

# *Siberian Serenade*

**hypo-allergenic cats**





# KITTEN INFORMATION BOOKLET

## **Congratulations on welcoming a new Siberian Serenade kitty into your family!**

I hope you enjoy your new kitten as much as I enjoyed raising it! Each kitten is unique with its own wonderful personality. Have an amazing time loving them forever!!

The following booklet is a guide to caring for your new cat, your responsibilities as a new cat owner and my responsibility as a breeder to provide you with all the information and support you may need along the way.



Your kitten comes from a purebred pedigree line of Siberian Forest Cats. This breed is believed to be the most ancient breed of cats in the world. They have a very low incidence of genetic defects and are known for their dog-like personality and hypo-allergenic quality. You will receive pedigree papers when ownership is transferred into your name on the governing body registry.

With your kitten, you will receive a veterinary health check certificate, vaccination record and sterilisation certificate.

Your kitten has been microchipped and registered on the Global Micro Animal Registry. This registration will be transferred to you.

You will need to register your kitten with your local council and abide by their rules for keeping cats in your area.

You will have received some toys and food to help transition your new pet comfortably into your home.

Royal Canin (a cat food company) has also provided a kitten pack which includes a printed booklet, some food and food discount vouchers.

The following two links are great sources of information for kitten care provided by Royal Canin.

<https://my.royalcanin.com/UserFiles/Digital%20Assets/Start-of-Life/SOL%2023/SOL%20-%20Kitten%20Care%20Guide.pdf>

<https://www.royalcanin.com/au/cats/kitten>

Another fantastic reference is:

<https://icatcare.org/app/uploads/2021/07/KittenBooklet-compressed.pdf>

The following link is a detailed course that you can take to learn more about caring for cats.

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/community-and-education/responsible-cat-ownership-course>

I highly recommend taking this course. It is a compulsory course for all registered recreational cat breeders in Victoria such as myself. I am also a qualified Animal Technician (Diploma of Applied Science – Animal Technology) and have over 25 years experience caring for and breeding animals.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything. My details are listed on the last page of this booklet. Happy reading.....

## **Bringing your Kitten Home**

You will need a secure, escape-proof carrier to transport your kitten for the journey home. The carrier should be secured within the main part of the car and never in a closed boot.

Solid plastic carriers can be re-used for trips to the Vet. You can place treats and toys in the carrier regularly throughout their lives so that the carrier isn't only associated with having a negative experience.

Provide food and water regularly if it is going to be a long journey.

A PP20 crate such as the one pictured or a larger version, the PP30, are constructed to the standards required if transport by air is necessary.



*Figure 1: PP20 crate*

## Introducing your Kitten to the Home

With a new home, comes new sights, sounds and smells.

Prior to the new arrival, check and kitty-proof your home by removing or securing hazards such as chemicals, medicines, cords, batteries and things that may fall on them or be knocked over.

Check that they are not able to escape the home or fall from very high places such as 2-storey balconies. Many plants are toxic to cats so please check your home and garden for toxic plants. Some human foods are also toxic. Refer to page 13 for more information.

Be careful with washing machines, dryers and toilets as they may climb in. Be careful walking and closing doors as cats have a tendency of getting “under-foot”.

While the kitten is adjusting to its new home, it should ideally be kept separate from other pets and be confined to a smaller section of the house. In this space, it should have access to its own food bowl, water bowl, litter tray, a comfortable sleeping area and free from stresses such as loud noises and

other pets. The carrier can make a good place to retreat to if they are feeling scared or overwhelmed.

Some comfortable and warm bedding should be provided for the kitty to nap on. Often, cats will choose to sleep in a different location to the one you provided. They usually prefer to be up off the ground or confined in a box-type structure. Cardboard boxes with an added blanket make for a good bed and can be easily replaced when worn out. Many commercial cat beds will also wear out quite quickly and need replacing.

Once the kitten seems settled (this could be days or even weeks), you can think about introducing it to other pets. Each animal is an individual and some will transition more quickly or confidently than others.

