wheel or Ferris Cat Wheel, as many unbranded wheels are too small.

Catios & observation

A secure outdoor enclosure provides fresh air, scent, sunlight, and observation without the risks of unsupervised roaming.



CHAPTER 7

Grooming & Touch Conditioning

Calm, affectionate handling prepares your kitten for nail trims, veterinary care, and emergencies.



Continue calm handling routines

Your kitten has had nails trimmed regularly from approximately four weeks of age. Young kitten nails grow quickly, so check them at least every two weeks.

Practice without always trimming

When your kitten is deeply relaxed or sleeping, gently massage the body, feet, toes, ears, face, and tail. Briefly extend individual claws, then release. This keeps handling familiar without making every touch predict a nail trim.

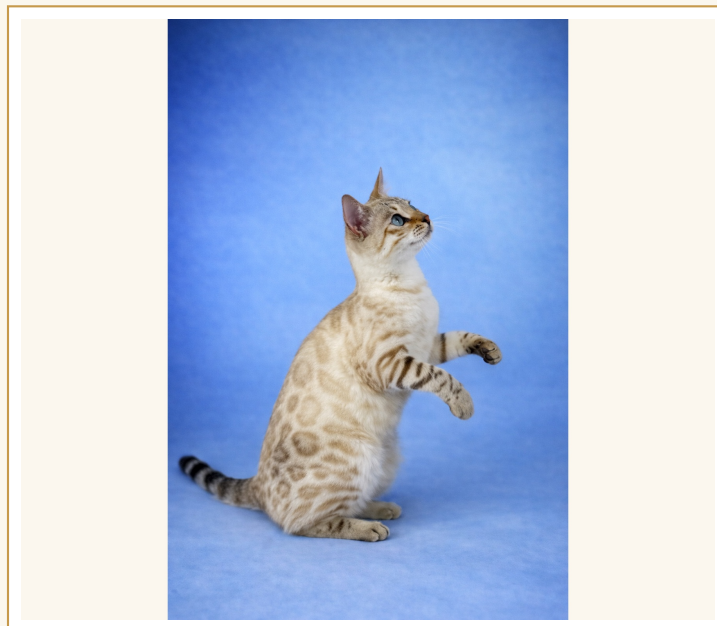
Touch-conditioning sequence

- ✓ Begin with ordinary gentle petting
- ✓ Massage shoulders, back, and legs
- ✓ Touch paws and between toes
- ✓ Briefly extend and release a claw
- ✓ Handle ears, face, and tail
- ✓ Offer a relaxed chest hug for a few seconds

Introducing being picked up

Bengals are high energy and may initially be squirmy while held. Show your kitten that being carried has a useful purpose: lift them onto the bed, carry them to a scratch post, or hold them while looking at birds through a window.

Keep early experiences brief and choose moments when the kitten is calm and relaxed. Being carried is a significant sign of trust. Begin after bonding is developing and never pick up a kitten who is intensely frightened or overstimulated.





CHAPTER 8

Harness & Outdoor Enrichment

Build comfort indoors before asking your kitten to process the outside world.



Let the harness become ordinary

Your kitten has already been introduced to a harness. Continue while they are young by putting it on during supervised indoor time. The goal is for the kitten to walk, play, scratch, climb, and rest normally while wearing it.

When a harness is first placed on a kitten, it may feel as though they cannot move. Use a teaser toy to encourage the kitten to move their body through play and to follow you naturally around the home.

Offer regular playtime in the harness at least a few times each week through adulthood. Repeated positive experiences keep the harness familiar rather than allowing it to become something worn only before an unusual or stressful event.

Safety: Fit the harness snugly, especially near the neck, while allowing comfortable movement and breathing. Never leave a kitten alone in a harness; a curious kitten may chew it or catch a mouth or foot in a strap.





Follow rather than pull

1. Add a lightweight leash indoors

Keep it loose and follow your kitten. Avoid pulling or creating sudden pressure.

2. Introduce gentle leash sensation

Allow a small amount of weight or tension while the kitten walks. Use a teaser toy or family member to encourage natural movement when needed.

3. Choose a quiet first outing

Begin in a secure, calm location. Let the kitten sit and observe or explore at their own pace. Bring a carrier, stroller, or backpack as a protected retreat.

