

APOKALYPT *Devon rex*

Care guide for your new kitten

Shopping list (what you need to buy for your kitten before they arrive):

- Raw beef
- Litter box and litter

Please note your supplied kitten pack **includes** 3kg of Blackhawk Kitten biscuits. If you'd like to change your kittens dry food, use these to mix 70:30, 50:50, etc until you have moved them on.

Don't feel worried if it takes a day or two for your kitten to start eating properly. Just monitor hydration and ensure everything is fresh and accessible.

Water

Your kitten has had access to a fresh water bowl and fountain. Devons tend to drink quite a bit of water, more than you'd think. Placement of water should be separate to food, as instinctually cats do not drink from water where their prey is located. Keep in mind that fountains need regular cleaning and filters changed.

Toileting

Your kitten is completely toilet trained. They have are familiar with pine and tofu litter. When younger the kittens start on tofu, but now they are exclusively using pine pellets.

Nature's Flame Wood Fire Pellets can be ordered [here](#).

Found at Mitre10, this crumbles when wet, is very odour friendly and the most economical litter. Used with the Cat Litter Tray High Sides from Kmart, you can simply shake the pan to remove the spent litter, and then scoop the poop, works very well.

Trouble & Trix Natural Pellet Cat Litter can be ordered [here](#).

You may wish to use a clumping pellet. If for some reason, your kitten is going to the toilet outside of the litter box, I would recommend switching to the tofu litter type pellets and/or improving litter box hygiene (clean twice a day).

Desexing

If you have a female kitten, please continue to monitor her tummy wound which you will notice a bump. The stitches are dissolvable so there is no need to have them removed. Vets

claim that problems after desexing are rare but unfortunately I have had it happen! Devons are such active cats who don't let anything hold them back. Male kittens are very easy to care for following neutering.

Sleeping

Devons are easy sleepers, preferring to be with you in the bed and/or any other soft fluffy enticing nooks. Devons will often find the only sun spot in the house and sleep there. If your kitten is light coloured or white especially on the ears and nose, you will need to monitor their sun time as they can get sunburnt. Use pet sunscreen (horse powder is the best) if they will tolerate it.

Plants

Some houseplants are poisonous to cats. If you have a houseplant which is accessible to your new kitten, google whether it is cat safe. Flowers like xmas lilies are deadly if ingested by cats. My cats love cat grass, which is essentially any wheat/oat/grain grass grown especially so they can chew on it, lay on it and puke it up on occasion!

Other pets and disease

Take your time introducing other pets. It is always good practice to quarantine your new animal for at least 72 hours. This will help in many ways, but even so the new smells are absorbed by each pet and they can prepare themselves for newness!

Most importantly, disease is spread when animals are stressed. It is common for cats to be carriers of previous respiratory illness (vets call this cat flu, which is like our common 'cold'), regardless if pedigree or rescue. These 'outbreaks' can arise following a stressful event, like a new pet introduced to the home.

Symptoms of a respiratory illness show in cats differently than humans. This could include a sore eye, weeping eyes, snuffly nose, or cough. The cause of the illness could be bacteria (chlamydia), viral (herpes or calicivirus) or fungi (cryptococcosis). Why this is important to know is that it can be difficult to 'treat' - vets cannot find the cause of an illness without running expensive PCR tests, with high false negative rates. Usually they prescribe broad spectrum antibiotics to prevent any secondary infections and let the illness run its course.

Therefore, it is better to focus your energy on keeping the cats as low stress as possible.

Please know that all cats carry these kind of illnesses, just as humans do. They are a living animal, and it does not mean they have poor health. These infections are very rarely fatal or prolonged. Any breeder or shelter that claims to have no problems with this, are simply lying.

Go slowly and keep everyone happy to reduce the likelihood of a downturn.

Worming

Your kitten should continue their worming protocol, from three months of age continue worming monthly until six months old. Then every six months. I use the standard Vitapet wormers from the supermarket, can be found [here](#).

Fleas

Devons dont tend to get fleas. Bonus! You'll see them. If you do, flea them. Very easy to manage, but if your cat is coming outside (leashed or supervised I hope!) then there is a risk of ticks as well. You can use the standard flea/tick/worming combo treatments should you wish, found at the pet stores.0

Bathing

Not necessary as a routine, but sometimes you may want to if they have a spill or accident. The easiest way to bathe a cat is to dunk them in water rather than use a running faucet. You will come to understand the extra sebum production from a devon coat due to the lack of guard fur. This can leave brown marks in their regular sleeping spots, so you can manage this by placing a blanket on where they sleep. The sebum collects in their ears and corners of eyes, very manageable to maintain. Just wipe away whenever it bothers you.

Facebook Group

We have a facebook group for our at home moments called "Apokalypt Devon Rex - At Home". You will be invited to join and please do! We would love to see your updates, questions and sharing any news as it comes up.