

FIFI FUREVER

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Top Things New Cat Owners Need To Know

Cat Safety

Home Remedies For Fifi

Best Ways To Transfer Fifi

**Next Issue: Everything You Need To
Know About Urinary Tract Infections**

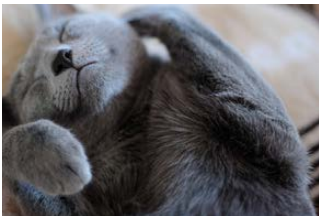


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Being a cat owner isn't always super easy. You must take care to avoid things such as medicines, certain foods and plants, and essential oils if you want your cat to live a long, healthy life. Review this article and make the necessary changes for your cat's safety!



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Top Things New Cat Owners Need To Know

Welcome to the wonderful world of cat ownership! To help get your kitty started off on the right paw, we've assembled this article full of tips for new cat owners. Learn how to make the challenges feel less demanding.



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Best Ways To Transfer Fifi

Living with a cat can be easy, but transporting them to the vet, a new home, etc. is definitely NOT. Fortunately, we're here to give you the tips and tricks of helping your kitty get from point A to point B without anyone getting hurt.

Next Issue: Everything You Need To Know About Urinary Tract Infections



Home Remedies For Fifi

When it comes to taking care of your cat, only the best will do. However, each person has their own definition of “the best.” It’s our goal to help as many people as possible. Therefore, we’re going to do things a bit differently today by taking a look at some of the best home remedies you can use to stop fleas, help your kitty’s stomach, fight hairballs, and much more!

The Best Home Remedies For Your Cat

So, for those of you who might be wondering, a home remedy works by letting you use ingredients that are typically found in your home as a form of medicine. You may choose to use these for a variety of reasons, including when your feline friend has an allergy to the medicine you receive from your vet.

PLEASE NOTE: Home remedies can do several things with a high level of effectiveness, but certain ailments **MUST** be treated by your vet. If you’re unsure what you’re currently dealing with, going to the vet is the perfect place to start.

Got Hairballs? Try Some Butter!

Believe it or not, you can get most cats to stop having hairballs by using butter. Before you try this, though, be sure that you’ve given your cat his or her daily brushing, and don’t forget to wipe them down with a moist towel after. If they’re still experiencing

difficulty, try giving them half a teaspoon of butter. This solution should get rid of hairballs, but be sure you don’t rely on it too often.

Get Them To Throw Up

You know how it goes. One minute, your cat is sleeping, and the next, he’s eating something he shouldn’t. Fortunately, there’s an easy trick to get your cat to vomit if they’ve eaten something toxic. Use one teaspoon of hydrogen peroxide per every five pounds that they weigh.

In other words, if you’ve got a 15 pound kitty, you would give her three teaspoons of hydrogen peroxide. This can give her immediate relief, but you should still schedule a vet appointment to make sure she didn’t do any permanent harm to herself.

A Healthy Bladder Needs Cranberry Juice

Do you have a cat that suffers from urethra and bladder issues? Well, just like with humans, unsweetened cranberry juice might just do the trick! Why cranberry? Well, it naturally increases urine’s acidity, which means they’ll have less risk of developing a blockage or infection.

There are three different formats for cranberry juice:

- Cranberry powder
- Cranberry juice
- Cranberry capsule

If you use powder, add it to the cat food. If you use juice, add it to his water. Be sure to ask your vet for the proper dosage.

Get Rid Of Constipation With Canned Pumpkin



Older cats can have a heck of a time dealing with constipation. You might notice them straining in their litter box or stepping in and out of their litter box much more frequently than usual. If this persists, you'll end up paying a VERY big bill to your vet to deal with their backed up poop.

Alternatively, you might be able to help them finally make waste by giving them some canned pumpkin. Begin by giving them one tablespoon of canned pumpkin into their food. If they've got a very tricky problem, you can give them as much as four tablespoons, but be sure to work your way up. In very severe cases, you should also add a tablespoon of Milk of Magnesia.

