



TAKING YOUR KORAT KITTEN HOME

KCA - Korat Cat Association

Preparing your home

You should always prepare for the homing of your Korat before you actually collect the kitten or cat. This is vital as it allows you time to shop and find items suitable as well as position them in the designated area of your house. Decide where your kitten will sleep and provide an area in a draught proof location. For example decide which room is to be theirs when you are out. Maybe you intend to let them roam free even when your are in bed or out shopping. Well that's fine and I am sure the cat and especially the kitten will appreciate this. However, if you have a burglar alarm system this is not so practical and a designated secure room is always recommended. Accidents may happen if the kitten cannot find it's litter tray and you may smell it but where is it? Initially at least have a special place, you can always revert when they are older.

First and most important is the cat carrier. There are several makes that are entirely suitable and you will be amazed at the types on display at the larger cat shows or pet shops. The Voyager 300 has been a very popular model for some time and two or even three Korats will fit into this size without cramping

It is strongly recommended you buy or make a scratching post for the cat to claw against, keep it near to its bed.

Food bowls are inexpensive if you collect margarine tubs. They are light can be stacked and are easily washable. Those sold in pet shops combined with water bowls should be avoided as the water may spill during eating.

Drinking water bowls should be made of heavier materials as they are left in place all day and therefore should be more stable. Pottery bowls are preferable to plastic or stainless steel.

The covered-in litter trays are becoming more popular and can be recommended as they retain more of the litter when the cat scratches and

digs his hole. They also can be lifted by its handle. A litter scoop is handy to remove solid material and soiled litter. Any type is suitable.

Buy some food but contact your breeder for their recommendations.

Do not buy a specialised cat bed. To start with always use a cardboard box from a supermarket. Be sure to pick one that has not held chemical goods, e.g. cleaning items. Cut down one side of the box to make an entrance.

Collecting your Korat

Arrange suitable time with your breeder. A weekend is a good idea as it will allow you and your Korat to spend a lot of time together. A day time collection is also recommended.

Your breeder will usually give you the kitten's papers. These will include this leaflet, the pedigree certificate, GCCF transfer form, vaccinations certificates.

Introducing your kitten to your home

Make sure doors and windows are closed and any potential hazards are removed or made safe. Be careful of chimneys as kittens and cats have a habit of disappearing up them.

Some books advise introducing a cat to one room at a time. Whilst this is true to some extent for most houses this is impractical. But do try to ensure he knows where his litter tray is. Restricting to the downstairs is a suggestion as it introduces them to the word NO. Do not feel sorry for them when they meow when you first go to bed, be warned once in your bed the kitten will want to be there for life.

Introduce other animals slowly and carefully, be patient since there will be some territorial fights at first.

Also explain to children that they must be quite and gentle. It is very exciting for children to see kittens but from the kittens perspective it is

very frightening to see so many new faces as well as being in a strange area i.e. your home. Keep children under close supervision as a frightened kittens claw can cause unthinkable damage.

DIET

Food

Never serve food straight from the fridge.

Never give cats milk to drink.

Never serve sweet food.

Never serve fish, chicken or rabbit without carefully de-boning first.

Never leave tinned or fresh food lying about between meals.

Always have fresh water available to drink. There should be a bowl in their food area and another in your living room, if they spend time there.

Always cut meat into small pieces.

Suitable Foods

Your kitten will be used to the diet provided by your breeder so ask just in case they forgot to advise you. Make any changes gradually. To prevent your kitten becoming faddy give him a varied diet, although it is true to say that most cats have preferences and these will change with the weather, so to speak!

Cooked fish, chicken, most meats, bones to be removed and fat cut away.

Raw lean minced meat can be fed occasionally, but only from a reliable source. Do not use "pet quality" meat, as this is usually not fit for human consumption, so why ask your pet to eat it.

Scrambled egg, small cheese cubes and baby foods mixed with water can be served for a change or as a tit-bit.

Dry food can be served to grown up cats, but please ensure they have plenty to drink. Hills, Iams, Techni-Cal, and Royal Canine are popular brands and you may find your cat prefers these to tin food. Makers will advise not to mix brands but we have never found this to be a problem. Some breeders say dry foods may make a cat fat, so be careful with

amounts served. There are diet versions available in the unlikely event you have a problem with a Korat becoming overweight.

Whiskas Cocktail biscuits seem to be a firm favourite with many cats. Meow Mix is an inexpensive biscuit that can be bought loose from pet shops and is good value.

Pilchards and sardines or tuna can be fed to grown cats but they are a bit rich for kittens. Some say tuna is addictive.

Store tinned cat food in the fridge once opened and it is preferable to transfer from the tin to a plastic container.

Foreign cats especially Korats are sensitive to cows milk which will give them an upset stomach. "Whiskas" now produce a milk for cats and this appears to be OK, however, be careful not to let it go off. Your cats may not take to it, they are more likely to prefer water and preferably filtered water.

Growing kittens must have calcium for bone formation, so give an occasional calcium tablet. Give the kitten a vitamin tablet sold for use by cats, not those sold for human consumption.

Grass is always eaten by cats when let out of the house, so please provide a little once a week. Don't use if the lawn has been recently treated with a weed killer or plant food. Do not worry if they vomit sick afterwards, this is perfectly normal. It can occur during the night, but if vomiting continues beyond the first night see your vet.

Feeding

Kittens have small stomachs so require frequent small meals. Feed the kittens three, four or five times a day including a meat meal. If you are out for the day dry food can be left down. Time controlled feeding bowls are now available and are extremely useful if you intend to be out for the day.