4. Read the environment

Watch for strange people, sudden sounds, vehicles, wildlife, or loose dogs. Cats can freeze and appear calm while mentally overstimulated, then panic when you try to place them into the stroller. Put your cat away before a possible danger approaches, assess the environment, and only bring them back out when it is safe.

Familiar play helps: Bring a familiar toy or teaser toy to encourage play while out on a walk and to encourage walking with you.

Important threshold rule: Do not allow your cat to walk out of the front or back door. Always carry them over the threshold in their harness and leash. This prevents mistakenly teaching them how to leave the home.

Build home-territory

familiarity

Spend time around your own house so home territory becomes familiar. If your cat ever slips out, familiarity may encourage them to remain close and give you time to bring them safely back inside.

Do not walk them off your property, because this can teach them a route away from home. Instead, drive them to other locations to explore with you.



Introducing Other Pets

Scent first, controlled distance, and respectful boundaries build safer relationships.



Respect communication and space

Let scent come first

Exchange bedding, toys, or blankets before direct contact so the kitten and resident animals can learn one another's scent. When they willingly sleep with one another's bedding or use one another's toys, it shows increasing comfort. Introduce the kitten to the rest of the home during supervised periods without the resident animals first.

Pay attention to signals

Hissing, growling, and staring communicate discomfort or a request for space. Only intervene when one cat asks for space and the other is not receptive. Step in calmly to create distance, whether the kitten or the resident cat is the one applying pressure.

Supervise the friendship

Allow calm supervised time together until both cats are comfortable enough to play. Bengals can play roughly, so confirm that the other cat is receptive before allowing unsupervised time.

This is a guide, not a fixed formula: Keep me updated on the interactions so I can help you adjust the introduction details for the individual animals.



Calm energy changes the picture

Size, movement, staring, and excitement can overwhelm a kitten even when a dog is friendly. Begin with the dog settled, soft-eyed, and relaxed. A dog lying comfortably with hips rolled to the side creates a less threatening first picture.

Allow the kitten to observe from a high perch or safe distance. Do not insist on a greeting. The kitten may choose to watch for several sessions before approaching. Introduce only one resident animal at a time.

The early goal is for the kitten and dog to be around one another calmly. Once the kitten feels safe, they may begin choosing to engage and even play, provided the dog is comfortable and receptive.

Pause and reach out to me if the dog fixates, stalks, trembles, lunges, becomes overexcited, ignores requests for space, or if the kitten cannot relax, eat, play, or disengage.

When play begins

Play can build trust, but Bengals may play roughly. Supervise early play and make sure the dog remains comfortable, can disengage, and is receptive to the kitten's style.

If you feel your dog does not want to play with the kitten, please contact me so I can share more details to help your dog feel comfortable and help your kitten understand the dog's communication.





CHAPTER 10

Behavioral Wellness

Address small changes early, before they develop into patterns that demand attention.



Stay proactive

Behavior concerns rarely appear from nowhere. They often begin as small, easy-to-dismiss behaviors that grow through repetition, unmet needs, stress, discomfort, or accidental reinforcement.

First response: Reach out to me with any question or early change so I can help offer guidance before a pattern becomes established.

Early communication allows us to consider territory, routine, feeding, enrichment, health, relationships, and the kitten's emotional state together rather than focusing only on the visible behavior.

Early micro behaviors

- ✓ Stealing food or objects from counters
- ✓ Excessive vocalizing around meals
- ✓ Scratching furniture despite available posts
- ✓ Nighttime play that repeatedly disrupts sleep
- ✓ Chewing or ingesting inappropriate items
- ✓ Overgrooming or repetitive self-directed behavior
- ✓ Eliminating on dirty laundry or towels
- ✓ Digestive changes that accompany stress or transitions

Patterns that may develop

- ✓ Persistent out-of-box elimination
- ✓ Pica or dangerous ingestion
- ✓ Hair loss or skin injury from overgrooming
- ✓ Overbearing behavior toward other animals
- ✓ Escalating resource or attention demands
- ✓ Destructive behavior linked to boredom or stress

Natural Rearing & Health Care

Understand the natural-rearing program your kitten comes from and continue lifelong care with an informed, individualized approach.



Natural-rearing foundation

Natural rearing

Natural rearing is a holistic method of raising cats that focuses on species-appropriate raw diets, minimal chemical or pharmaceutical intervention, and chemical-free environments. Our kittens have received holistic protocols such as Feline Immunity nosodes, homeopathic dewormer, and a clear fecal before coming home.

