Welcome Home Kitten
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Congratulations on the arrival of your newest family member! My desire is to preserve the Bengal breed for its beauty, health, and excellent disposition. The primary subjects listed below will assist you and your kitten in making a seamless transition.

**Getting your house ready**
Bringing a new kitten home is comparable to bringing a new baby home in that you will need to make certain changes to your house, both temporary and permanent. Continued education, information, and recommendations are provided here.

- Your house, including drawers and cupboards, will need to be baby proofed. Bengals are very clever animals that may be taught to open doors and cupboards.

- You'll need to be mindful of faucets because Bengals are attracted to water and can be enticed to them. Some Bengals have even learnt to drink and maybe play in the faucet.
● Your home, including electrical wiring, will need to be chew proofed. Bengal cats, especially teething kittens, have a tendency to chew on objects that are potentially harmful to them. It's critical to protect cables that they could chew with chew resistant covers.

● Within the first two weeks of your kitten's arrival, you'll need to prepare and use a small spaced room. This is advantageous for a variety of reasons. When cats, particularly kittens, are given free reign of a house they are unfamiliar with, anxiety behaviors such as litter box mischief, hiding for long periods of time under furniture and in small spaces, a lack of interest in food or treats, and possibly excessive meowing and/or pacing can result. As a result, it's critical to set aside a modest place for your new kitten to acclimate to. You'll set up a litter box (or two if the room is larger), a pet-safe water fountain for drinking, a bed or soft place to sleep, and a kitten carrier in the room.

● You'll need to supply a lot of enrichment in your house. It is critical to give ample enrichment, and I cannot emphasize this enough. Enrichment provides exercise and mental stimulation for your kitten. You want your kitten to realize what is theirs, so you should supply lots of stuff for them to chew, scratch, bite, and sleep on. All of these actions are expected and should be rewarded with enrichment materials. Within each room and/or area of the house, should have at least one tall scratch post (for each kitten); the more scratch posts, the better. A cat wheel is another enrichment item that gives plenty of exercise while also being pleasurable for cats to burn off extra energy. Cats enjoy being outside, but it's not a good idea to let your kitten run about outside alone.
Instead, construct a secure outdoor catio place. For some great and economical ideas, check up DIY catios on Facebook, Google, or YouTube. Finally, cat shelves create a feline thoroughfare throughout your house. Bengals are high-energy tree dwellers, so it's crucial to provide them with high shelf space around your home so they can roam without touching the ground. On Animal Planet, you may find some wonderful suggestions from Jackson Galaxy, a cat behaviorist.

- Bengals adore teaser toys, and this is an excellent way to strengthen your relationship. Every day, our Bengals look forward to this. Some extra toys may be found in the small dog department; I suggest this because Bengals are rough and can break ordinary cat toys. I generally find tiny puppy or dog toys with varied textures for chewing, balls, plush kicking toys, and some regular cat toys with catnip inside.

- Our Bengals have access to a variety of litter boxes, including a litter robot, a short box, a tall sided box, and a covered litter box. You'll also need multiple litter boxes in various areas throughout the house, ideally at least three for each cat. Our Bengals are accustomed to clumping litter, which is required by the litter robot and which we also use in all of our other boxes. We will always recommend unscented and dust-free clumping litter (both of which are better for their respiratory system) and will occasionally switch brands with each purchase. Dr. Elsey, Tidy Cat, and Scoop Away, Clump & Seal, and Fresh Step are a few products I would recommend.
• We provide circulating water from a pet-safe drinking fountain to encourage our Bengals to drink. We also feed our Bengals from a plate or a saucer bowl to avoid their whiskers rubbing against the side of a standard dish, which can be uncomfortable for some cats.

• Treats! Our Bengals adore freeze dried snacks since they are healthful, tasty, and species appropriate. Your kitty will come with plenty of snacks, which they should consume in moderation. RawVibes.com (discount code BougieBengals), Vital Essentials, Orijen, Stella and Chewy's are among the companies I would recommend for treats. Vegetables are not a species-appropriate nutrition source for carnivores like cats, so be sure none of the treat items contain them.