Reduce Facial Hot Spots By Replacing Their Bowls

Did you know that plastic bowls can harbor bacteria? For many cats, this can be extremely irritating and may leave them with hot spots on their face. They also might develop an allergic reaction. To solve this issue, get rid of their plastic bowls and replace them with a metal or glass bowl. The same thing works if you notice an outbreak of chin acne.

Probiotics Make Their Stomach Happy

Is your cat currently taking an antibiotic? The good news is, they should get well soon. The bad news,

however, is that antibiotics can deplete your cat's stomach's beneficial bacteria. Fortunately, there is an easy fix! Just give them a little yogurt (be sure to purchase yogurt with live active cultures), and they should feel better soon.

Average-sized cats and small dogs will only need one tablespoon of yogurt per day. If your cat is ginormous, though, you might need to use two tablespoons. Either way, start them off with just a few licks to ensure your cat can handle it. Then move them up to the suitable amount for their body size.

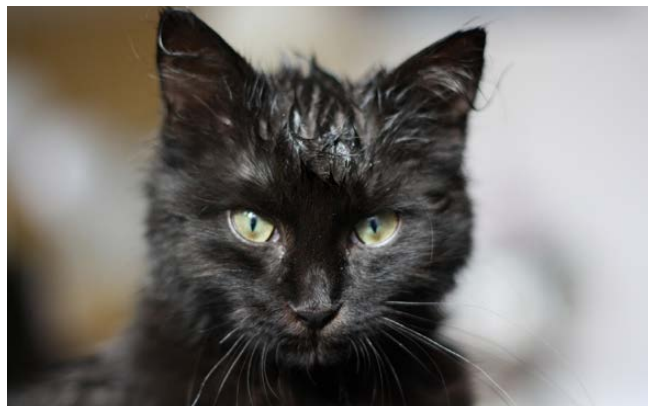
Camomile Will Help Irritated Skin

Although it's intended to be used as a drink, chamomile tea can be extremely helpful at alleviating skin irritations. Simply make some of the tea, put it in a conveniently sized spray bottle, and place it inside your refrigerator. After it has enough time to cool, you can directly apply it by giving a spritz to your cat's affected area.

Feed Flea Eggs To Worms

Here's a home remedy that doesn't require you to put anything on your cat at all! Instead, if your cat likes to go outside, pick up some beneficial nematode worms and introduce them to your garden. These worms LOVE eating flea eggs, which can drastically reduce the amount of fleas that are in your yard.

Clean Your House Thoroughly To Get Rid Of Fleas



Here's another remedy that has nothing to do with your cat. If you want to eliminate the flea population that currently lives in your house, do a thorough cleaning of everything. Launder everything that your pet sleeps on, including blankets, beds, and towels. Give their areas a deep

vacuuming, too. You can also try using a natural disinfectant on your floors.

Drown Fleas With Water

Fleas love to hang onto your pet, but there's a pretty simple way to get them to let go. All you've got to do is put your cat into a tub of water, and then rinse their fur as well as you can. This method might not get rid of every flea, but a lot of them will go down the drain.

Use Citrus To Gross Out Fleas

Citrus is basically like a flea's natural enemy. That's because they can't stand the way it smells. Therefore, you can take a tiny amount of orange juice or fresh lemon and rub it into your cat's fur. Alternatively, you can use leftover citrus rinds the same way.

PLEASE NOTE: Cats who get too close to the smell of citrus will also recoil, so please, don't use a lot of it!

Get Rid Of Dry, Itchy Skin

Most cats do a fantastic job of grooming. However, if your feline friend is getting older, has obesity issues, or is dealing with health issues, it may not be able to do the best job. This can leave them with dry, itchy skin, which is horribly uncomfortable.

Aside from daily grooming—which we've already mentioned—there are four ways to help!

- Humidifier
- Omega-3 fatty acids
- Vinegar and water
- Aloe vera conditioner

Using a humidifier in your home—especially during winter—is a proven method for keeping your cat's skin from drying out.

If your cat doesn't get enough Omega-3s, their coat and skin won't be as healthy as it could be. You can give them a health boost by giving them a fish oil supplement made for cats. You can also take a tiny amount of fish oil, hemp seed oil, or flaxseed oil and mix it into their food.

