

FEAR FREE KITTEN SOCIALIZATION

Making Exposure Positive

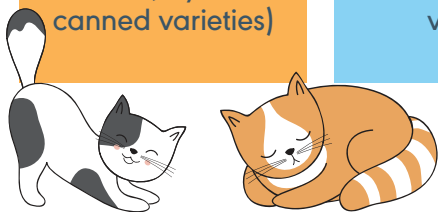
Use these bingo squares for ideas on how to socialize your kitten. Socialization and exposure are active processes that are most crucial from two to seven weeks of age but should be practiced well beyond this age range. However, it's important to realize that socialization is not simply about exposure—it's about making it fun and positive from the start.

Think of these experiences as a behavioral investment, like placing pennies in a piggy bank. When done properly, your investment will result in a friendly and outgoing cat. Positive, proactive socialization involves liberal use of food treats (or, for some kittens, interactive play with a toy/attention/petting) to help form positive associations.

BINGO!



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| Fun Visit at Veterinary Hospital (and grooming salon) | Have visitors to your home | Take your kitten to a friend's or relative's house for a kitten party | Strive for your kitten to meet at least one new person a day during the first 14 weeks | See someone carrying something in hand, such as an umbrella |
| Explore a minimum of 5 food puzzle toys | Teach your kitten how to play with you | See children playing from a distance | Pair brushing with getting treats | Introduce your kitten to a variety of sounds in a controlled manner |
| Allow your kitten to experience a minimum of 5 novel non-toxic and non-noxious scents | Discover your kitten's preference for a scratching post and reward her with a treat or a play for using it | Go for a ride in a car within a secured carrier | Acclimate your kitten to wearing a cat harness and leash | Acclimate your kitten to having a towel placed over her |
| See or meet an adult dog who is healthy, friendly, and relaxed around cats | Walk on 3 different safe and sturdy surfaces such as wood, gravel, sand, metal, concrete, rubber, etc | See and/or meet a person with mobility assistance (wheelchair, walker, crutches) | Acclimate your kitten to a multilevel cat cage | Allow your kitten to explore at least 5 novel objects at her own pace |
| Taste at least 5 different types of kitten food and treats (dry and canned varieties) | Be exposed to a recording of fireworks at a low and controlled volume | Teach your kitten to love her travel carrier | Teach your kitten to enjoy taking medication (see Pill Your Pet with Kindness handout) | Touch your kitten on various body parts and give her a treat each time |



For more information, please visit www.fearfreehappyhomes.com