• Your new kitten will arrive with a supply of food, a species-appropriate raw diet. As your kitten's arrival approaches, I'll offer you a link to get extra food as well as a raw feeding book for further education. Probiotics, prebiotics, digestive enzymes, eggs, homemade bone broth, and krill oil are some additional components that might be useful to include in meals. The feeding book will go through the advantages of these items in further depth, as well as provide a list of companies who provide pre-made meals. Chicken, beef, pork, turkey, rabbit, lamb, duck, salmon, and whole prey are just a few of the proteins your kitty has consumed. If you can't feed raw for reasons, like while traveling, I recommend providing a high-quality freeze-dried food. Vegetables are not an acceptable food source for carnivores like cats, so make sure they're not in any of the components. Stella and Chewys, as well as Vital Essentials,
are two companies that provide well-balanced freeze-dried meals.

- You may use the kitten carrier to assist your kitten’s transition. It will be beneficial to give a safe hiding spot for them to nest inside; you can also put a clothing item inside. Scent is extremely essential to cats, and by providing your scented shirt, your kitten will become used to you even when you are not around. If you find your kitten isn't utilizing the carrier, it's time to take it away. This process can take anywhere from a single day to several days.

**First day home**

Now that you've got everything in order, it's time to expose your kitten to their new environment (small room). Remember that each kitty adjusts at their own speed, so be patient. During this time, you should offer to pet your kitten, softly talking to him/her, bringing out some toys, and perhaps even providing a treat to help him/her adjust to the new environment. You'll want to take a seat on the ground. If your kitten is getting more comfortable with the aforementioned recommendations, that's excellent; but, if your kitten is a little more hesitant at first, patience is crucial. It's possible that your kitten may need to be left alone for the first few hours to acclimate to the new environment before being allowed to walk about with you. This is totally natural for some kittens, and you should wait a few hours before reintroducing yourself using the ideas above. It may be later in the evening, and your kitty may want a meal. It's fine if they don't consume all of their food during the transition phase, which can last anywhere from the first day to several days for some kittens. You may decide that you want to sleep with your kitty, which is a fantastic idea. During the first two weeks of the transition, make sure there are no other animals in
the room. Because the kitten is unfamiliar with the other animals in the house, you don't want to overwhelm them.

**Feeding**

Your kitten will consume 4-6 ounces of food each day, split into 2-3 meals. Start with 4 oz each day, and if they finish that quickly, you can increase the amount at the following meal. I don't encourage free feeding, which involves leaving food out all day or for an extended amount of time. You should encourage a feeding schedule of 2-3 times each day. On a behavioral level, it's critical not to feed your kitten at the same time every day because this will create an association that they are fed at the same time every day, and if you are unable to feed at that exact time every day, anxiety and impatience for food will develop, which would be difficult to break. For example, when I wake up with my Bengals, I spend time with them before serving them breakfast so that they may be fed as early as 7 a.m. or as late as 10 a.m., depending on my schedule. This example can also be used for lunch and evening meals. If you vary your feeding times, your kitten will be considerably more peaceful since they won't know when you're going to feed them. Bengals' quicker metabolisms, along with their increased energy levels, might cause them to require more food, depending on their level of activity. Our adult Bengals, for example, have optimum physical conditions while consuming as little as 6 oz to as much as 8 oz per day. Every Bengal has a varied requirement for food in order to maintain a healthy weight. To ensure that your cat does not grow overweight, talk to your holistic vet about body score and total body condition.

**Following the first day home**
You'll notice your kitten becomes more frisky as the days pass. Establishing a schedule with your kitty is crucial. Plan to spend at least an hour with your kitten in the morning, lunchtime, and evening, for example. You'll also need to give them lots of opportunities to play. Bengal cats, in particular, are inherently nocturnal, so they can choose to sleep during the day and play at night. You should establish a playtime regimen for your kitten to assist exercise and intellectually excite them so they will sleep with you all night. Using the teaser toys, playing with a ball, and cuddling are all good ways to spend quality time. Bengal kittens are sociable animals that prefer companionship, so if you realize you won't have as much time as you'd like, try buying another kitten buddy for your cat. If you do decide to acquire a companion for your kitten, keep in mind that Bengals can play rough, so another Bengal or a cat with a similar activity level would be a fantastic fit.

