

## A New Addition

**CatChannel expert Jeanne Adlon, professional cat sitter, discusses how to get your household ready for a kitten.**

*By Jeanne Adlon*

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**Q:** How do I make my house ready for a new kitten?

**A:** First of all, if you can afford it, I suggest adopting two kittens at the same time because it is much harder to introduce a second cat into the home later. Two kittens can keep each other company, and you don't have to feel guilty when leaving them to go to work. There is no better entertainment than watching them race around and play with each other, and I believe they tend to be less destructive in the home than one bored single cat.

I remember one client who, after putting her elderly cat to sleep, missed the company of a feline friend so much she adopted two 8-week old kittens. She invited me to visit the new family, and I brought some of my tried-and-true cat toys. We had a lot of fun watching them play.

As to bringing new kittens into the home, watch them as carefully as you can, and try to prevent them from getting into high places where they might fall and injure themselves. Check your floors and surfaces and remove any paper clips, pins, coins and small parts from children's toys. Don't leave yarn, ribbon or string around. These can be harmful if swallowed. Store your medicines and vitamins in tightly closed containers and out of reach. Human drugs can be toxic to cats.

Keep the toilet seat and lid down — kittens can easily fall in — and check your washer and dryers. You do not want kittens to jump into an open dryer after you do your laundry. Make sure all electrical wires are secured and out of the way, and I suggest putting double-sided tape on items you don't want broken. This will also protect the kittens from being hurt from broken objects. Lastly, use common sense with your new family and enjoy them during this special time.