There may be some crying for their siblings/mother during this transition phase. Try to give them as much love, attention and comfort as possible during this time. Distracting them with play may help. Or they may prefer to watch from a distance until they grow accustomed to the new world.

If possible, set up a barrier so that each pet can see each other but not yet come into contact. Try swapping bedding between the pets so they can smell each other without interacting. Supervise at all times, especially with children and other pets. Keep dogs on leads so they don't trample or overwhelm the new kitten.

Allow each animal to be able to escape from each other if they choose to. Don't force them to meet each other. It should be slow and gradual. Don't leave kittens unsupervised with other pets until you are happy that they are getting along. Some animals can take weeks or months to feel comfortable around other pets.



## Food and Water

Kittens have small stomachs and need regular meals like babies. Kittens can be fed good quality 'complete and balanced' kitten dry food ad lib so that they can eat when they are hungry. Remove old and stale food and use a clean bowl. If feeding wet food, it can be given in small portions several times a day. Even as adults, cats usually prefer to have many smaller meals throughout the day, however they can get accustomed to a feeding schedule. Each cat is different, and you will get to know their preferences over time.

As a reference, you can refer to the feeding guide on the packaging.

Always provide fresh water in a clean bowl. Preferably 2 bowls of water in case one is knocked over.

Keep food and water away from litter trays for hygiene purposes.

Your kitten has been raised on Royal Canin 'Mother and Babycat' and 'Kitten' dry food and also 'Kitten' wet food. Food companies recommend changing foods gradually to avoid stomach upsets which may result in vomiting or diarrhoea.



*Figure 2: Mother & Babycat dry*



*Figure 3: Kitten dry*



*Figure 4: kitten wet chunks*



Your kitten has also enjoyed Purina Pro Plan Kitten food and Dine kitten on occasion. Purina also make an allergen-reducing food for kittens and adults. It is called Purina Pro Plan **LiveClear**. I highly recommend this food if you suffer from cat allergies. It is an equal favourite with my cats in both wet and dry varieties.



*Figure 5: allergen - reducing dry food*



*Figure 6: The regular kitten dry food from Purina*



*Figure 7: Kitten wet tins go down well*

Once your cat has reached one year of age, he/she can move onto adult food. I have found that Siberian cats are quite food motivated and will often over-eat if allowed to (especially the males). There are varying types of food available for overweight cats. It is advisable to speak with your Vet about a feeding regime for weight management.





## Litter Trays

Supply a large litter tray for every cat, plus one extra tray. Scoop soiled litter at least once per day. Replace all litter and wash the tray weekly. Do not use disinfectants that contain phenol as this is highly toxic to cats.

Your kitten should instinctively use the litter tray, especially if it has been confined to a smaller area/room of the house. Initially, I would advise to use the same litter as the kitten is accustomed to, so it understands where to go in its new home. If, however, there appears to be accidents, try placing the tray in that position until it begins to use the tray. Then gradually move the tray to where you want it to remain. Thoroughly clean up any accidents so the kitten is not tempted to make the same mistake again in the same place due to the scent.

As Siberians grow into quite large cats, I would recommend using extra-large trays. The general rule is one and a half times the length of the cat.

Kittens will initially need lower-sided trays so they can climb into them. I have used large, low sided storage tubs from Bunnings for my cat trays which are very much cheaper than branded cat trays. There are many types available and can range all the way up to expensive self-cleaning litter boxes.



*Figure 8: a storage crate can be used as a litter tray*



*Figure 9: Self-cleaning option*

## Play

The favourite toys are usually the cheapest. Cardboard boxes, balls and toilet rolls make fun toys. Some Siberians are known to enjoy a game of fetch. The fetch toy may be a favourite toy and not necessarily a ball, as balls can sometimes be hard to pick up in their mouth. A fabric ball would be a better option over a rubber ball.