**Harness and leash training**

Your kitten is accustomed to the kitten harness. It's critical to keep using the harness when they're young so that it becomes second nature to them. You may practice this by putting on the harness and allowing the kitten to wear it until their behavior is identical to that of a kitten who is not wearing a harness. It's critical to wear the harness only while they're supervised; because they're still young, they may try to chew the harness and get their mouth trapped, so you never want to leave them alone with the harness on. As a result, make sure the harness is tight, especially around the neck area, so they can't get their teeth trapped accidentally. If your kitten is troubling the harness, use your teaser toy to divert their attention away from it and demonstrate that they can move freely while wearing it. You're ready for the leash now that you've realized you can leave the harness on and they're acting normally.
With cats, I like to use a retractable leash since they are not acclimated to the weight of the leash at first, and this might influence their comfort when walking, similar to how the harness training process can affect their comfort. When you initially start leash training, be careful not to let the leash grow too tight since you don't want to put strain on the kitten's body. If your kitten begins to walk, you will follow them and do your best not to disrupt them by applying leash pressure. If your kitten refuses to walk, you may need the assistance of another family member to use a teaser toy to stimulate movement, just as I did when I first introduced the harness. Eventually, you'll find that your kitten is more at ease going around without being restrained by a leash. Then, while the kitten walks, gradually tighten the retractable section of the leash, but do not lock the leash to pull the cat. As you follow the kitten about the home, this will impart a small bit of leash pressure, which the kitten will need to become acclimated to. If the kitten becomes aware of the pressure and decides to stop moving, enlist the assistance of a family member to play a teaser toy as you manage the leash. You'll eventually notice that the kitten is unconcerned by the retractable leash's pressure (remember not to lock the leash or tug the kitten at all, as this will apply too much pressure), and you'll be ready to walk outside! When the kitten gets outside, it's crucial for them to have a good time. Allow the kitten to explore or sit and observe. When you're outside, it's critical to enable either behavior to adjust to changes in the environment. This is the ideal time to sit and enjoy the environment with your kitten, or you may start following them if they are ready to explore. If you discover that the retractable leash's pressure is preventing the kitten from exploring, you may lengthen the leash until it's slack, then lock it to prevent pressure on the kitten's body. Over time, you may unlatch the retractable leash, which will exert some light pressure on them, causing them
to pull a little more into the harness and feel free to move around. Never tug your kitten since this may trigger an opposing response, causing the kitten to retreat or get uncomfortable moving around. A pet stroller or pet backpack is another useful equipment to have on hand, especially if your kitten loves watching their surroundings. You can take them for walks around the neighborhood, to the pet shop, or even hiking with them inside the stroller.

**Introduction to other pets inside the home**

It's critical to provide your pet a good introduction to other pets in the house, such as cats and dogs. Please note that getting animals to get along is not a quick process; you must be patient and understand that this is a process that takes time. When it comes to introducing cats, it's helpful to look at how Jackson Galaxy, the cat behaviorist on Animal Planet, introduces cats. Allowing the cats to get acquainted with one other's scent initially, as well as allowing them to sniff each other through the door, will be crucial. You can feed them individually, but close enough to hear and smell one another. You may notice some hissing or growling when it's time to introduce them; this is typical communication that shows they're uncomfortable and establishes a boundary to signify they want some space from the other animal. You must ensure that the kitten does not continue to engage with the adult cat if you detect the adult cat hissing at it. If the kitten continues to engage with the adult cat as the adult cat hisses, the adult cat's pressure on the kitten may increase, and the cat may swat the kitten. You, as the parent, will want to avoid this, so take the kitten away from the adult cat if you detect the kitten engaged while the older cat is hissing. The adult cat will feel
better at ease knowing that the kitten is either sensitive to the adult cat's message by providing space and no longer interacting, or that you, as the parent, are in charge of the new kitten. If the kitten is hissing (forming a boundary and asking for space), the adult cat must be responsive by not engaging the kitten any longer, or you may need to intervene and aid the kitten by moving the adult cat away (making space) for the kitten to feel more comfortable. You don't have to entirely remove them from the scenario when you move them away; it's only to create space/distance. When it comes to introducing your kitten to your dog, the same principle applies. When introducing a dog, the main difference is the size or the dog's activity level, which might be overwhelming for a kitten, so make sure the dog's energy level is calm and relaxed. Allowing the kitten to greet the dog only when it is laying down is a good idea (calm where the hips are rolled to the side with eyes soft and relaxed). Keep the kitten in the room if you see your dog is eager, but don't let them greet you until you're confident your dog is calm. It's critical to wait until your dog is settled before allowing the kitten to greet. You could even witness the kitten getting up high at first to investigate the dog before deciding to greet him. This is a completely healthy way of behaving. If you have numerous dogs or cats, introduce one at a time so the kitten does not become overwhelmed.

**Last, but not least**
You'll have breeder support for the rest of your kitten's life, and I want the best for you both. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.