

CATS



Scientific name: Felis catus

For Ages: 5 & up, with adult supervision

Pet lifespan: Approximately 8 – 20 years

Pet Size: Approximately 10 – 15 pounds

Nutrition

Staple diet: Cats are carnivorous; most cats do well with a premium cat food. Match food to life stage and activity level. Kittens require more fats and protein, while older cats should be given lower protein diets to ensure good kidney function.

Treats: Treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake. Water: Change and fill your cat's water bowl with clean water every day

Supply list

Here's a list of the necessities you'll need to take home to help your new cat stay healthy and happy.

- Home: Comfortable basket or bed
- Scratching post
- Pet carrier
- Litter box
- Appropriate litter
- Water bowl
- Food bowls
- Food: Fortified cat diet
- Toys: Rolling, dangling, bouncing balls or plastic toys are playtime treats your cat will love having around
- Books and magazines
- Comb or brush
- Hairball preventative medicine
- Catnip
- Find a veterinarian and be sure to take your new kitty in for annual exams and vaccinations!

Habitat

Housing: Cats should be kept indoors for their safety and the safety of wild animals.

Cat furniture: One popular piece of cat furniture is an indoor house. This can be as simple as a cardboard box or as complex as a cat condo with several levels, peep holes, holes to crawl through, and porches to perch on. Some of these are covered with tough indoor – outdoor carpeting and can double as scratching posts.

Litter box: Always have a separate litter box for each cat, with at least one litter box on each level of your home.

Scratching post: Cats need to sharpen their claws. Even if they are declawed, cats enjoy going through the motion of claw sharpening

Traits & Behavior

Social: Cats are a social species. Your cat can respond and answer to speech, and will enjoy human companionship and can sometimes be trained. However, unlike humans and dogs, cats don't really suffer from loneliness. Cats and kittens should be acquired in pairs whenever possible as cats interact best in pairs. In multi-cat households, cats of the opposite sex usually get along better.

Clean: Cats are self-grooming and naturally clean. Be sure to regularly trim their claws to help prevent them from catching on carpets, bedding or furniture. Also provide your cat occasional treats of hairball preventative medicine.

Health

Signs of a healthy cat:

- Clean, bright eyes
- Glossy fur
- Active & alert
- Eats and drinks normally

Things to watch for:

- Bare patches in the fur
- Dandruff
- Nails overgrown
- Lethargic behavior
- Weight loss; not eating or drinking normally
- Diarrhea
- Ears should also be clean, nose cool and damp without any nasal discharge with pale pink mouth and gums

Things to remember

Lifting & Handling: The most comfortable way for your cat to be handled is for you to put one hand around their body under the front legs, and then scoop up the back legs with the other hand. Your cat should be held securely but not too firmly, and their hindquarters should always be supported. Do not leave their back legs dangling, as this is uncomfortable for your cat. Be sure to never pick up your cat by the scruff of their neck.

Spaying & neutering: There are many benefits to having your cat spayed or neutered. Six months of age is an ideal time to spay or neuter your cat. For females, having them spayed will prevent them from going through heat cycles. Un-spayed females normally come into heat several times a year, and these cycles can last from several days to several weeks, and include such behaviors as spraying of urine, howling, and some other obnoxious behaviors. Neutering a male before he reaches puberty can help prevent the development of all mating behavior, which includes spraying urine and marking territory with urine, and the desire to roam outside searching for a mate.

Vaccinations: Vaccines are important for your cat, even if they remain indoors. Speak to your veterinarian regarding a vaccine schedule.

Safety & Cleanliness: Please remember that all pets may bite or scratch, and may transmit a disease to humans. Keep your cat's litter box clean and wash your hands before and after handling your pet or cleaning their litter box.

Tip: It has been scientifically proven that owning cats is good for your health and can decrease the occurrence of high blood pressure and other illnesses.



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