

# Spotitude Savannahs New Kitten Guide

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## MEETING YOUR NEW SAVANNAH KITTEN

When you meet your kitten for the first time, don't be disappointed if they don't immediately jump up into your lap. While some might, most are preoccupied with their own kitten world doing very important kitten adventures with the other kittens. To engage them, you'll need to capture their attention—using a wand toy can be a great way to do this. The key is to spend time with them, getting on their level by sitting on the floor and allowing them to sniff and become familiar with you. Consistently play with them, making your time together so enjoyable that they can't resist joining in.

## THE RIDE HOME



Your kitten is used to riding, sleeping and playing in soft and hard sided cat carriers, and has been on many rides to Pismo Beach, so traveling should go fairly smoothly. There may be a bit of crying, that is normal, but usually they fall asleep quickly. It's ok to take the kitten out of the carrier to sit on a passenger's lap but do not let the kitten explore around the vehicle as you don't want them to end up either under the seat or under the brake pedal, which (lesson learned) is exactly where they'll head off to.

No need for food, water or a litter box while traveling they never eat or use the box when they're in the car. (For rides under 4 hours).

Let me know what time you plan to arrive for pick up so I can feed them early leaving them sufficient time to use the litter box.

Bring a cat carrier with you **or let me know well in advance if you want me to provide one for you.**



**Feliway calming spray** - a pheromone-based product is helpful to reduce stress and anxiety in cats. It mimics the natural pheromones that cats release to signal safety and comfort, creating a calming effect. It can help keep them calm during the ride home. Feliway can also be very helpful when introducing a kitten to a multi-cat household.

To use: Spray it inside the carrier about 15 mins prior to the ride. (Do not spray it directly on or near them).

## STARTER ROOM

*If you have other pets, please read the section below on how to introduce pets to one another.*

**Set up a smaller kitten-proof starter room:** i.e., a master bedroom works well. The kitten should be quarantined in this room for a week or two so that they can adjust, and bond with you without a lot of distractions and so they can maintain good litter box habits. Allowing a kitten to free-range the entire house will quickly overwhelm them. This can lead to them becoming frightened by the new sights, smells, and sounds, hiding under furniture, or not using the litter box appropriately because they forgot where it was or got scared on the way back to it.

**When you arrive home, bring the kitten into the starter room and let them come out of the carrier on their own, when they are ready, do not force them out.** Leave the carrier in place so they can go back to it for "safety". It typically takes a kitten a few weeks to settle into their new home, this is normal. Patience is key, every kitten is different so go at their pace.

After the kitten has gotten to know you and is confident in your presence, eating, playing, jumping on your lap, and using their litter box then they're ready to go out exploring the rest of the house.

Go exploring together like you're both on a big adventure, lead them along with a wand toy for them to follow, then bring them back to their room and the litter box. This helps establish trust that you will lead them back to safety. If you hear the kitten crying loudly, insistently, odds are it's time to head on over to the box.

The kittens usually respond to "where are you", "come here, come here, come here" and "time to eat". If you say it enough, they usually come running or will meow back to answer you.



Kittens are used to being carried facing outward so they can see where they're going (instead of being carried like a baby looking over the shoulder)

For emergency handling of a kitten, scruff them by their neck with one hand, (like how their mother would carry them) and they will go limp and be more cooperative. If necessary, support their bottom with your other hand.

## KITTEN PROOFING YOUR HOME

Savannahs are an intelligent, naturally active and curious cat, and they are a bit notorious for their savandalism antics. Be aware that one of the many enduring traits of savannah cats is their lifelong love of adventure seeking, and they're not necessarily going to grow out of it. **You will need to kitten proof your home just like you would toddler proof a home, with a toddler that can climb to any height that is.** Keep in mind you may need to make adjustments to accommodate their adventures, it's just the way it is, observe and adjust if necessary.

### Household Hazards to watch out for:

**Cleaning products:** household cleaners, bleach, disinfectants, pesticides, insecticides, even ones labeled as "green" or "environmentally friendly" can be harmful if ingested or come in contact with your kitten's skin - read the labels. Keep in mind, kittens often investigate new smells by licking and tasting them.

[Poisonous houseplants](#) *\*click link to read* \* If you don't know what your houseplant is, take a photo of it and do a Google image search for it, add in the search term "is this toxic to cats".