Feline Immunity nosodes

Feline Immunity nosodes are used to immunize for feline panleukopenia, feline herpesvirus, calicivirus, FeLV, FIV, and FIP. To continue Feline Immunity nosodes, place 2-4 drops onto your kitten's gums once a month until they turn one year of age. Give the drops at least 15 minutes before or after food, and contact me with any questions.

Sensitive care

Bengals can be sensitive to vaccines and drugs such as anesthesia, so work with a veterinarian who understands exotic breeds and is willing to review your kitten's history and individual needs.

Anesthesia preferences

Whenever anesthesia is required, Bougie Bengals recommends discussing propofol induction with isoflurane gas anesthesia and avoiding dissociative anesthetics such as ketamine when appropriate, because some Bengal cats may experience adverse reactions.

Rabies

Rabies is the vaccination most commonly required by law, although requirements vary by location. Your kitten's first rabies vaccine keeps them legally current for one year. After the first rabies vaccination, each following rabies vaccination keeps them legally current for three years. When rabies is required, discuss the Merial IMRAB thimerosal-free option with your veterinarian.

Continued support

Exercise care with commercial flea, tick, deworming, and other pharmaceutical products, as individual cats may experience adverse reactions. I am always available to help locate a holistic veterinarian and to share the continued-health protocols used within the program.

Use supportive additions intentionally

A kitten has a young, developing immune system, and stress can naturally lower immune resilience. During the first year, Bougie Bengals encourages thoughtful immune and gut support, especially through travel, environmental change, and growth.

Motherboard for Pets

An immune-support product built around transfer-factor polypeptides and additional ingredients intended to support immune communication, balance, gut health, and resilience.

[VIEW MOTHERBOARD](#)

Fera Pets probiotic

A broad-spectrum probiotic and prebiotic powder for dogs and cats. Bougie Bengals recommends using a probiotic when the kitten first comes home.

[VIEW FERA PROBIOTIC](#)

GastroElm

A soothing gut-support option used for nausea, digestive discomfort, and food transitions.

[VIEW GASTROELM](#)

Colla3 collagen support

Colla3 is a collagen-peptide supplement used within the program to support joint cartilage, tendons, ligaments, bone, skin, teeth, organs, and muscle development.

[VIEW COLLA3](#)

Hydration additions

Pet-safe bone broth, goat milk, and filtered water may be used for hydration, flavor, or rehydrating freeze-dried meals. Introduce small amounts and avoid products containing unsafe seasonings or sweeteners.

Flea, tick & mosquito support

Bougie Bengals recommends Wondercide products when a natural flea, tick, or mosquito option is desired. Select a cat-labeled product and follow its directions.

[VIEW WONDERCIDE](#)

Recommended Resources

Directory links to food, supplements, enrichment products, and educational resources referenced throughout this handbook.



Raw and wet-food starting points

Rah Raw blends

Recommended blends include Turkey & Beef, Triple Blend, Mega Blend, Field & Fowl, Farmers Blend, Pork & Turkey, Turkey, and Duck. Confirm which products fit your kitten's complete diet plan.

[OPEN RAH RAW](#)

Raw Delivery Minnesota

Complete cat meal variety of proteins include Trio, Duck, Purrfect Patties, Lamb, and Rabbit.

[OPEN RAW DELIVERY MN](#)

Weruva wet cat food

A wide variety of moisture-rich proteins, textures, pates, and shredded recipes.

[VIEW WERUVA](#)

Tiki Cat wet food

A variety of wet-food proteins and textures for kittens and adults.

[VIEW TIKI CAT](#)

Stella & Chewy's wet food

Moisture-rich cat-food options and protein variety.

[VIEW STELLA & CHEWY'S](#)

Filtered stainless-steel fountain

Use a ceramic or stainless-steel fountain and keep it separate from food and litter areas.

[VIEW PET FOUNTAIN](#)

Availability and formulations change. Use these links as starting points and contact me whenever you would like help selecting proteins, recipes, or a rotation.



Supportive products and enrichment

Stella & Chewy's freeze-dried cat food

Complete freeze-dried meals offered in several proteins. Also sold at Petco.

[VIEW STELLA & CHEWY'S](#)

Vital Essentials mini nibs

Complete freeze-dried meals with a variety of protein options. Also sold on Amazon.

[VIEW VITAL ESSENTIALS](#)

Motherboard immune support

Immune communication, balance, gut health, and resilience support.

