



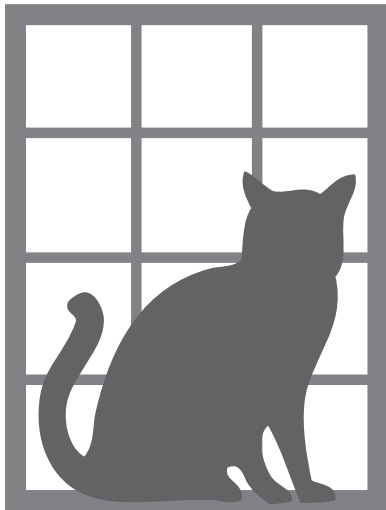
All About Cats

Do cats like to play?

Cats love to hide, stalk, and pounce. Playing with your cat several times a day will help keep them fit, trim, and happy. Try bouncing a cat wand, a feather toy, or a large, open paper grocery bag for some kitty fun-time!

How do cats communicate?

Cats do not speak our language. However, along with meowing, they use their bodies to show their feelings. For example: If a cat's tail is straight up, they are happy. If the tail is twitching, they are disturbed and should not be approached. Sometimes when a cat is scared they will arch their back and fluff their tail, or even hiss. Talking to an upset cat in a soft voice, but not approaching, will usually help them feel content again.



How do I keep my kitty safe?

Cats should be microchipped and wear a collar with identification tags. They can move quickly and easily slip through doors that have not been completely closed or jump out of open windows that do not have secure screens. An identification tag and microchip will enable the people who find them to return the cats to their owners.

Keep your kitty inside! Being with people, having safe toys, fresh water, proper food, and a litter box will keep a cat happy and safe.

Why do cats lick themselves?

Cats are instinctually clean, and groom themselves regularly to stay tidy and healthy. You can help by brushing your cat once per week. Brushing helps to remove loose hair and keeps your cat from swallowing it when they lick their fur. A long-haired cat should be brushed more often because their fur tangles easily. Your cat's fur should be checked for fleas and hair loss, and his skin checked for bumps, scratches or scabs on a regular basis.



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Why do cats scratch?

For cats, scratching is an instinct. It helps their nails grow, and keeps them healthy. Providing a scratching post will help deter a cat from scratching rugs and furniture. The sharp tips of their nails can be clipped with care being taken not to cut the quick (vein) that is in each nail.

Can my cat eat plants?

Many cats enjoy an herb called catnip. You can buy catnip in whole leaves to make your own toys or purchase ready-made catnip toys at your pet store.

Other houseplants can make a cat sick or even cause death. Ask your veterinarian about what kinds of plants are harmful to your cat. When in doubt, keep plants out of reach or sprayed with a veterinarian-approved spray that will safely repel the cat.

Why do cats use a litter box?

Cats are instinctually clean, and prefer using a litter box filled with cat litter—Think of it like a special toilet for cats. Their litter needs to be scooped daily, and replaced weekly. If their litter boxes have excessive solid waste and used litter, they may find another place to eliminate.

Do cats need doctors?

Like all animals, cats need wholesome food and fresh water every day to stay healthy. They need to visit an animal doctor called a veterinarian, or “vet,” once per year for a checkup and routine shots. Cats also need to visit the veterinarian if they become sick, injured, or if their behavior changes.