When your cat develops dandruff, or any other type of flakey skin, there is an easy solution! Take a couple of teaspoons of vinegar and mix it with a gallon of water. Give your cat a quick wash with this mixture, and then rinse it off. You should see instant results!

If you've tried everything else on this list and they still have dry skin, use a little bit of aloe vera leave-in conditioner. This should help fix any itchiness and/or dry skin. As a bonus, aloe vera works great at healing any scrapes or cuts your cat may have.

Dealing With Sudden Hair Loss

Let's say that your cat suddenly loses some hair, and he may also have red-looking skin. For instance, I used to have a cat who lost most of her stomach fur almost instantly! What was left behind was an angry-looking stomach and an angsty cat.

Fortunately, I knew what the probable cause was—she'd suddenly developed an allergy to peas. And if you've looked at the ingredients of cat food carefully, you'll know that's a pretty common ingredient. Once I got her on some hypoallergenic food, her stomach fur grew back.

Common things that your cat may be allergic to include corn, wheat, and gluten. They can also be allergic to beef or chicken ingredients, though, so the process of eliminating what makes their skin irritated may take a while.

Relieve Stress With Feline Pheromones



Whether you've recently brought home a new kitten or your cat is just really susceptible to stress, there is a relatively painless way to deal with it. You can make your cat feel more comfortable and secure in her environment by turning to feline pheromones.

Synthetic feline pheromones can be purchased from basically any pet store and Amazon. You have two choices: spray or plug-in. After reviewing lots of different reviews, our recommendation is to use a spray pheromone. This won't constantly be pumping the pheromone into the air, but it's also not a fire hazard.

If you do decide to use a plug-in, be sure to pay close attention to whether it is emitting a burning smell. Unplug it immediately as soon as you notice a scent that's similar to burning.

Make Adjustments To Your Home To Make Them Feel More Comfortable

Do you have at least two cats? If so, you're going to need to make some adjustments to your home. First off, your cats shouldn't share a litter box. The basic rule of litter boxes is to have one for each cat, plus one extra. We know that you might not want to clean multiple litter boxes, but your household will be so much more harmonious if you do.

The thing about cats is that they really don't want to share their personal resources with another animal. But if you give them their own litter box—plus their own food and water dishes—a lot of the tension you feel in your home will be eliminated.

Even if you only have one cat, be sure to give him or her two litter boxes, and don't place them in the same area. That way, they can always access at least one of them, which will give them peace of mind.

Getting Rid Of Pain – 5 Different Home Remedies

Every cat owner knows that it's very difficult to tell if your feline friend is in pain. Watch him for the following signs:

- Restlessness
- Agitation
- Changes in body posture
- Unusual vocalizations (hissing, growling, meowing)
- Changes to their litter box routine
- Avoids being handled or petted

- Rapid breathing
- Reduced appetite
- Difficulty jumping
- Tail flicking

Once you've determined that they are in pain, you can try any of the following methods to help soothe them.

1. Turmeric



When your cat is suffering from an inflammatory issue or arthritis, try giving her some turmeric. It contains natural anti-inflammatory properties, so it can provide a big help. As an added bonus, it helps liver function, too. Mix a small amount with coconut oil or fish oil to ensure they're able to absorb it.

2. Pheromones

Another good use for feline pheromones is to help your cat manage her pain. This primarily works through lowering stress, but it is also a decent way to reduce pain.

3. Cold And Heat Therapy

When your cat has a recent injury, use cold therapy to reduce pain, swelling, and redness. Take an ice pack, a cold towel, or even some frozen vegetables and place it on their injured area. Leave it there for 10-20 minutes for the best results.

On the other hand, if they're dealing with a chronic injury, turn to heat therapy. Use a heating pad, hot water bottle, or warm towel to soothe the affected area. This is a great way to increase blood flow, help their muscles, and soothe their aching joints.

4. Chondroitin And Glucosamine Supplements

Chondroitin and glucosamine are both naturally occurring substances in your cat's body, and their job is to protect the joints and repair them. Sprinkling one or both of these supplements onto their food is a fantastic way to reduce friction, lubricate their joints, and prevent their cartilage from breaking down.

