



GeauxToygers

Toyger Cattery — Registered with TICA

10921 Yates Rd, Franklinton, LA 70438 | 225-620-5888 | geauxtoygers@gmail.com

KITTEN TAKE-HOME GUIDE

Congratulations on your new Toyger! You've just brought home a tiny tiger with a big personality. This guide covers everything we want you to know for the first few weeks together — please read it before your kitten's homecoming day.

1. The First Two Weeks: Quarantine Matters

We ask that your kitten be kept separate from any other pets in your home for the first two full weeks. Here's why this isn't just a formality:

- Stress lowers immunity. Moving to a new home, new smells, and new people is a big adjustment. A stressed immune system is more vulnerable to picking up or triggering illness, even from things a healthy adult cat would shrug off.
- Incubation periods are sneaky. Some common feline illnesses (like upper respiratory infections) don't show symptoms right away. Two weeks gives us a window to catch anything before it has a chance to spread to your resident pets.
- It protects your other cats — and your kitten. Resident cats may carry something they're immune to but that could make a kitten quite sick, and vice versa. Quarantine protects everyone.
- It gives your kitten a calm landing pad. A single quiet room with food, water, litter, a cozy bed, and toys lets your kitten settle in without the added pressure of meeting the whole household (human or feline) at once.

Set your kitten up in one small room — a bathroom, bedroom, or office works great — with everything they need. Spend time in there with them multiple times a day so they bond with you, but hold off on full-house access and introductions to other pets until the two weeks are up.

2. Travel Stress & New Home Adjustment

Even the most laid-back kitten finds the trip home and the days right after to be a lot to process. Knowing what's normal will help you tell the difference between "adjusting" and "a problem."

Common signs of stress during travel and the first few days home:

- Hiding under furniture or in a closet — this is a coping mechanism, not a sign something is wrong.
- Decreased appetite or skipping a meal or two (water intake is more important to watch than food in the very short term).
- Excessive vocalizing, especially in the carrier or car.
- Hypervigilance — wide eyes, low body posture, flinching at normal household sounds.
- A litter box "miss" here or there in the first days, even in a kitten who was reliably using the box before.
- Excess grooming, drooling, or panting during car travel (drooling and panting are common stress responses in cats, not just dogs).

How to ease the transition:

- Bring a small blanket or toy from our cattery that carries familiar scent — it's a small thing that goes a long way.
- Keep the ride home calm and quiet: a secured carrier, low music or no music, and minimal stops.
- Resist the urge to overwhelm your kitten with attention on day one. Let them come to you once they've had a chance to sniff around their small quarantine space.
- Stick to a predictable daily rhythm (feeding times, play times, quiet times) — predictability is calming for cats.

Most kittens noticeably relax within 3–7 days, though some take a couple of weeks to feel fully at home. If appetite loss, hiding, or vocalizing persists beyond a few days, or if your kitten stops eating or drinking entirely, please call us and your vet.

3. Hands and Feet Are Not Toys

This one is simple but so important: never use your bare hands or feet to play with your kitten. It might seem cute now when a four-month-old kitten pounces on your wiggling fingers, but you're teaching them that human skin is a legitimate prey target — and that lesson doesn't stay cute once your Toyger is a solid, muscular adult cat.

- Always redirect play to a wand toy, fishing-pole toy, or a toy they can kick and bite (like a kicker toy or plush).
- If your kitten pounces on your hand or foot, freeze and go limp/boring rather than pulling away quickly — quick movement is exactly what triggers the chase instinct. Then redirect to an appropriate toy.
- Never use hands to punish or correct, either. Toygers are smart and food/play motivated, so redirection and positive reinforcement work far better than any kind of physical correction.

Getting the whole household on the same page about this from day one will save you a lot of ankle-attacks down the road!

4. Don't Change Diet or Litter Right Away

Your kitten has been raised on a specific food and litter here at GeauxToygers, and consistency matters more than you'd think during this transition:

- Food: Sudden diet changes are one of the most common causes of upset stomach and diarrhea in new kittens. Please keep your kitten on the same food listed on their paperwork for at least the first 2 weeks. If you'd like to transition to a different food after that, do it gradually over 7–10 days by mixing increasing amounts of the new food with the old.
- Litter: Kittens can be surprisingly particular about litter texture and type. Using the same litter they're used to from day one helps avoid litter box avoidance (which is a much harder habit to fix than it is to prevent). If you want to switch litter brands later, do it slowly, and only once your kitten is fully settled in — never during the first two weeks.

A new home is already a lot of change for a kitten to process. Keeping food and litter consistent removes two variables that could otherwise turn into a vet visit or a litter box problem.

5. Vet Visit

Per your sales agreement, please schedule a wellness check with a licensed veterinarian within the first 3 business days of bringing your kitten home. This protects your kitten's health and keeps your health guarantee active. Bring the health record and vaccination history provided at pickup.