**Beware of flower bouquets**, lilies are very common in flower arrangements. The flowers, leaves and even the pollen are all toxic, (the pollen can get on their fur & they lick it off) if not immediately treated it can lead to kidney failure.

[Poisonous people food](#) *\*Click link to read*

Beware of people foods containing Xylitol (a sugar substitute)

**Human medications:** prescription and over the counter medications including aspirin, pain relievers and vitamins can be toxic to kittens.

**Flea treatments made for dogs** including pills, topical flea drops and shampoos can be toxic to cats.

Should your kitten eat something you are concerned about call your vet asap. If you cannot reach a veterinarian, you can call the **ASPCA 24/7 Poison Control Hotline at 888-426-4435** or the **Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661**, they can tell you if it is poisonous, in what amount and how to treat it (this is a paid service).

**Random objects that can fit in their mouth.** I.e.: hair ties, rubber bands, pen caps, paper clips, small children's toys. These can be a choking hazard or if swallowed can lead to an obstruction in the intestines requiring a surgery to remove it.

**Power cords:** cord covers are a good option for safety (Amazon or Chewy.com)



**Drawers, cabinets and doors they can open.** Savannahs are notorious for opening cupboard doors, be mindful of things inside the cabinets they could ingest (for example - medicine cabinets) - child safety locks are an option to keep them out of cupboards

**Open windows with screens they can break thru**

**Mini blind cords** they can get caught up in

**Open doors they can wander out.** I recommend having a bin of toys or treats at the door, before you open the door, toss one in the opposite direction for them to chase after, repeat this every time you open the door to establish the habit of running away from the open door.

**TV's** need to be securely attached to walls or surfaces.

**Remove the breakable** nicknacks, ceramics, fine china, etc. from open shelves.

**Check before turning on Appliances** such as dishwashers, washers and driers they can climb into

**Reclining chairs and sofas** the kittens do like playing under them in our house, be aware of where they are before you activate the reclining mechanism

**Faucets they can turn on** (remove the drain plugs)

Chandeliers they can swing from

the list goes on and on... be observant

## INTRODUCTIONS TO OTHER HOUSEHOLD PETS

**Introducing a new kitten to resident cats requires patience and careful planning to ensure a smooth transition and foster a positive relationship between them.** Follow these steps to facilitate a successful introduction:

**Separate Spaces:** Slow introductions work more successfully than just putting new cats together. Initially, you will want to limit their interactions. Each pet should have their own separate space, which should include their own food, water, litter box, bed, toys and scratching post. Cats scratch to mark their territory by leaving their scent on scratching posts, so each cat should have their own post.

**Scent Swapping:** Familiarize both cats with each other's scents before a face-to-face meeting. Swap bedding, a blanket or toy with their scent on it or use a soft cloth to rub each cat and then place it with the other cat every couple of days so they can get used to one another's scent.

**Gradual Face-to-Face Introductions:** After a few days of getting used to one another's smells, gradually allow limited positive face to face interactions of a few minutes at a time. Start with a controlled introduction by letting them see each other through a gate or a crack in the door. Observe their reactions without forcing interaction. When that goes well, gradually allow them more time together, but be sure to keep an eye on them. Begin with short, supervised meetings. Keep these initial interactions brief (5-10 minutes) and gradually increase the duration as they become more comfortable. Expect introductions to take a while and for hissing and swatting at one another to occur, this is perfectly normal cat behavior, most cats do this. (Trim everyone's nails beforehand). Be prepared to separate them before it becomes too stressful for either of them. They'll need to work out who's in charge, but do not let them just fight it out.

**Positive Reinforcement:** Reward both cats with treats and praise during and after each meeting. This helps them associate each other with positive experiences.

**Monitor Body Language:** Watch for signs of stress or aggression, such as hissing, growling, or puffing up. Expect to initially see some of this behavior, cats typically will do this. However, if it continues, calmly separate the cats and try again later. Cats will react to your negative emotions, so keep calm and positive.

**Positive cat behaviors include** curiosity, relaxed body language, and exploratory behavior such as sniffing one another. If they get along immediately that's great! Time to break out the treats and celebrate!

**Older adult cats**, already set in their ways, can take a while to warm up to a new kitten, it depends on the cat but it can take days to several weeks or possibly even months. Be sure to give your older cat more attention so they don't get jealous. Giving more attention to the older pet will help the new kitten to fall in line and ultimately feel more secure.