Most cats love to play with feathers, wands and laser lights (careful not to shine lasers in eyes!). If using a ball of wool, be careful that they don't get completely tangled up in them as this could become a hazard.

Somewhere to scratch claws is a must. Cats will often scratch furniture, so placing a scratching post in places they like to scratch would be beneficial in diverting the behaviour away from the couch or the carpet. You will likely need more than one!

Cats love to climb and explore. Providing places like a large cat tree or hammock would be appreciated.

Siberians can also be trained to walk on a harness.



## Grooming

Siberians are long-haired triple-coated cats and will require regular grooming. My cats usually need a knot or two brushed out each week (usually behind the ears or on the rump). Daily brushing is a good way to bond and prevent knots. A quick 2-minute brush each day should be all that is required. A wide toothed comb is good for removing the mats.

Teeth too close together will only tug at fur and not penetrate deep into the coat. A slicker brush is good for bonding and removing some loose hairs without tugging on the fur. A pin brush is good for bonding, massage and getting deeper into the coat to remove knots closer to the skin but without grabbing too much fur at once. Once mats are established, they can be very difficult to comb out and may need clipping off. If the cat is not enjoying being groomed, only do so in short sessions. Prevention of matting is better



*Figure 10: Wide-toothed Comb*



*Figure 11: Slicker brush*



*Figure 12: Pin brush*

than trying to remove multiple mats in one go. The cat will appreciate short regular and painless brushing over infrequent painful brushing once knots are established.

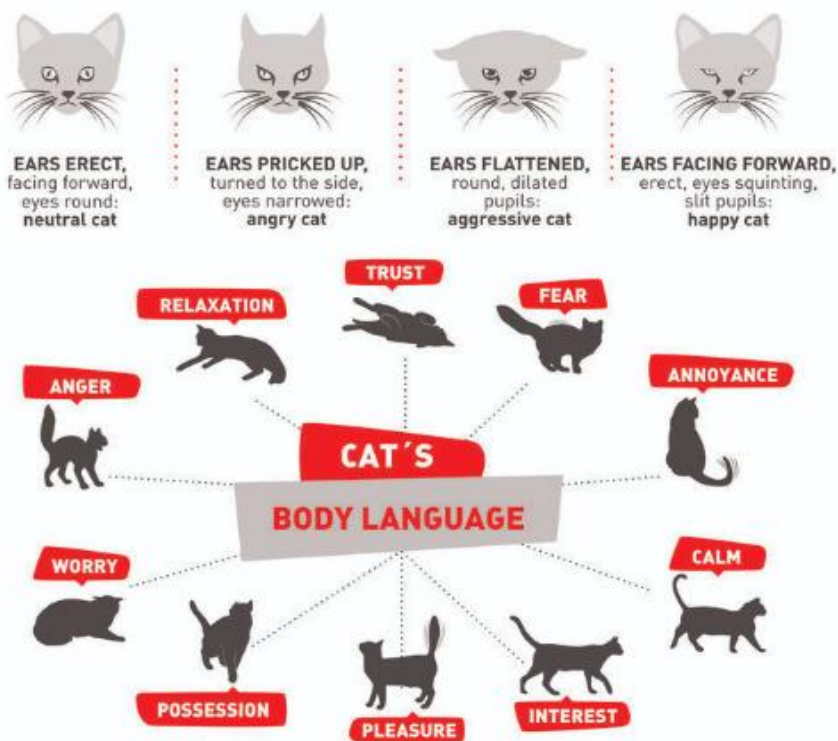
Nail clipping is not necessary for the cat. However, you may like to keep them trimmed so they aren't so sharp against your skin if your cat climbs into your lap (or up your leg 😊). Clipping needs to be done below the quick (the blood vessel inside the claw) to prevent bleeding and pain. If clipping claws, it is a good idea to provide treats to your cat during the process as most cats don't like having their feet handled. If done regularly from an early age, it becomes well accepted. The claws grow quite quickly and would need clipping every week or two.