Do not over feed kittens or give them more than they can eat. Fully grown cats regulate the amount of food themselves, but kittens do not. Note that Korats tend to eat a little and often so you may find you will need to provide more meals of smaller portions. When grown you can cut down to twice a day, however, your cat will soon tell you if he requires more meal times.

TRAINING

Slapping or hitting does not work. A tap on the nose may work if the kitten bites you while you are holding it. They like to chew, give them a toy.

If you find them being naughty, stop them with a spray of water, the type used to spray plants are the best. They will learn the word NO, or any other one syllable word you fancy.

Provide a scratching post but if you decide to make your own ensure that you do not use carpet or other materials used around the house or else the kitten will scotch at those objects using the same materials.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Vets

Finding a vet can be a lottery but recommendations go a long way, Speak to neighbours and friends. A vet that a pedigree cat owner, preferably a short haired cat, will have more understanding than a dog owning vet commended by a dog owner.

Some will tell you how expensive vets are, but rest assured life without your Korat will be very low if you failed to act quickly. Remember it is better to be safe than sorry. Do not "Wait and See" it may be too late

Insurance

Your kitten has been given the best of care from an experienced cat person for the 12 or so weeks before you take it home. Taking out a specialist cat insurance may give you peace of mind against accidents or illness. Please discuss this with your breeder as they have the kitten as well as your best interests at heart. Remember your relationship with your breeder should grow with your kitten and not stop when you collect your kitten, They are always available for advice as are all the committee members of the KCA.

Neutering

Unless otherwise agreed with your breeder the kitten should be neutered between 5 and 8 months, although up to a year is ok, but you may find a girl will start to call at 9 months, watch out for Toys!. Please see your vet soon to arrange a time, the vet will judge the best time upon the condition and size of the kitten. It is vitally important to have male kittens neutered early. If you let your male cat start to mature before -you have it neutered there is a chance he will start to mark out his territory by spraying. In the case of a female she will start to call earlier than moggies or non foreign kittens. It is also important to get a female kitten neutered early to stop her starting to call and providing the cat with anxieties as to what is happening to her. Having said this you should discuss this with your breeder as Korats take time to mature and neutering may not be advisable for your particular "line" of the pedigree. If you are at all concerned contact a member of the KCA committee who may provide more authoritative advice.

Cleanliness

Always keep the kitten bed and blanket scrupulously clean. There is a cat blanket called "Vet Mat" which is excellent, looks like sheep skin, but can be cut to any size and is washable. A cardboard box makes a perfect bed, it can be replaced regularly and kittens will use it to wean their teeth on. When they are grown up you can find them something more posh.

Be careful with disinfectants, some household ones may be toxic to cats e.g. Detol, TCP, Jeyes fluid, etc. Use a special cat disinfectant or a weak

solution of household bleach and water. Dry off all wet articles before reintroducing the cat.

Your Korat will have been trained to use a sanitary tray indoors which should contain a suitable cat litter. The heavy Fullers earth seems to be the best but it is not fashionably "green". Try other types that are based on paper or sawdust. You may be perfectly happy with them and they can be put on the garden compost, which fullers earth cannot. The cat litter should be regularly changed and the tray washed. Nightly removal of soiled litter and a weekly clean should be sufficient.

Grooming

Groom once per week use a soft natural hair brush and a fine toothed comb to remove loose hair. The small plastic combs with very fine teeth on one side and slightly coarser on the other, are the best for short haired cats. A chamois leather gives a nice final polish, but don't use it if the cat objects, try silk instead. Some books recommend the use of Bay Rum as a grooming aid, do not use as this will stain the silver tipping.

Clip nails every two weeks using a proper clipper but only clip the white bits, if in doubt consult your vet, he will show you how.

Ailments

You may read in cat books that Korats are not very healthy. They often say they are susceptible to chest or respiratory infections. It is not known how this first started to be written about but it is total nonsense. Korats are no more a problem than any other pedigree cat. This should not encourage complacency, so at the first sign of any problem see your vet.

If you are in any doubt about the health of your kitten consult your vet immediately. Watch out for running eyes or nose, listlessness or a loss of appetite. These are the first signs of illness.

Okay it is not a good subject but fleas do exist and if you let your cat out of doors there is a chance they may become infective. Do not panic they can be easily eliminated. "Nuvan Top" spray is recommended, and your

vet can supply a can for use. Be careful with this as the noise of the spray sets Korats claws out and into action. Use gloves and do the spraying outside. Do not inhale the spray, but do not be afraid to use it.

KCA Korat Cat Association
<http://www.koratworld.com/kca.html>

Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, GCCF, is the ruling body for pedigree cats in the UK and your Korat will already be registered with them. If you wish to show your cat you will need to register as the new owner.

Unlike cars this is optional if you do not intend to show or breed.

4-6 Penel Orliou

Bridgewater - Somerset, TA6 3PG

The Korat Cat Association, KCA is your breed club and will keep you in touch with other Korat owners and cat news. An application form will be given to you when you collect your cat.

Secretary:

Mrs I Cormack

Prospect Hill Farm

Frensham Lane

Headley, Hampshire GU35 85Z

Feline Advisory Bureau, FAB

350 Upper Richmond Road

Putney, London SW15 6TL

Local area cat clubs

A list can be obtained either from the GCCF or from the KCA. Some may be more active than others so a recommendation from friends or other local cat owners should be sought.