5. CBD Oil May Help Manage Pain

So far, there is limited clinical evidence to support the idea that CBD oil may help manage your cat's pain. However, there really haven't been a lot of studies, either. There is a ton of anecdotal evidence, though, so you might as well try it.

How does it work? Well, your cat's endocannabinoid system helps maintain many things, including how they react to pain. CBD oil works with this system, which means it might change how they react to pain, including helping to relieve many types of acute and chronic pain. It also appears likely that CBD oil can help manage inflammation, anxiety, and even seizures.

Do NOT Give Your Cat Any NSAIDs



It is absolutely essential that you NEVER give your cat any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs). Common NSAIDs include:

- Aspirin
- Ibuprofen
- Naproxen
- Diclofenac
- Celecoxib

Additionally, NEVER give your cat any acetaminophen. If you give your feline friend any NSAIDs or acetaminophen, you'll be placing them at a high risk for developing blood clotting, ulcers, and kidney damage.

Yes, we realize you may have given one of the medications listed above to your dog, but cats and dogs metabolize NSAIDs very differently. The fact is that cats are 2–5 times more sensitive to NSAIDs than dogs. In other words, NSAIDs and acetaminophen are extremely toxic for cats.

You shouldn't ever give your cat any over-the-counter human medication without talking to your vet first. There are some OTC meds that cats can take, but you need to know what quantity to use first. Your vet can provide you with the answer!

Final Thoughts

There are a ton of home remedies that you can try on your cat—but make sure that you also have a vet handy, just in case you need to contact them with questions. The wisest way to treat your cat with one of the home remedies listed above is to have your vet weigh in on the idea first.

There are certain things that your vet will never approve—such as using an NSAID—but if you want to use a home remedy to get rid of fleas or hairballs, they'll most likely give their approval. If it doesn't work, simply take them to the vet.





Cat Safety

Your cat doesn't mean to act out, but let's face it—they get bored sometimes, and with boredom comes some very poor decisions. Additionally, if you look at their behavior from your cat's point of view, you'll learn that cats are just very, very curious, like the old saying says. Of course, their curiosity could get them into very big trouble!

The good news, however, is that we're here to help. In this article, we'll teach you about the plants that shouldn't be in your home, the garbage they can't seem to avoid, and much more!

Hide Your Cords

Have you ever left a cell phone charger out when you left for the day and then came home to find it shredded? This is a sign that your feline friend has had some fun, but it's probably going to irritate you. If you try to see it from your cat's perspective, though, you'll discover that the cord was just too good to pass up.

For this reason, it's vital to keep your phone charger and other cords safely tucked away. We don't just mean until they reach adulthood, either. For example, my cat Riley is six, but he'll still

occasionally decide to try to kill the vicious beast that is my iPhone charger.

Something else that your kitty might decide to do is begin chewing on a power cord. This may initially seem like it's not a big deal—I mean, power cords are thick! But your cat can absolutely end up chewing through it, which could cause her to get hurt, or even start a fire.

There are two proven ways to prevent this from happening:

- Keep your cords in an organized bundle inside of cardboard tubing.
- Apply a mixture to your cords that's made of hot pepper sauce, cayenne pepper, and a lemon/orange peel.

The first method listed above keeps your cords out of your cat's sight lines. Basically, if the cords aren't hanging around there, then they don't exist—at least to your cat.

The second method is an aversion tactic. We can pretty much guarantee that any kitty won't like the

way that concoction tastes, which will keep them far away. Keep in mind, however, that some cats WILL overcome their initial intolerance enough to continue chewing anyway. Be sure to keep a close eye on them to ensure you won't have any issues.

Medicine And Food

If you assume that your cat can eat a little bit of whatever you're eating, you might just accidentally hurt and/or kill him. The following food items are especially toxic for cats of all ages.