[VIEW MOTHERBOARD](#)

Fera Pets probiotic

Broad-spectrum probiotic and prebiotic powder for cats and dogs.

[VIEW PROBIOTIC](#)

GastroElm Colla3

Collagen-peptide support for developing connective tissues and mobility.

[VIEW COLLA3](#)

Fish oil

Omega-3 addition for meals when oily fish is not accessible.

[VIEW FISH OIL](#)

Freeze-dried chews

Use appropriately sized chews under supervision. Product availability changes, so the links below are examples for necks, feet, trachea, rabbit ears, fish, and other single-ingredient items.

[Duck chew](#)

[Turkey necks](#)

[Natural chew 1](#)

[Natural chew 2](#)

[Freeze-dried chicken](#)

[Rabbit ears](#)

[Vital Essentials chew](#)

[Vital Essentials treat](#)

[Freeze-dried salmon](#)

[Freeze-dried duck](#)

[Trachea](#)

[Duck treat](#)

[Herring](#)

[Chicken treat](#)





Useful equipment and play resources

Cat Tree King

Sturdy trees and large scratching posts.

[OPEN CAT TREE KING](#)

New Cat Condos

Additional sturdy cat trees and furniture.

[OPEN NEW CAT CONDOS](#)

One Fast Cat wheel

48-inch indoor exercise wheel.

[VIEW ONE FAST CAT](#)

Ferris Cat Wheel

Large-diameter wheel through ZiggyDoo.

[OPEN ZIGGYDOO](#)

Recommended litter box

Large box option for home use.

[VIEW LITTER BOX](#)

Catnip toys

Catnip toys can promote play and relaxation.

[VIEW CATNIP TOYS](#)

Silvertine cat toys

Silvertine enrichment and chew play.

[VIEW SILVERTINE TOYS](#)

Silvertine chew sticks

Natural chew sticks for supervised enrichment.

[VIEW CHEW STICKS](#)

Feather toys

Interactive teaser play and bond building.

[VIEW FEATHER TOYS](#)

Silvertine pouches

Refill pouches for the Snuggle Kitty or favorite toys.

[VIEW SILVERTINE POUCHES](#)

Catnip pouch refills

Mess-free refillable catnip pouches.

[VIEW CATNIP REFILLS](#)

Refillable catnip kicker

Large kicker toy for gripping and hind-leg play.

[VIEW KICKER](#)





Natural-rearing articles

Feline Instincts: Nosodes for Disease Prevention

The natural-rearing article referenced in the handbook.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Feline Instincts: Vaccinations and Nosodes

Additional information related to the program's natural-rearing approach.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Dogs Naturally: Thimerosal in Vaccines

The rabies-vaccine ingredient article referenced in the handbook.

[READ ARTICLE](#)





CHAPTER 13

Final Checklist & Contact

A simple review for the days before your kitten arrives and the first week at home.





Your preparation checklist

Home & safe room

- ✓ Safe room is prepared and hiding gaps are blocked
- ✓ Windows, doors, cabinets, cords, balconies, and laundry areas are secured
- ✓ Litter box and familiar unscented litter are ready
- ✓ Filtered water fountain and shallow food plates are set up
- ✓ Scratcher, bed, Snuggle Kitty, blanket, toys, and natural chews are placed

Food & arrival supplies

- ✓ At least four weeks of the kitten's familiar raw food is ordered at least two weeks before arrival
- ✓ Freeze-dried food can be offered fully rehydrated or left out dry during the initial adjustment period
- ✓ Additional natural chews and familiar food are available

Your kitten will come home with:

- ✓ TICA registration
- ✓ Trupanion insurance information
- ✓ Their own pet carrier
- ✓ A familiar blanket
- ✓ A teaser toy
- ✓ A natural chew
- ✓ Freeze-dried raw food
- ✓ A Snuggle Kitty that mimics heartbeat and warmth like sleeping with littermates

Additional Snuggle Kitties: Use code NewPup15 for 15% off if you ever want more than one.

[VIEW SNUGGLE KITTY](#)





You are never on your own

Please contact me whenever you have any questions throughout the life of your kitten. I am here to support adjustment, nutrition, litter habits, enrichment, introductions, grooming, harness work, behavior, and general wellness as your Bengal grows.

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RAISED WITH LOVE. GIVEN WITH PRIDE.