Sometimes adult cats "adopt" the new kitten immediately and take on a mothering role, if both are happy, it's ok to leave them together, and separating them may lead to more anxiety for them. Some kittens (though fully weaned) will try to nurse off both male & female cats. If the adult cat allows it, there's nothing wrong with it, it's comforting for them - they'll grow out of it on their own.

**Supervised Interaction:** Continue to supervise all interactions. Stop negative behavior before it escalates. This prevents any potential long-term conflicts and ensures safety for both parties.

**Interactive Play:** Engage both cats in play sessions with toys to distract and redirect their focus. Wand toys or laser pointers are great for this. This can help reduce tension and promote bonding.

**Gradual Integration:** As both cats become more comfortable, gradually increase their time together. Continue to supervise until you are confident, they are getting along well.

**Provide Safe Spaces:** Ensure that both cats have access to their own safe spaces where they can retreat if they need a break from each other. Attitudes can change as they work all the details of their new lives together. Continue to keep their water and food dishes and litterboxes in their separate spaces.

**Maintain Routine:** Keep the resident cat's routine as consistent as possible to reduce stress and maintain stability.

**Address Behavioral Issues ASAP:** If you encounter persistent aggression or severe behavioral issues, consult with a veterinarian or an animal behaviorist for additional guidance. There are some calming medications that, in more extreme situations, can be prescribed to help calm an anxious cat.

**Gradual Coexistence:** Continue to monitor their interactions and provide positive reinforcement for good behavior. It may take several weeks or longer for the cats to fully adjust to each other. Separate them anytime one of them appears to be stressed.

**Encourage Bonding:** As the cats begin to get along, encourage positive interactions and playtime together. Celebrate their progress with treats, affection and playtime together with you.

By following these steps and proceeding at a pace comfortable for both cats, you can help ensure a successful introduction and foster a harmonious relationship between your new kitten and resident cats.

## **KITTENS & DOGS**

When introducing your new kitten to a dog, use the same introduction process as outlined above for cats.

Introductions depend to a large extent on the dog, a barking or a hyperactive dog will overwhelm a kitten, go slowly and keep an eye on them, if the kitten is scared, take the kitten back to their safe room.

Give the kitten a tall climbing post to get away to safety if it feels threatened but still wants to check the dog out.

For the initial face to face introductions leash the dog so the kitten can cautiously approach and sniff without fear of being chased.

The kittens grew up with and are used to playing with our cattle+ dog Abilene but they will most likely be still afraid of a new dog.

## FOOD

**Please feed exactly what the kitten has already been eating for the first month.**

The reason for this is moving is stressful and a change in food is additionally very stressful on a little kitten's stomach. Even if they love and devour the new food, a sudden food change can still result in an upset tummy and sometimes either vomiting or diarrhea. (This can be true of both kittens and adult cats). This can lead to them being a finicky cat that won't try anything new because they got a stomach ache last time.



**CHANGE FOODS SLOOOOOOWLY** When introducing new food (dry or canned) you will want to slowly mix in more and more of the new food with less and less of the old food. Ideally this process should take 7-10 days so plan ahead.

For the long term, it would be better to have multiple brands of food in their rotation, so if one brand is out of stock, they have another one they like and are already used to.

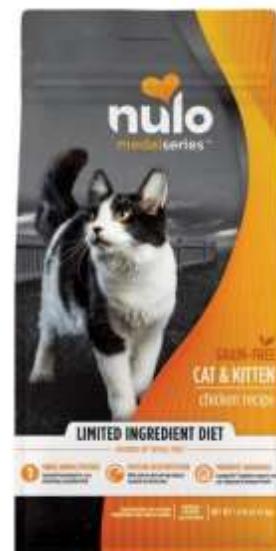
## DRY FOOD

**Dry food should be available at all times.**

The kittens are eating the following brands of dry food, I give them all 3 brands at once in 3 separate dishes so they are used to a variety. Choose one or more and do not change it.

**Wellness Core Kitten Chicken and Wellness Chicken adult** - These can be found in most pet stores, Petco, PetSmart, Amazon and Chewy.com

**Nulo Limited Ingredient Diet Cat & Kitten, chicken recipe** - available at PetSmart, Petco (this one is not on Amazon or Chewy)



## CANNED FOOD

The kittens currently are eating canned food 2 times a day, noon-ish and in the evening. I vary the times every day so they're not set in a specific routine.