Most cats get hairballs occasionally. This is a build up of hair that the cat has swallowed. The balls are then vomited up. Sometimes hairballs can get stuck and may require Veterinary assistance to help dislodge them. This is

uncommon. There are specialty foods available that help manage hairballs if your cat suffers from these.

Siberians are often fascinated by water and will want to play with it. They aren't likely to enjoy being completely saturated, but with any unpleasant experience, try to make it a positive one by giving treats or distractions with toys. The coat sometimes feels oily and may get odorous at the rear end. If you need to wash your cat, use cat-friendly shampoo, rinse thoroughly and dry thoroughly. Brush the fur before it dries completely to reduce knots. Shampoos other than cat shampoos may contain toxins hazardous to cats.

## Body Language



Learn to 'read' your cat. Often scratches and bites occur from not allowing the cat space when it is upset or scared. Be patient with your new cat. Allow them to retreat if they aren't relaxed. Don't force them to cuddle as this may instill a longer-term behaviour of not wanting hands-on interaction. Try to encourage trust by making each experience a positive one. Reward with a toy or treat. Play with them using teaser wands and other toys. Use toys instead of hands for pouncing games to avoid bites and scratches.

## Vaccination, Worming and Fleas

Your kitten will have had all required vaccinations, worming and be de-sexed according to the recommended schedule from a veterinarian up to the age you pick her/him up (usually around 12 weeks old). Your cat will require an annual vaccination as provided from your veterinarian.

He/she will require regular worming and flea treatment throughout its life. Most off-the-shelf supermarket products are for monthly dosing when it is a combined dose (worming/heartworm and fleas).

**NEVER** worm a cat with dog wormer. This could be fatal!

It is best to talk to your Vet about a parasite control schedule. All off-the-shelf products state that a Vet should be consulted prior to use.

When you receive your cat, you will receive a Veterinary certificate for:

- vaccination record
- sterilisation/desexing
- health check



## Hazardous Plants and Foods

Keep the contact details of an Emergency After-Hours Vet in an easy to find location, so that in the event of an emergency, you can contact them as soon as possible.

Many household plants and bouquets are toxic to cats. Here is a non-exhaustive list of known harmful plants and foods:

- Alfalfa
- Almond pits
- Amaryllis plant and bulbs
- Apple seeds
- Apricot seeds
- Asiatic Lily
- Azaleas
- Baby's Breath
- Beech
- Belladonna
- Bird of Paradise
- Black Locust
- Bleeding Heart
- Box
- Bread dough
- Buckeye
- Caffeine
- Caladium
- Calla Lilly
- Cardinal Flower
- Castor Bean
- Cherries
- Chinaberry
- Chocolate
- Christmas Rose
- Crown of Thorns
- Coriaria
- Cyclamens
- Daffodil plant and bulbs
- Daphnia
- Datura
- Day Lily
- Dumb Cane
- Easter Lily
- Elephant's Ear
- English Ivy
- Euonymus
- Four O-Clock
- Foxglove
- Garlic
- Golden Chain
- Grapes
- Henbane
- Honeysuckle
- Hyacinths
- Hydrangeas
- Indian Tobacco
- Iris
- Jack-in-the-Pulpit
- Japanese Show Lily
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Jessamine
- Jimson Weed
- Jonquils
- Larkspur
- Lilies
- Lily-of-the-Valley
- Macadamias
- Marijuana
- Mescal Bean
- Monkshood
- Moonseed
- Morning Glory
- Oleander
- Onions
- Nightshades (including tomatoes)
- Peach pits
- Pencil Cactus
- Periwinkle
- Phenol
- Philodendron
- Poinsettia
- Poison Hemlock
- Potato (green parts and eyes)
- Precatory Bean (Rosary Pea)
- Raisins
- Rhubarb
- Salt
- Skunk Cabbage
- Snow-on-the-Mountain
- Spurge
- Sultanas
- Tiger Lily
- Tobacco
- Tulips
- Water Hemlock
- Yellow Oleander
- Yew (all varieties)

Lily's are deadly!