6. Setting Up a Safe Space

- Toyger-proof your home: these are athletic, curious cats who love to climb, so secure blind cords, small breakables, toxic plants, and any small objects that could be swallowed.
- Provide a scratching post or cat tree near where they sleep or play — Toygers scratch a lot, and giving them an appropriate outlet early prevents them from choosing your furniture instead.
- Keep the quarantine room's litter box, food, and water bowls in separate areas of the room, away from each other, which mimics natural cat instincts and encourages good litter habits.

7. Play & Enrichment

Toygers were bred to be an active, athletic, and highly intelligent breed, and they need outlets for both their bodies and their brains. A bored Toyger is far more likely to find their own (usually less desirable) entertainment, like counter-surfing or 2 a.m. zoomies through the house.

- Aim for at least two structured play sessions a day, roughly 10–15 minutes each. Wand or fishing-pole toys that mimic prey movement (darting, hiding, sudden stops) are their favorite.
- Let your kitten actually "catch" the toy at the end of a play session — ending on a successful catch is more satisfying and settling than ending mid-chase.
- Rotate toys weekly so nothing gets stale; novelty matters a lot to this breed.
- Puzzle feeders and treat-dispensing toys are a great way to engage their intelligence, especially on days when you can't do as much active play.
- Vertical space — cat trees, window perches, shelves — is just as important as floor space. Toygers love to climb and survey their territory from up high.
- Many Toygers are surprisingly trainable and food-motivated. Short clicker-training sessions (sit, high-five, come when called) are a fun way to build your bond and give them mental exercise.

A well-exercised, mentally stimulated Toyger is a calmer, happier housemate — and it goes a long way toward preventing unwanted scratching, biting, or destructive behavior.

8. Socializing With Other Pets (After Quarantine)

Once your two weeks are up and your kitten has a clean bill of health, introduce other pets slowly:

- Start with scent swapping (swap bedding between animals) before any face-to-face meeting.
- Do first introductions through a cracked door or baby gate and keep sessions short and calm.
- Always supervise early interactions, and don't rush — a good introduction can take days to weeks depending on the personalities involved.

9. Temperament & Demeanor: The First Year

The personality your kitten shows you on day one is only a preview — Toygers, like most cats, take about 12 to 18 months to reach their full adult temperament, and some don't feel fully "settled" until closer to age two.

- Expect a goofy, high-energy, accident-prone kitten phase for the first several months — lots of zoomies, clumsiness, and short attention spans are completely normal.
- Toygers are known for being an unusually social, people-oriented breed — often described as dog-like. Many will greet you at the door, follow you room to room, and want to be involved in whatever you're doing. This bonding tends to deepen steadily over the first year.

- Confidence and individual personality traits become more defined as your kitten matures — a kitten who seems a little shy or cautious early on very often opens up significantly by their first birthday, especially with patient, positive handling.
- Early socialization matters. Calm, positive exposure to new people, sounds, and (once out of quarantine) other pets during the first year helps shape a well-adjusted, confident adult cat.
- Vocalization, food-motivation, and activity level are all fairly consistent breed traits, but the specific "volume" of your particular cat's personality will keep coming into focus through that first year — enjoy watching it unfold.

If you ever have questions about behavior that seems off compared to what's described here, we're always happy to talk it through with you.

10. Coloring & Appearance: The First Two Years

One of the most exciting parts of owning a Toyger is watching the coat mature — a Toyger kitten does not look like a Toyger adult, and the transformation happens gradually over roughly the first two years.

- Stripe development: Kittens are often born with softer, less defined striping. Stripes typically continue to sharpen, darken, and become more distinctly "tiger-like" in pattern and edge definition as your cat matures.
- Coat color deepening: The background coat color usually deepens and warms with age — golds and oranges tend to become richer and more saturated compared to the lighter kitten coat.
- The "glitter" effect: Many Toygers develop a shimmering, almost metallic sheen to the coat as they mature, caused by translucent tips on individual hairs. This glitter effect is often subtle or absent in young kittens and becomes more noticeable with age.
- Coat texture: The plush, dense coat texture Toygers are known for typically continues to fill in and develop over the first couple of years, not just the first few months.
- Body and head structure: Along with coat changes, Toygers fill out substantially in muscle and frame as they mature — the lean, long-legged kitten look gives way to the more solid, muscular build the breed is known for by adulthood.

Because of this, don't be surprised if your Toyger's markings and coloring look noticeably different at 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years old. It's all part of them growing into their full "tiger" look — patience is rewarded here!

11. When to Call Us

We are here for the life of your cat, not just the sale. Please reach out any time you have a question — no question is too small, and we would always rather hear from you than have you guess.

- Call or text: 225-620-5888
- Email: geauxtoygers@gmail.com

We can't wait to watch your Toyger grow, and we love seeing photos and updates along the way! Thank you for giving one of our babies such a wonderful home.

With love, from all of us (and all four paws) at GeauxToygers 🐾