Feed as much as they will eat at a time before they wander off. Kittens don't really overeat so don't worry about overfeeding them. This amount should increase over time as they grow. When kittens and cats are done eating sometimes, they will try to "bury" their food, you'll see them scratching the floor around the food dish.

**Please feed these exact flavors: The canned food comes in many flavors, but their tummies are only used to these specific brands & specific flavors.** To avoid undue stress, please feed these flavors only for the first month or so until your kitten is settled in, then it's fine to add in other flavors, but introduce new flavors slowly (remember: too abrupt a food change can sometimes lead to diarrhea or a cranky kitten with a stomach ache).

- **Nulo Cat & Kitten either the "Freestyle" or "MedalSeries" - Turkey & Chicken** Medal series is available From Petco; Freestyle series is available from Chewy.com this comes in 12.5 oz or 5.5 oz cans

- **Wellness Chicken Entrée Smooth Loaf** orange label this comes in smaller 5.5 oz cans as well. This can be found in most pet stores, Petco, Petsmart, Amazon or Chewy.com.

Refrigerate the uneaten canned food after a half hour to an hour.



## FRESH WATER

**Cats need water! Fresh water should be available at all times day and night.** \*We have a water well; our drinking water is filtered but not chlorinated. If you have city water the chlorine smell may take a bit for the kitten to get used to. If so, mix bottled water with the tap water until they're used to it.

Some kittens (and adults) play in their water bowls, splashing the water everywhere, plan water bowl placement accordingly. If so, water fountains may be a better option.

Cats get most of their moisture needs met thru a canned diet, but if they are primarily fed dry food, they will need to be drinking more water.

## CAT TREATS

People food treats for cats: cooked scrambled eggs, hardboiled eggs or unseasoned cooked chicken or turkey, beef, pork, chicken gizzards, hearts or livers. Occasional seafood is ok as well but it's not ideal for cats. It's best to feed these extra meat treats after they eat their regular canned or mix it in really good so they don't get fussy and only want to eat the treats.

Treats should make up less than 10% of their meal.

Cat grass is a favorite, often available as live plants in pet stores.

Kittens usually are not interested in catnip. Cats start being interested around 6- 8 months of age; however, some cats never develop an interest in it.

**Foods to avoid:** any kind of raw pre-ground meat i.e.; hamburger, or meat bones that can splinter, any people food with; seasoning (including salt), sugar or fat.

## RAW DIET

Some Savannah owners swear by the raw diet but it's not a necessity, normal nutritionally complete high protein cat food is fine, it is what most cats eat.

If you are interested in feeding raw food, there's a few important things you need to know. **Most importantly, feeding a raw diet is not as simple as offering a piece of meat or a chicken leg. A cat's diet needs to be nutritionally balanced and complete.** Numerous, serious health problems can arise from improper homemade diets, some of which may not become immediately apparent.

If you want to prepare raw from scratch yourself, let me know so I can point you to the correct recipes. Be warned that there are well meaning websites out there with incorrect recipes. Raw food is usually prepared in one large batch and frozen for individual servings. It can be a bit challenging to source all the organ meats, time consuming to prepare, you have to follow the recipe precisely, you will need a food scale, a meat grinder, depending on the recipe, you may have to order supplements, and you'll need adequate freezer space.

If you don't want to make your own, premade raw foods are an option, however, they can be pricey and difficult to consistently find in pet stores. Read the label to ensure it says nutritionally complete and not just for supplemental feeding. Frozen raw food can't sit out, it needs to be consumed within ½ hour or so. Freeze dried raw is easier to feed and it can sit out all day, but it is more expensive.

If considering a raw diet, be advised that a good number of veterinarians are against feeding a raw diet as they typically only see the raw diet gone wrong folks and the ensuing health problems.

Also be warned after going thru all the trouble to prepare a large batch of raw food, you may find your cat won't even touch it. Although most all of my cats were raised on raw, there's a few of them that will not eat it now, at all.

## CAT GEAR

**Tall climbing towers** are a must Savannahs love climbing so taller the better!

**Sisal rope scratching posts**, a must have, the more the better, any size post will do. All cats need to scratch to help shed the outer layers of their claws, if they don't have a scratching post, they're going to find something else to claw on.