Seek veterinary attention immediately if your cat comes into contact with a Lily!

Many house-hold detergents and chemicals are toxic to cats. Keep all detergents, cleaning products, car fluids, medicines, soaps, deodorants, cosmetics, bathroom products, fertilisers, snail bait, ant bait, fly/insect spray, surface spray, essential oils, pine disinfectant and anything else out of reach of kitties.

Cats will usually avoid most of these things but some are attractive to cats such as snail bait and is highly dangerous.

Phenol is also highly toxic to cats. It is often found in many household bathroom cleaning products and essential oils. Check your labels!

## Council Laws, Curfews, Registration

Australian law states that owners must register their cats with local council. Cats also must remain on the owner's property and must not be left to wander onto neighbouring properties. Most councils also have a curfew that states that cats must be indoors at night. It is advisable that if you intend to allow your cat outside access, it should be either in an enclosed outdoor area (catio) or on a lead and harness. Fences can also be modified to be 'cat-proof', so that yard access can be enjoyed with more freedom. Ensure to check with your council for any other requirements regarding keeping cats in your area such as specific curfew times.





The following link is some information provided by my council for keeping cats.

<https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/our-services/animals-and-pets/looking-after-your-pet/keeping-a-cat>

Your cat has been microchipped and registered on the Global Micro Animal Registry. This central microchip registry helps re-unite lost animals with their homes if they are picked up by shelters or Vets.

<https://online.globalmicro.com.au/>

You will receive the transfer into your name when you adopt a kitten from Siberian Serenade.

All animal owners must care for their pets lawfully and provide all their needs nutritionally, environmentally and emotionally. The following link provides the minimum standards and guidelines for keeping cats as pets.

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/domestic-animals-act/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-the-private-keeping-of-cats>

The following links provide further information for the keeping of cats including enclosures and fencing.

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/cats><https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/cats/health/pet-care-practices-research-results>

## Guarantees and Refunds

Your new kitten will come with a Health Certificate and I hope that they are fortunate enough to remain healthy and happy for a long time to come. Of

course, all animals will at times succumb to illnesses and will require Veterinary care. Please contact me if you have any concerns regarding the history of your cat's health. Good and early communication is beneficial in finding solutions to any problems or concerns you may have.

Sometimes with the stress of transport and new environments comes the chance of succumbing to mild illnesses during this transition phase. If your cat experiences symptoms such as discharge from the eyes and nose or any other concerns, don't hesitate to contact me or your local veterinarian for advice. Although I am a qualified Animal Technician, I am not a veterinarian so I cannot diagnose or prescribe medicines for your cat.

I am happy to have joined partners with Knose Pet Insurance and with this partnership, you are provided with 1 month free insurance for your new kitten. It is advisable, especially in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of keeping your cat, to continue your Knose Insurance Policy, as issues with cats can be more common before they reach adulthood, and then also later in life once they begin to age into their senior years.



As a GCCFV registered breeder, I am governed by their Codes of Practice and by-laws with regards to refunds. These are stated below.

- Refund the purchase money and take the cat or kitten back if it is unacceptable to a new owner within seven days of purchase for health or other valid reasons
- Refund the purchase money for any cat or kitten that dies or is euthanised within 6 months from a disease that is traced to my premises as verified by a statement from a veterinarian
- Accept a returned animal and refund 75% of the purchase price within three days of sale for any reason not supported by a veterinary practitioner

- Accept an animal returned within 21 days of sale and refund 100% of the purchase price if accompanied by a veterinary practitioner statement that the animal is unacceptable for health reasons.
- Refund 100% of the purchase price where an animal is diagnosed with, suffering from, dies of, or is euthanised because of a physical defect or disease that is traceable to the point of sale within three years of purchase where the owner provides supporting statements from a veterinary practitioner.

## Siberian Serenade Contact Details:

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Siberian Serenade – hypo-allergenic cats



Siberianserenade

