

KEEPING COSTS DOWN

CAT PARENTING ON A BUDGET



FOOD

KOOKY KIBBLE

Premium natural pet food at pocket-friendly prices.

Kooky takes the odd shaped peices of premium pet food and repackages them to be 'tasted, not tossed'. It's a quality product suitable for all life stages and averaging \$4-\$6 a kg.

<https://kookykibble.co.nz/>

BUYING IN BULK

If you can afford it, buy more while your preferred products are on sale. Often pet stores and online shops have discounts over public holidays or events. 10% - 50% off will definitely add up in the long run and orders over a certain amount often entitle you to free shipping. **Tip:** Plan ahead and put money aside each week into a food account.

PET MINCE

Talk to your local butcher about animal friendly mince. This may be a mixture of ground frames, necks and offal which in moderation is great for your pets diet.



PET FOOD BANKS

Pet food banks may offer short or long term support. Alternatively, try reaching out to your local Rescue or SPCA to see if there's food support in your area.

LITTER

FIREWOOD PELLETS

You can buy these from most Mitre 10 and Bunnings stores. They're an eco friendly option as it composts and is a cheaper alternative to the wood pellets sold in pet stores.

Note: Make sure they are natural with no chemical additives.

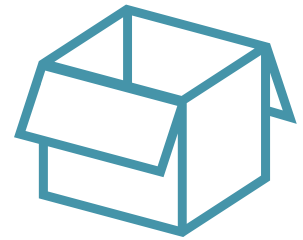
If you have kittens who graze on litter these are usually the least palatable.

SAND

Sand is a great alternative if you live near a beach. It soaks up liquid well.

NEWSPAPER

Newspaper placed at the bottom of the litterbox reduces the amount of litter needed as it soaks up the majority of the urine.



ENRICHMENT

Cats, especially kittens, need play and environmental enrichment for healthy development and directing energy away from destructive behaviour.

BOXES

You can't bet the humble cardboard box. Collect and build forts, obstacle courses, scratch pads... the limit is imagination! When you're done, recycle them!

PAPER BAGS

Remove the handles and use as string toys.

DRIFTWOOD

It's great for teething and wearing down nails. Remove as much sand as possible.

WAND TOYS

Anything with a long handle with preference to string on the end.



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HEALTH CARE AT HOME

FLEA/WORMERS

Regularly treating for parasites is an important part of your maintaining your pet's health. They affect digestion and uptake of nutrients, in severe cases leading to weight loss, fluid build up, anemia and damage to their organs.

WORMS: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- 🐾 **Large, distended stomach**
- 🐾 **Blood or worms in stool**
- 🐾 **Dragging bottom on ground**
- 🐾 **Weightloss**

Each wormer has a specific recommendation but as a general rule you can follow the below as a guide.

- 🐾 3 weeks - 10 weeks - **Fortnightly**
- 🐾 11 weeks - 6 months - **Monthly**
- 🐾 6 months + - **3 Monthly**

Tip: Hacking cough and no other cold/flu symptoms? Opt for a wormer that treats **lungworm**.

Is there a build up of dirt/dark patches inside their ears?
Research **earmites** and opt for a comprehensive treatment with follow up doses if instructed.

FLEAS: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- 🐾 **Flea dirt**
- 🐾 **Excessive scratching or licking**
- 🐾 **Eggs**
- 🐾 **Live fleas**

Flea treatment and regular brushing with a flea comb is recommended monthly unless advised otherwise.

UPSET STOMACH

DIARRHOEA

Mild diarrhoea can be managed by substituting a simple cooked protein such as **shredded chicken breast or mince**.

The leaner the better. Substitute until you see improvement in the firmness and consistency of the stool. If there's no improvement after 72 hours, they lose appetite or become dehydrated, consult your local vet.

Maintenance

Try chicken/pet mince mixed with their regular diet and slowly build up to what they were eating before.

Pumpkin powder or mash

pumpkin is a powerhouse for your pets too! Add a teaspoon to food for fibre and anti-oxidants.

Tip: If you're unsure what caused the upset, remove dairy and cereals from their diet until you isolate the trigger.

CONSTIPATION

Add a **tablespoon of water** to food to keep up fluid intake.

Boil chicken frames with a very small amount of salt and ACV to make a **broth**.

Add a few drops of a cat friendly **oil** to their wet food to help lubricate the stool.

Add **probiotics** to help build up good gut bacteria.

WOUND CARE

SALINE

Wipe wounds with a saline solution or gently soak area to keep clean.

COLLOIDAL SILVER

Use is similar to saline for cuts and wounds. It can also be used to treat mild conjunctivitis - apply 1-2 drops in the eyes 2-3 times daily.

HONEY DRESSING

Mix equal parts honey with coconut oil to make a wound dressing paste. The oil softens the honey for easier application.

Warm to room temperature before applying.

Apply away from areas that will collect dirt or apply sparingly so the balm is quickly absorbed into the skin.

CRACKED PADS

Massage coconut oil into their pads at room temperature. The oil should melt with contact. Start with 2-3 x daily, lessening the frequency as the skin softens and rehydrates.

THE SCOOP ON POOP!

Not sure what you're looking for? The Bristol stool chart is based on human stool condition but is a good baseline for other mammals like cats and dogs.

<https://www.health.com/condition/digestive-health/bristol-stool-chart>



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HEALTH CARE AT HOME

COLD/FLU

Cat flu is common in kittens and cats with compromised immune systems.

It can range from mild to severe, on the mild side it's something that your cat may be able to fight off on their own but the later can be life threatening in certain conditions.

MILD CAT FLU LOOKS LIKE

- 🐾 Dry sneezing
- 🐾 Discharge from eyes/nose not coloured
- 🐾 No change in appetite or energy
- 🐾 Breathing unaffected

To support your pet you can try these home remedies.

TEA BAGS

Use tea bags for inflamed eyes. Brew, steep and cool a herbal tea. Use a cotton pad to gently wipe the eyes, one side at a time, being careful not to cross contaminate.

Tip: Opt for herbal tea without additives, Black, green and chamomile are great choices.

COLLOIDAL SILVER

Use for mild conjunctivitis - apply 1-2 drops in the eyes 2-3 times daily.

STEAMING

Bring the cat/kitten into the bathroom when the heat of the shower is creating steam. The steam will help ease congestion.

PROBIOTICS AND SUPPLEMENTS

A healthy gut, digestion and support for their immune systems will aid their recovery from the virus.

GENERAL CARE

- 🐾 Keep Warm
- 🐾 Limit stress
- 🐾 Keep hydrated

WHEN DOES CAT FLU BECOME MODERATE?

- 🐾 Discharge from eyes or nose that is coloured and thick
- 🐾 Eyes are red or swollen
- 🐾 Rattle/wheeze in chest
- 🐾 Laboured breathing
- 🐾 Ulcers on tongue
- 🐾 Lack of appetite

GENERAL CHECKLIST

Not sure if your cat is sick? Check in each of these areas.

TOILETING

- 🐾 Toileting in odd places
- 🐾 Straining or digging without relieving themselves
- 🐾 Constipation/diahorroea
- 🐾 Blood in stool
- 🐾 Stool is frothy, pale, green/yellow or black
- 🐾 Concentrated urine

APPETITE

- 🐾 Dramatic increases or decreases
- 🐾 Undetermined weight loss or gain

LETHARGY

- 🐾 Pale gums
- 🐾 Lack of energy
- 🐾 Dehydration

IF IN DOUBT, CONTACT YOUR VET

All suggestions are advice for treating mild symptoms. Please consult your local vet wherever possible for professional advice.