The **wave scratcher** is a favorite of all my cats, young and old and it's pretty durable. (from Chewy.com)



**Cats love a good cat bed.** The fluffy grey beds in the picture are a favorite of all the cats, it's usually the one they all choose to sleep in.



**Cat tunnels** - a kitten favorite!

**Wand toys** - an absolute Savannah favorite, ideal for directing them to where you want them to go, I would recommend picking them up when you're done playing so they do not accidentally wrap up in the cord or gut the toy at the end as this kind of a toy triggers a high predatory instinct in cats.

**Tower of tracks** – the kittens love this toy



**Cat exercise wheel:** They've all been playing on the Onefastcat wheel I do recommend getting one as Savannah cats are very high energy and need a lot of exercise. The kittens have all been playing on it since they were about 5-6 weeks old.

[www.OneFastCat.com](http://www.OneFastCat.com) \*use discount code **Spotitude10** for 10% off



I sometimes find that some cats are more interested in playing with their humans when they are around and playing on the wheel when everyone's gone and they're bored - which really is the point of it.

Meanwhile other cats will wait for you so they can run and show off for you. Kittens and cats for that matter need to feel safe and secure before they run on the wheel so don't be disappointed if your kitten doesn't run on it for you right away.

Ziggydo Ferriswheel is another popular brand of cat wheel, it is a bit sturdier but is much more expensive.

**Stuffed toys** - look for heavier duty toys, advertised as indestructible, bite proof, for aggressive chewers, etc.

**\*Word of caution with cat toys - it is very important to remember to check their toys, repair or toss out ripped toys.** Many a Savannah has gotten over zealous in playing and ingested the stuffing. This can be a huge problem - if they don't throw up the stuffing it can lead to a blockage in the intestines and a scary and expensive surgery to remove it. I have one Savannah that simply cannot have stuffed toys at all as she guts them and eats the stuffing every time. It usually takes a nerve-wracking day or two for her to vomit the stuffing back up. The rest of my Savannahs never do this, so fortunately most all cats are not like this but do keep it in mind. By the way, this is not specifically a Savannah trait, eating stuff they shouldn't can happen with any dog or cat.

**Laser pointers** (careful not to shine in their eyes), give them treats as a reward for catching the red dot

**Electronic motion toys** lots of fun to keep them occupied when you can't play

**Video games for cats to play** from the app store, (lesson learned: turn on airplane mode or they'll end up unlocking the game and texting weird stuff to random people you haven't texted in years)

**YouTube "videos for cats to watch"** hours of captivating bird watching (make sure your TV is secured; they will jump and try to catch the birds).

## LITTER & BOXES

The kittens are litter box trained and have been free ranging accident free in our home since about 9 weeks of age. However, in their new home, they may get scared or forget where the litter box is and an accident may occur. Plan ahead, pickup up anything off the floor that could be accidentally peed on (cat's beds, fluffy rugs, blankets, bags, clothes etc.).

**Enzyme cleaner:** Any accidents should be cleaned by first blotting it up with paper towels, lightly wash (don't scrub) the spot with soap, with cold (not hot) water, then soak the area with an enzyme cleaner specifically made for cats.

Don't use bleach (the smell seems to attract cats to go there again, perhaps because the litterboxes are cleaned with bleach) or any heavily scented cleaners. Don't use a steam cleaner, heat will permanently set in the stain and smell.



*There are many brands of enzyme cleaner. Here's a couple we use.*

**Pine wood pellet litter:** Kittens start off on a pine pellet litter and eventually transition to a clumping litter as well. Wood pellets turn to saw dust when wet, so it can be a bit messy. There are many brands of pine litter specifically made for cats we use this pine bedding from Tractor Supply.



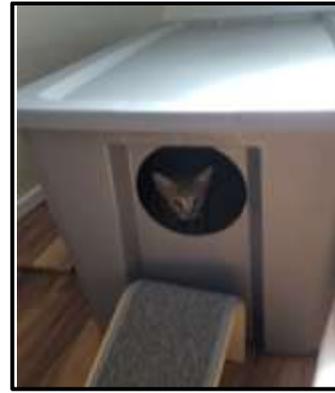
**Clumping Clay litter:** We use a wide variety of scented and unscented clumping litters specifically so they are used to many different kinds. We use the brands normally sold at Costco or Walmart.



