

## **Two Kittens Are Better Than One**

While we may pride ourselves on how we pamper our pets with the best of everything, we may be denying them what they need most--the companionship of one of their own species. Most feline behaviorists agree that cats generally lead healthier, happier lives if there is another feline in the household. Even if the cats never become bosom buddies, just sharing the house with another living creature while you are away helps to break the monotony and loneliness. Of course, if they become playmates, there is the added benefit of exercise and entertainment that is especially needed by kittens and young adult cats.



### **READY TO ADOPT?**

The decision to adopt a kitten is an exciting event, but one not to be entered into lightly. Keep in mind that kittens require more care than one might expect. It takes a lot of time and effort to ensure kittens grow into well-behaved adult cats, with compensation, of course, being the extreme pleasure of watching them grow and develop.

Kittens are always fun and can fill your life with joy. Just keep in mind that kittens are almost always full of energy and require a lot of attention and care! If you are away from home most of the day, consider adopting two kittens instead of just one.

### **SAFETY IN NUMBERS**

Like young children, kittens are quite curious and crave constant stimulation. One kitten alone is usually very bored! Bored singleton kittens often entertain themselves by chewing on your belongings, eating your plants, climbing drapes and furniture, exploring cupboards that may contain poisons, unraveling toilet paper and exploring electrical cords and sockets. If you adopt kittens in pairs, they are less likely to exhibit destructive behavior and/or engage in dangerous activities.

### **CREATURES OF THE NIGHT**

Kittens, as with most felines, can be very active at night. A kitten by himself may find waking you up a fun form of entertainment. If you adopt two kittens, they are more likely to find playful company in each other, leaving you to a restful night's sleep.

## **STIMULATION & SOCIABILITY**

A singleton kitten is more demanding of your attention than a pair of kittens. A pair can occupy and entertain each other, while a single kitten will expect you to constantly pay attention to it. Pairs of kittens will learn how to interact socially in a healthy manner, instead of relying on you to teach them.

## **PLAYTIME**

Kittens love to wrestle with and "play bite" each other. But, a singleton kitten is more likely to wrestle with and "play bite" you. This, of course, is unacceptable behavior. Many cases of playful aggression directed toward the owner as well as various forms of household destruction, can be prevented if the cat's energies are focused on a playmate. If you allow this behavior from a singleton kitten, you'll find that it stops being so cute once the singleton kitten becomes a mature adult with bad habits. If your kitten grows up with another kitten, this negative behavior is minimized or eliminated. Young males (3-24 months) have an especially strong need for a "buddy". While owners of rambunctious young males often hesitate to take on another cat, those who take that "leap of faith" and get another young male are generally delighted to see how much the "boys" enjoy each other.



## **LEARNING DEVELOPMENT**

Kittens learn best from their mother and littermates. A single kitten may not learn what acceptable behavior is, while kittens in pairs usually develop in a positive manner at a quicker rate than a singleton kitten. Kittens in pairs can be healthier and better socialized than singletons. Also, kittens learn by copying each other! So they will learn to use the litter box more quickly in pairs than if left to their own devices. They can help each other to learn good grooming habits, too!

## **SPARE YOUR OLDER CAT**

One kitten by itself may drive your older cat absolutely nuts, no matter how active your older cat is (just think of how a toddler might drive a teenager nuts)! If you bring two kittens home, they will find each other more fun to play with than your older cat, making the transition easier for everyone. Two kittens can help reduce the stress your adult cat might have had if left alone with only one boisterous kitten. Kittens can often be much more stimulation than your calm, adult cat can handle.

## **DOUBLE THE GOOD DEED**

Possibly, the best part of adopting two kittens instead of just one is that you're saving two lives! If you adopt two kittens, you will free up valuable space in our shelter, allowing us to bring in more cats whomay be at risk for euthanasia in other shelters.