



Wisecracks Kitten Shopping List

A quick checklist of what you'll need before your kitten arrives home

THE BASICS

Carry Cage I have cages available from my wholesaler currently \$35

Toilet Tray I advise the use of a covered tray but without the door put on. Again I usually have these available from my wholesaler for \$45. Devons are very enthusiastic when it comes to burying their wastes!

Litter Your kitten is used to wood pellets used for wood pellet fires. These are brilliant and reasonably priced. You need only barely cover the bottom of the toilet tray - they swell as they get wet. You can call the manufacturer on 0800 pellet (0800 735538) if you are having trouble finding these.

Food/Food Dish Your kitten has been raised on Whiskas Advance kitten food and will need a good quality kitten food until he/she is 9 months old. Raw chicken necks are great for their teeth and yes they are already big enough to devour these!

Spray Bottle This is pretty useful, a small garden shop type spray bottle, set on jet to squirt your kitten when he/she is caught chewing on your steak, climbing your curtains etc. If you say 'NO' they will start to listen to the command even without the squirt (on a good day!)

A Scratch Pole Preferably with cut pile carpet or sisal (rope) The pole needs to be anchored on a large solid base and be stable, and at least as tall as a cat on it's hind legs arms stretched out, so a good 800mm tall. The fabric cat towers are pretty but not that serviceable.

Toys I find kittens adore the felt catnip mice and seem to prefer green and red. Anything that makes crunching noises like crushed paper etc will work well as a toy. Devons like to retrieve so something they can carry is often a hit.

A Good Vet Ask around while you are waiting for your kitten to see who local animal lovers recommend. Best to think ahead.

Good Neighbours Devons love people, not just their people, pays to just let your lovely neighbours know you have a very busy kitten arriving.

A Sense of Humour You'll need it!

INDOOR ONLY CATS

A Good Scratch Pole/Cat Condo

With a large base to make it steady, tall enough to allow your cat to fully stretch, so at least 800 tall. Platforms to perch on and hammocks to lounge in are also great. The fancy polar fleece fabric is not good for areas where the cats will be scratching., carpet or sisal (rope) are best.

Grass

Indoor only cats require grass to nibble. You can quite aesthetically grow a pot of cat grass for them.

Toilet Box

It is recommended that each cat has a litter box, so two cats two toilet boxes. I also find that with multi level homes it is best to have a litter tray on each level. It is equally important to keep these clean. As mentioned elsewhere on my web site, wood pellets are ideal, reasonable litter and offer great odour control.

OR Toilet train your cat to the human toilet. Several of my kitten owners have successfully toilet trained their Devons to use the human toilet (not quite able to flush and wipe!) Although there are expensive kits out there, using a \$2 Shop tin tray under the seat with litter and gradually making it smaller and smaller works! The cat will progress to just jumping up and using the toilet with no tray

Company

Devons are social creatures, they need and love company, so an indoor only cats especially needs lots of human company, and if there will be longish periods without their humans it is best to consider having a second cat or an indoor dog as company

Stimulation

Again Devon Rex are intelligent, active cats, if they cannot get out to hunt, they will need toys, and time spent retrieving etc while you are home with them. Toys that make noise like rustling paper, crinkle sacks and tunnels are wonderful.

A Harness

For safe walks outside. I am happy to get kittens used to their harnesses from an early age if they are going to be wearing on in their new homes.

Catnip

Catnip is wonderful for some cats, you can buy the spray or toys filled with dried catnip. Our Devons seem especially partial to the felt mice filled with catnip and oddly the green and red mice are more cherished than the blue and yellow? The response to catnip is genetically controlled so some cats truly feel no effects while others go quite silly!

SAFE ALTERNATIVES TO AN INDOOR ONLY CAT

Outdoor Play Area

With some effort and financial outlay it is possible to allow your cat the best of both worlds. You can build an outdoor play area or purchase a used large aviary, this can be accomplished without being unsightly, and even joined to the house, so available for use by your feline friend at their convenience.

Cat resistant fencing, nothing not totally enclosed can be totally cat proof, they are amazing athletes. However electric fencing above an existing fence, can work wonderfully well and is what we use. It is important to make wires alternating live and earth. Our kittens are used to this system which we run 600 mm higher than the existing fence, one shock and they avoid it, it also serves as a visual barrier. There is some upkeep making sure growth is kept cut back to avoid alternate escape routes!

I have read that tilting the electric fence extension inwards (not unlike jail surrounds) is even more effective.