*\* the most often used litter here*

I do not recommend the silica based or corn cob based litters for kittens. Kittens tend to lick all new things including litter (which is why they're started out on the pine pellets instead of the clumping clay litter) I tried the corn cob one once and a few kittens were devouring it (yuck!) Also, I thought the silica and corn cob ones were rather messy and tracked easily around the house.

This is their current litterbox setup (pictured), is an xl tote bin from Walmart with an access hole cut in and a normal litterbox inside of it. This is the simplest way I've found to contain the litter from going everywhere.



Our taller adult Savannahs use the same large plastic totes with no lids.

#### **Litterbox tips:**

- \*If you're planning on using a litter robot, also get a regular litter pan as they are not used to a robot litterbox. Some kittens take to it right away and some are scared of it at first.
- \* Initially, have a couple extra litter pans in different locations so the kitten has a choice of which box location feels safest for them to use.
- \* For multiple cats, you'll need 1 box per cat plus one extra. In a multi-story home, one on each level is recommended.
- \* Sometimes cats need two boxes, one box for peeing and another box for pooping.
- \* When you scoop the litter box, a kitten will typically come join in the fun and add a contribution to your collection.
- \* The kitten's poop should be solid, similar to a tootsie roll. It should not be runny or watery. If this occurs, first consider what they've eaten, any change in brand or flavor or any new treats, this is the typical reason. Sometimes it's caused by stress or illness. Any runs lasting more than a few days please give me a call. A teaspoon of unsweetened, canned pumpkin puree (pumpkin as the only ingredient) can be given to help, mix it into their food.
- \*A kitten running around the house frantically crying means it's time to find the litter box. (or it can mean they're lost or want attention)
- \*Some kittens "cry" rather loudly while using the box - just to tell everyone where they're at I guess, their mothers taught them that.
- \*A lot of Savannah cats stand up with their paws on the rim of the litterbox (rather than sit or squat) when they use the box (you'll know what I mean if you see it) - lol, not going to post that pic.

## VET CARE

**Savannahs require the same veterinary care as domestic cats, they do not need an exotic vet.** They get the normal cat vaccinations.

**Your kitten will come with a health record that details their specific vaccination, deworming, flea treatment, spay/neuter & vet check dates and microchip info.**

After their initial kitten vaccinations, given at 8-9 weeks, 12 weeks and 16-20 weeks, adult cats should receive FVRCP cat vaccinations once every 1 to 3 years, depending on a few risk factors such as access to outdoors or other cats, your veterinarian can best advise you on this.

**The FVRCP vaccine is the standard "cat vaccine".** It protects them from three dangerous and highly contagious diseases: Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR), Feline Calicivirus (C), and Feline Panleukopenia (P):

- Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR): Also known as feline herpesvirus type 1 (FHV-1), this disease is believed to be responsible for up to 90% of all upper respiratory infections in cats.
- Feline Calicivirus (C): Also major cause of upper respiratory infections in cats.
- Feline Panleukopenia (P): Also known as feline distemper, this virus is very contagious and can be fatal.

I give the kittens their FVRCP vaccinations myself, as do other breeders, as we don't want to unnecessarily risk bring unvaccinated kittens to the vet.

The vaccinations are shipped overnight in a Styrofoam cooler on ice from [Valleyvet.com](http://Valleyvet.com) and refrigerated before use.



The kittens will be given their rabies vaccination at either their vet check or spay/neuter appointment. In California, rabies vaccinations can only be given by a licensed veterinarian. There is no statewide requirement for cats to be vaccinated for rabies, but some cities and counties require cats to be vaccinated or licensed. Some landlords and renter insurance require this as well. Because rabies is serious and can still be a risk for cats, the [American Animal Hospital Association](http://American Animal Hospital Association) and the [American Veterinary Medical Association](http://American Veterinary Medical Association) recommend that all cats be vaccinated for rabies, even if they live indoors only. \*There is a 3-year rabies vaccination available, but not all vets have it in stock, so you will specifically have to ask for it when making the appointment.

Additional, non-core vaccination - Feline leukemia FeLV, is primarily recommended for outdoor cats at risk of exposure, your vet can best advise you on this.

### SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS - KETAMINE

Some breeders say that Savannahs should not be given the pre-surgery pre-anesthesia sedative Ketamine. The main issue with Ketamine is there is no reversal agent should a negative side effect occur. Some owners have reported problems with Ketamine and their Servals & Savannahs [Here's more info on Ketamine from the Savannah Cat Association.](#)

*\*Disclaimer, some vets feel that Ketamine is fine and do not agree with this information, but also most vets are not overly familiar with hybrid cats. Probably best to discuss in person with your vet. I do not personally have any experience with it.*

## DEWORMING

The kittens are dewormed every two weeks  
(at ages 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 weeks)  
with a dosage of 0.1 ml per pound of **pyrantel pamoate**  
(aka - *Strongid*)

The blue syringes in the photo, larger syringes are for the adult cats.

You will not need to deworm them any further unless your veterinarian advises you to.

Vets usually give dewormer with their yearly checkup.



## FLEA MEDICATION

Flea treatment (only if needed) the kittens will be given topical flea drops which lasts for 30 days, so if you want to continue using you would need to wait 30 days so you don't overdose them. The exact date will be on your kitten's health record. **\*be sure to only use flea treatments made for cats, dog flea treatments drops and shampoos can be toxic to cats.**

## MICROCHIP

Your kitten will be microchipped. I will scan the microchip when you pick up your kitten so you can personally verify the microchip number. The microchip number will be on your kittens TICA registration paperwork and their health record.

**You will need to register the microchip yourself with your contact info at [www.my24pet.com](http://www.my24pet.com)**

Registration is **free**, they offer numerous paid "upgrades" which are not necessary in order to register the microchip #. Be sure to update your contact info should you move or change phone #'s, feel free to put my contact info on the registration as well.

## SPAY/NEUTER

I make every effort to spay/neuter all my kittens prior to being sent to their new homes. If I am unable to make a timely appointment, you will need to do so. (We will discuss as the pickup time approaches.) Do this early don't wait. Some vets will advise you to wait until 6 months, but younger is fine in most all circumstances. Getting a cat fixed early is actually believed to make them grow larger. Early neutering delays closure of the bone growth plates making for a slightly taller cat. Also, the younger they are fixed, the quicker they recover and get back to playing!

If your kitten was spayed/neutered, the vet will give them a blue/green tattoo marking on their abdomen (as pictured). The fur will grow over it and you will not see it.

This is done to make it easy for any vet in the future to identify they have been sterilized thus preventing a needless anesthesia or surgery.



### WHY WE SPAY/NEUTER KITTENS BEFORE REHOMING THEM

Occasionally, I have people who want to not spay their kitten and wait and see if they want to breed them later. This is not a good idea; cat breeding takes careful consideration and advanced planning. The most important thing to know regarding breeding is that a breeding cat is a different animal with a hormonally driven demeanor vs. a spayed pet. Once adult cats (both males and females) reach maturity, they begin hormonally marking to attract a mate, and it quickly becomes a repetitive behavior that may or may not stop a few months after they are fixed. Unfixed cats make a lot of LOUD insistent caterwauling noise all day and night, and the sound travels far. Female cats can go into heat starting as young as 4 months of age but more typically 6+ months and can get pregnant at their first heat. Males typically mature anywhere from 6 months to 1 year in age. Because of these hormonally driven behaviors, breeding cats need to be kept in their own space. This is why we have cattery buildings for the cats to live in. \*Mother cats come into the house to have their kittens, they stay in the house to raise the kittens, and fortunately they don't mark in the house, as they don't want to attract males to where the kittens are. I won't go into further details here, but if you are truly interested in breeding, there's a lot to consider, I'd be happy to discuss it with you further.

When you pick up your kitten, you are welcome to visit the cattery and meet the parents, and our other cats - some will even be happy to say hi! [You can check out our online cattery tour here.](#)

### GROOMING

**NAIL TRIMMING:** nails should be trimmed anytime you feel they're getting long. Kittens nails grow very fast; I usually trim them about every week or so. Adults maybe every month or two. The kittens are used to it - don't let them tell you otherwise. They may fuss a bit, but take charge and get them done. If done regularly, over time, they will become more cooperative.

Regular nail clippers work fine. Wrap them up in a thick blanket like a purrito burrito if necessary. Put a dash of kitten puree lickable treats on their nose to keep them occupied.

If you have a helper hold them by the scruff of their neck as you trim the nails it can be much easier to get done. Watch out for their nail "quick". If you cut the quick, use a styptic stick to stop the bleeding.

