

Why Kittens Are Adopted in Pairs

Article courtesy of www.spcanova.org

Kittens need interaction with other kittens for healthy social development

A young kitten learns a lot from its littermates. Although it's often necessary to separate a kitten from its mother, taking it away from its littermates and isolating it from feline companions can delay the kitten's development emotionally, socially, and sometimes physically. Kittens who remain with a littermate or similarly-aged companion tend to be healthier and happier, and in the long run, better socialized pets than those who are isolated from other kittens at an early age.

Even loving, caring, humans are not adequate substitutes for kitten companionship

A lone kitten will likely demand more time than an adopter has available, even if that person is fortunate enough to be home quite a bit. A pair of kittens will still want to interact with people, but can keep each other occupied throughout the day.



Kittens are curious and crave constant stimulation

Out of boredom, a single kitten will often entertain itself by chewing plants, climbing drapes and furniture, unrolling toilet paper, exploring electrical cords and sockets, etc. Kittens who have another kitten to tumble around and play with are less likely to engage in these potentially destructive and dangerous activities.

Kittens are very active at night

A single kitten is likely to keep people awake at night with constant jumping, pouncing and other "hunting" behavior. With a companion to play with at night, this behavior is minimized because they will have each other to chase and play games with until they tire each other out.

Kittens bite and wrestle with one another—this behavior is normal

You can't prevent a kitten from doing what comes naturally any more than you can force a two-year-old toddler to sit still. Without a kitten companion to play with, however, a kitten will want to bite and wrestle with its human companions. While you may think this behavior is acceptable and even cute from your kitten, when the kitten matures, you will end up with an adult cat who has developed very bad habits (i.e. biting and scratching humans as "play").

A single kitten is not a good companion for an older cat.

Kittens have boundless energy. They want to play and run constantly which typically overwhelms and irritates an older cat. Likewise, a kitten is apt to be frustrated when its companion doesn't have its same level of energy. This can lead to two very unhappy cats, and in some cases behavior problems such as litterbox avoidance or destructive scratching. It is unlikely that the two will ever develop a close, bonded relationship. An older kitty is better matched with a cat closer to its own age and temperament.

