

Two Kittens Are Better Than One!

Why are two kittens better than one?

Besides “the more the merrier”, we have several great points to consider when adding to your family.

One kitten can become lonely and bored. How many hours are you at work? A kitten needs a playmate, especially if his human is gone all day. Like any young animal, he needs stimulation to develop properly. Studies show that animals left alone in the house can have brains that weigh up to 25% less than those that live on the street. Two kittens entertain each other and enrich each other’s environment. Try to get two right from the start, to insure happy times.

One kitten can just drive an older cat nuts! Although it might sound contrary, an older, established cat will probably accept two kittens better than one. One kitten will seek out the older cat as a playmate, or worse, tease and pester the senior cat, which can cause stress to an older cat. The kitten in return, will be “rewarded” for his playful efforts with hisses and swats. Some older cats decide to stop using the litter box when they are harassed by a kitten. Two kittens will expend their energy in play with each other, leaving their older “uncle” to relax in peace.

Two kittens will “self-train”. Kittens learn by copying. If one kitten is quick to learn appropriate litter box use, the other will be likely to copy. Two kittens will also train each other not to play too roughly or bite too hard, rather than experiment on you or your hand. Although this may seem cute when they are little, hand biting is definitely not cute when they are adults and the roughhousing/biting behavior is ingrained.

Two kittens help each other burn off energy. Two kittens will wear each other out, leaving their human parent free to just enjoy watching them. A single kitten will likely keep an owner up at night, continuing to play long after the lights have been turned off. A pair of young cats, on the other hand, will entertain each other, effectively tiring themselves out while their owners sleep like babies. When they want to play at 2am they have each other, not you!

You are likely to experience fewer behavior problems with two kittens. Many people who experience behavior problems with kittens find that some of them go away when they adopt another playmate. What may be perceived as mischief is often just the result of boredom. Much like their human counterparts, a kitten sometimes misbehaves because “negative attention is better than no attention”. Boredom can also be stressful and lead to health problems.

Curiosity overcomes the food finicky kitten. If one kitten is finicky about food, the reticence is often overcome by curiosity about what his sibling is eating. Feed one kitten Same Old, the other kitten New Stuff, and they both end up tasting the New Stuff.

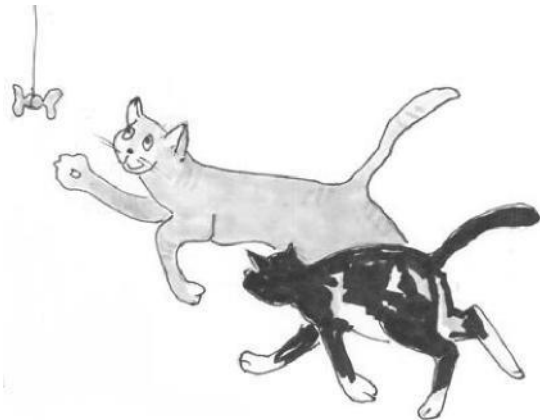
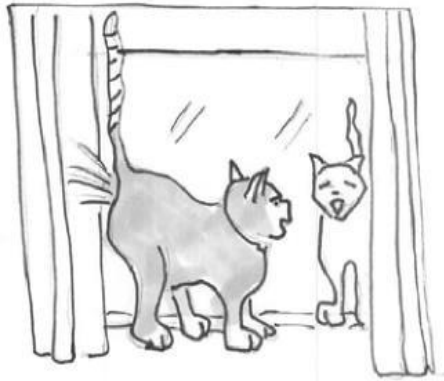


Photo Opportunities! Kittens will often play so hard that they simply flop where they are, and more likely than not, they will flop next to (or on top of) each other. There is no sight so endearing as two kittens curled up together for a nap.

Having two kittens is insanely fun! No doubt a kitten is fun, but having two is twice the fun. Watching two kittens play together can be hours of entertainment and laughs, it's better than television and no commercials! With only a single kitten, both you and the kitten will miss much. Don't let that happen! If you have a chance to adopt a pair, seize the opportunity.



Two kittens develop into two happy, playful cats. Two kittens who grow up together will almost always be lifelong friends. Although they will sometimes have their little squabbles (what friends don't?) you will more often see them engaging in mutual grooming, playing together, and sleeping with each other. Your cat will remain more playful and youthful into his later years with a companion.

You will save two lives instead of one! But, which two kittens should you adopt? Kittens don't need to be siblings to be lifelong friends. Pairing two kittens of similar energy level is most important. Two boys will usually get along together as do a male and female. Sometimes though, two females will both want to be in charge when they grow up and may eventually grow apart.

Behavior Resources:

Marin Humane's [Behavior & Training](#) department conducts various cat workshops. Sign up on our [Cat Behavior](#) (MarinHumane.org/oh-behave/cats) page for the next available class series. We also have **Cat Behavior Consultants** who are available for private training or consultations (on-site or in-home) at 415.506.6284 or CatBehavior@MarinHumane.org.

More information about cat behavior is available by clicking [here](#) or on our website at MarinHumane.org/oh-behave/handouts.