



Kitten Tutor™: Buying Cages for your Kitten Nursery

The cages used to house the kittens are perhaps the most significant, and probably the most expensive, single piece of general equipment a kitten nursery will need. Fortunately, there are many options in a variety of price ranges to fit most budgets.

At the low end, collapsible one- or two-story condo cages can be purchased for approximately \$100 or less per cage, some even come on rollers. One advantage to these is that they can be submerged in a hard “kiddie pool” with disinfectant to clean. These are also great for lending out to foster homes and for using in adoption rooms. But because they are open on four sides, they must be spaced far enough apart from each other or artificial barriers created in order to prevent disease transmission between litters in different cages. Additionally, the spacing between the bars or wires must be appropriate so that small kittens can be safely contained.

Many nurseries favor stainless steel bank cages, solid on three sides (plus the ceiling and floor of course), with open bars on the front. They are easily cleaned, but they are noisy and relatively inflexible: they can be adjusted in size, as well. But that can be expensive.

So....

This is why some nurseries favor “splurging” to get cages that are already sized and configured to work the way the staff thinks best for their nursery. These include cages that are pre-fit with sliders or portholes that can be added or removed, breaking down or opening up the cage space into smaller or larger areas. Bank cages on wheels can be easily moved around, so you can experiment with placing them into groupings that work best for your needs and the kittens in your care.

NOTE: Check your local and state laws to understand requirements for inspections of your nursery by animal control agencies, particularly if your nursery is not part of an animal shelter that is already set up to pass such inspections.

NKC offers Kitten Tutor™ handouts free to anyone interested in saving kittens. We are a 501(c)(3) and teach shelters, rescues, foster families and the veterinary community how to save more kittens. To learn more, visit: www.kittencoalition.org. © 2020 National Kitten Coalition