

Making Sure Your Home is Kitten-Proofed

RagaMuffin kittens, like all kittens, are very curious bundles of fur. While it is cute to watch an adorable **RagaMuffin kitten** explore their new home, unless you take preventative measures, your **RagaMuffin kitten** can wind up in serious trouble. A good tip to keep in mind as you walk around your home to kitten-proof it, is that your kitten has a lower vantage point than your own. As a result, your kitten may spot and be attracted to things you don't notice in a cursory view from a standing position. Look under your furniture, and in general, look at your home as if you were seeing it through the eyes of your RagaMuffin. Look for any small objects that might catch your kitten's attention and could be inadvertently swallowed.

Some suggestions for kitten-proofing your home include the following:

- Store sewing supplies out of your cat's reach. Needles, pins, and thread can hurt your kitten's mouth or internal organs if swallowed. The same goes for tacks, screws or nails that may be lying around. If it is in area that your kitten can reach, there is a chance your **RagaMuffin kitten** could swallow it.
- Securely store all cleaning products or any other poisonous materials. **RagaMuffin kittens** and **RagaMuffin cats** have been known to open kitchen cabinet doors, so don't assume your kitten will not have access to products stored in a kitchen cabinet.
- If you use drain cleaners, be sure to secure the bathroom door until you have had the chance to thoroughly wash any residue away.
- Make sure all window screens are secure to help prevent falls. Do not leave windows open in your home, unless they have secure screens. Do not permit your **RagaMuffin kittens** or **RagaMuffin cats** on a balcony.
- Tie all window blinds or shade chords up, so that they are out of reach of your **RagaMuffin kitten** or **RagaMuffin cat** and do not provide the danger of strangulation.
- Store plastic bags where your **RagaMuffin kitten** can't get inside them and suffocate or chew them and swallow bits of plastic. Store shopping bags with handles in an area where your **RagaMuffin kittens** cannot accidentally get caught up in the handles of the shopping bag.
- Keep exposed electrical cords as short as possible, or tack them against a baseboard so that your kitten can't play with or chew them.
- Keep toilet lids down in order to prevent your **RagaMuffin kittens** from falling in. Keep in mind that there could also be some residual toilet bowl cleanser left in the bowl that could be toxic to your **RagaMuffin kittens** if swallowed.
- Anything with string should be considered dangerous. Be careful that your **RagaMuffin kittens** do not have access to the dental floss you discard. Watch that there are no rubber bands or hair ties lying around.
- Be sure that your **RagaMuffin kittens** do not have access to any pieces of aluminum foil, which can be dangerous if swallowed.
- Cut plastic beverage holders apart to prevent your **RagaMuffin kittens** or **RagaMuffin cats** from getting tangled in them.
- Check your houseplants to ensure they are not poisonous to your **RagaMuffin kittens**. There are many toxic plants, so if you own any, secure them in hanging baskets that your kitten or cat cannot reach. Note that lilies, in particular, are dangerous to cats. While in

some cases, just parts of a plant (bark, leaves, seeds, berries, roots, tubers, spouts, green shells) might be poisonous, ask your veterinarian for a complete list of toxic plants. If your **RagaMuffin kitten** or **RagaMuffin cat** eats part of a poisonous plant, rush the kitten to your vet as soon as possible. It would be helpful if you could take the plant with you for ease of identification.

Introducing your RagaMuffin Kitten to the Rest of the Family

If there are children in your house, especially small ones, introduce your **RagaMuffin kittens** to them gradually, during short periods of time. Frequent handling and gentle playing are important. You must make sure that the children understand that their new **RagaMuffin kittens** are living creatures and they must be taught to be gentle and sensitive to the kittens. Show the children how to pick the **RagaMuffin kittens** up and the correct way to hold the kitten, with one hand under the kitten's chest and the other hand supporting the kitten's hindquarters. Teach the children not to pull on any part of the **RagaMuffin kittens**, not to squeeze the kittens or make loud or threatening noises around the **RagaMuffin kittens**.

The best way to start to play with your new **RagaMuffin kittens**, for both children and adults, is to sit on the floor so you will be at your kitten's level. This way you will look less intimidating to your new **RagaMuffin kittens**.

If there are other pets in the house, introduce them to your **RagaMuffin kittens**, slowly and with caution. An older cat will usually accept a new kitten if the introduction is done correctly. Never leave your **RagaMuffin kittens** alone with your other pets until you are absolutely certain that they are friends.

Some tips on introducing your new **RagaMuffin kittens** to another pet include the following suggestions:

- Have a "safe room" where you will keep your new **RagaMuffin kittens** when you first bring them home. You should have their water and food bowls, litter box, toys, scratching post and bed in this room. Take a t-shirt and rub it against the side of the kitten's face. Take this t-shirt and let your other pets smell it. Let your other pet(s) smell the new kitten under the door. Do the same thing with your other pets and let the **RagaMuffin kittens** smell the scent of your other pets.
- Begin introducing your **RagaMuffin kittens** by first opening the door to the safe room a crack and letting the other pets know the kitten is there and vice versa. Do not allow contact at this point.
- While you are present, feed your **RagaMuffin kittens** by the door, while it is open a crack, and feed your other pets on the other side of the door. Do this for several days.
- After a couple days put your new **RagaMuffin kittens** in their carrier and let the other pets in the house in the safe room. There may be some hissing, but that is normal. Do this a couple of times a day for several days.
- Within a week or two your new **RagaMuffin kittens** and other pets should be getting along. The key to success in introductions to other pets is to go slow and be patient.

Remember, do not leave the new **RagaMuffin kittens** alone with your other pet(s) unattended until you see that they are good friends.

During the introduction process, be sure to give your older pets extra attention so they know they are loved. By giving them this needed extra love and attention, you will hopefully avoid any feelings of jealousy the older pets may feel as a result of bringing the new **RagaMuffin kittens** home.