



**trupanion**<sup>TM</sup>.ca  
Medical insurance for the life of your pet.

# YOUR KITTEN'S FIRST YEAR

## Congratulations on your new feline family member!

You're in for a treat as your kitten grows from a tiny fur ball to an independent and utterly delightful cat. In their first year, your cuddly kitten will give you tons of joy and love. While your veterinarian will help you learn the specific needs of your furry friend, most kittens follow common life stages.

### ★BIRTH TO 7 WEEKS

Kittens should stay with their mothers and littermates for 12-14 weeks, to help with learning and social skills. While touch and taste are present at birth, it's not until 3-10 days after birth that their eyes open, baby teeth break out, and they develop their hearing and sense of smell.

By about eight weeks old your kitten will be nearly fully weaned.

### DEVELOP



They begin to stand, walk, and run, as well as develop adult sleeping patterns and social interactions – they're learning their world!

**\*GET COVERAGE AS EARLY AS DAY ONE — WITH A TRUPANION POLICY YOU CAN ENROLL YOUR KITTEN FROM BIRTH!**

7 WEEKS TO 3 MONTHS

3 TO 6 MONTHS

6 TO 12 MONTHS





## 7 WEEKS TO 3 MONTHS

At 12-14 weeks old you can take your new family member home with you! You'll notice social play (hugging and licking), object play (scooping and pawing), and social and object play (tail-chasing and leaping).

While your kitten will become more and more skilled, adventurous, and independent, they will also be cuddly and affectionate.

**TIME FOR THEIR VET EXAM!**

### PREPARE



At their exam, your veterinarian can give you litter box training and feeding tips. Now is a great time to enroll them with Trupanion (ask your vet about an Exam Day Offer!), if you haven't already. Hopefully they stay out of trouble, but medical insurance may come in handy as your kitten grows.

## 3 TO 6 MONTHS

Once they start losing their baby teeth, at three or four months old, they will chew a lot more as their adult teeth come in. They might not eat much, or as quickly, because food can irritate their gums. This is normal and will pass once they've stopped teething!

Your kitten will start to see you and companions of other species as part of their "litter" and will be influenced by their behaviour.

### SOCIALIZE



As they keep growing, your kitten will test their physical limits more and more. They will also test social relationships, including other cats, animals, and you, by playing more roughly with toys, your fingers, hands, toes, feet, and anything else that moves.

## 6 TO 12 MONTHS

Both male and female kittens may become sexually active. If they are not spayed or neutered they will begin to display sexual behaviour, like spraying to mark territory, yowling to attract a mate, and fighting with other cats.

Your kitten will begin to observe more and respond less, and they may start acting "macho" and be a little less affectionate. Don't worry, it's temporary as they continue to grow their independence!

### GROW



As they finish maturing over the next year or so, your furry friend will continue to play, purr contentedly, and bond with you.

**ARE YOU SPAYING OR NEUTERING?**

Now is a good time to decide.

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FOR MORE HELPFUL INFORMATION AND GREAT TIPS, VISIT US AT [TRUPANION.COM/MYNEWKITTEN](http://TRUPANION.COM/MYNEWKITTEN)

Raising Happy Kittens, *Kitten Development and Growth Stages*.

Dumb Friends League, Denver, Colorado, *Developmental Stages of Kitten Behavior*, 2014.

Vetstreet, *What Life Is Like With a Cat Who Isn't Fixed*, 2015.

Alley Cat Allies, *Kitten Progression: At-a-Glance*.

The International Cat Association, Inc. (TICA), [www.tica.org](http://www.tica.org)

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PF121-1220