

## Social Sweeties: Early, Positive Experiences

**Kittens benefit from positive socialization experiences in the early weeks of their lives.**

*Marty Becker, DVM, and Janice Willard, DVM*

When you offer a different food to your kitten, give it a second bowl next to the kitten's usual food, Buffington says. When you change litter, offer it a second litter in a different box. Cats respond much better to novelty when they have a choice and when you think about it, most people would realize that we prefer having a choice too!

Giving your kitten important social and environmental experiences early in life will give it the best possible mental and emotional start.

You wouldn't want to build a house on a shaky foundation, Johnson-Bennett says. If you want an ideal cat, why not start with a firm foundation?

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