



# KITTEN SOCIALIZATION

**Socialization** is the process of preparing your cat to enjoy interactions and be comfortable with other animals, people, places and activities. Socialization should begin during the kitten's "sensitive period" which is between 3 and 9 weeks of age.

## **SOCIALIZATION TIPS:**

- When adopting from a kitten raiser, ask for their pre- and post-adoption socialization plan.
- Create a socialization plan specifically for your cat to prepare him or her for life in your household. Plan exposure to the animals, individuals, environments, activities and objects that will be part of his or her new life.
- Provide regular positive and diverse experiences to encourage your cat to enjoy new experiences without becoming fearful or aggressive.
- Provide praise, play and treats to reward engagement.
- Allow the cat to withdraw if he or she is uncomfortable.
- Move at a pace appropriate for your cat's personality.
- Well-managed kitten socialization classes are a good way to socialize a kitten within the sensitive period.
- Continue to reward your cat for calm or playful responses to social interactions throughout his or her life.
- For cats with special behavioral needs, develop a plan with your veterinarian and/or another animal behavior expert.
- Kittens that have not been fully vaccinated should not be exposed to unvaccinated animals or potentially contaminated environments.

**Questions or concerns? Ask us.**

**We are always happy to help.**

[AVMA.org/socialization](https://www.avma.org/socialization)