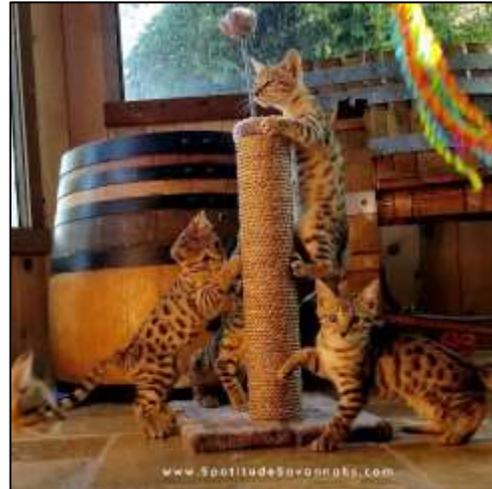


**Do not declaw:** declawing is cruel and horribly painful for a cat. Declawing is an amputation of the last knuckle of the cat's feet. Typically, the pain from declawing manifests in behavioral problems such as fear, biting (because they feel defenseless from lack of claws) and litterbox aversion because their feet are in pain and pawing at the litter hurts.

**Cat scratches** (on people) should be washed and treated with an antibiotic ointment cream to prevent an infection. [Cat scratch fever is real, not just a song, read about it here.](#)

If you're concerned about your cat scratching - cut its nails. If you're worried it will claw something it shouldn't, the answer is simple, put a sisal rope type scratching post next to it and praise them for using it. Any size post will do.

I've had both leather sofas and an overabundance of cats & kittens climbing on them without scratching them at all, but I also have a lot of scratching posts...



*sisal rope scratching post – a favorite of both kittens & adult cats*

## BATHS

Cats don't really need baths unless they get into something. Some Savannahs absolutely love water, some don't. Either way, you giving them a bath is probably not going to be their favorite thing - so be sure to trim their nails first. Some Savannahs love to get in the shower, which is a bit easier than a bath.

## OUTDOORS

Savannahs are not indoor/outdoor cats. Their high energy plus curious nature tends to lead to trouble. Simply put if they get out, odds are they will not readily return. Same as with many types of dogs, they should not be left unattended outdoors. If you do want to let them outdoors, they will need safety training, savannahs don't have a lot of fear of things they should be afraid of, but when they do get scared, they can run fast, far, climb the tallest of trees and they're great at hiding. A GPS tracker is a must!

Like any new pet, you will need to be cautious of them escaping thru an open door. To train a kitten not to door dash, before opening a door, have a toy ready to throw in the opposite direction for them to chase after, establish it as a habit. If going for a leash walk, first carry them out the door, then start the walk.

## LEASH WALKING



Leash walking is a great option for outdoor time, but be warned it will become a habit that they will insist upon. A cat harness or xx-small dog harness works fine. It takes them a few weeks to get the hang of it. The kittens are trained in wearing a harness, but a new harness still can take some getting used to (kind of like putting on new shoes). Initially when putting on a new harness, they will just flop around on the ground until they get used to it. Do not let them learn they can wiggle out of it, distract them with a wand toy until they're settled.



\*Your kitten will have tried walking on a leash, but is not yet good at it. Training takes a bit of patience, and with a few weeks of practice, they eventually get the hang of it.

When starting out, train them to walk on a leash indoors first following a wand toy and giving them treats to encourage them along.

Wait until they are confidently walking alongside you inside before you head outdoors with them. Make the first few outdoor walks short (just around your yard), bring along a cat carrier in case they get scared put them in the carrier so they can observe the threat and get over it.

After a handful of successful outdoor walks, they become unstoppable leash walking pros.

### CATIOS

Alot of Savannah owners make catios for a safe outdoor experience. A catio can be as simple as a dog kennel with a secure roof and flooring so they can't dig under. It really seems to make a huge difference in their attitude and well-being. My cats spend most of their day out in the catios watching the bird feeder. [Googling "catios"](#) gives tons of creative enclosure ideas.

### QUESTIONS?

I'm always available to help. Text or call with regular questions. If it's an emergency call and keep calling until I answer. Anytime is fine.



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Stay in touch! We love to hear how everyone's doing & we love getting photos!!!!

Use the **#spotitudesavannahs** if you want to show off to their adoring fans.

*Should you need another - we offer generous discounts on your next kitten(s).*

***Thank-you for taking the time to read this.***

***Wishing you & your new best friend all the happiness in the world!!!!***