- Onions
- Raw eggs
- Raw bones
- Chocolate
- Alcohol
- Raisins
- Garlic
- Raw meat
- Caffeinated drinks
- Raw dough
- Grapes
- Milk/Dairy products

The inclusion of milk/dairy products may surprise you, but no, it's not a mistake. While some cats can tolerate having a bit of milk or cheese, they'll most likely end up with some digestion problems. To prevent this, it's best not to give your feline friend any milk or dairy. The best—and only—type of milk a cat should drink comes from their mother.

Be Careful With Plants



If you've ever brought a plant or even just a single flower into your home, then you already know that cats are attracted to them. It's quite common for your feline friend to pick at plants, as well as eat part of them. Sadly, this includes plants that can kill your little buddy. Therefore, never bring any of the following plant varieties into your home.

- Spring bulbs
- Autumn Crocus
- Amaryllis
- Azalea

- Castor beans
- Daffodil
- English Ivy
- Hyacinth
- Lily
- Marijuana
- Oleander
- Poinsettia
- Rhododendron
- Spanish Thyme
- Yew
- Chrysanthemum
- Dieffenbachia
- Holly
- Kalanchoe
- Lily of the Valley
- Mistletoe
- Peace Lily
- Pothos (Devil's Ivy)
- Sago Palm
- Tulip

Please be aware that lily poisoning is especially dangerous and can kill a cat. Keep them away from lilies—and everything else listed above—to keep them safe.

You'll be able to tell if your kitty has gotten into any harmful plants by whether or not he shows any of the prime indicators:

- Red or watery eyes
- Itchiness
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Overall weakness
- Diarrhea
- Swelling
- Drooling
- Excessive drinking
- Irregular heartbeat
- Frequent urination
- Vomiting

PLEASE NOTE: This is a good place to take a beat to discuss whether or not your cat knows what's good for her versus what isn't. People will usually say, "He won't get into that, he knows better." This is an odd sentiment, considering how many humans have accidentally been killed by eating something that was bad for them.

Cats don't have a magical function in their brain that helps them differentiate between what's good or bad for them. They might learn to realize that they shouldn't mess with certain things, but only after they've had a negative experience with it. Don't risk the first experience being deadly.

Carpeting

Many cats choose to claw at carpeting, and this is a bad idea for two reasons. First, they're going to damage your carpet. More importantly, they also

run the risk of their claws getting stuck and causing injury. Installing a deep pile carpet can help prevent this issue.

You'll also want to pay attention to any floor rugs you have, too. Kittens absolutely love to hide underneath them, which could cause them to get squished by an unsuspecting human.

Screens And Curtains

Whatever type of curtains you're using will potentially become your cat's jungle gym. That's because cats LOVE to climb things, and the curtains are right there waiting! Unfortunately, this habit can lead to your kitty's claws becoming stuck in the weave. When they try to get free, it could lead to a muscle injury. Then you'll be stuck with an injured cat and messed up curtains.

The way to safeguard yourself—at least a little bit—is to NOT hang curtains with a loose weave. You'll also want to carefully consider installing vertical blinds rather than horizontal ones. After all, cats are well-known for breaking the slats on horizontal blinds, but they can't do all that damage to the vertical ones.

Regardless of what type of blinds you have, though, you'll want to take steps to prevent your feline friend from getting tangled around the neck or otherwise getting stuck in the pull cords. It may not happen often, but when it does, there can be terrible consequences. If you're not around when they get stuck, it's quite possible that they'll get seriously hurt—or even kill themselves—without meaning to.

PLEASE NOTE: Another way to reduce your cat's interest in your curtains is by giving them a cat tree.



Finally, let's discuss window screens. These wonderful items can give your cat the scent of the wild, which they'll absolutely love. You do need to be careful with them, though. It's possible for your cat to get her claws stuck in the tight netting of a screen (which, again, could lead to a muscle injury). She could also get so excited by something she sees outside that she begins chase and bursts right through the screen.

The best way to minimize the risk of either of these issues is by putting a metal or plastic bar or a piece of wood in place. Ensure that the screen isn't open wide enough for your cat to fit through, and they'll usually avoid clawing it, too.

Buckets And Bags

Just like with small children, leaving plastic bags or buckets sitting out in your house is absolutely not a good idea with cats. Always secure a bucket's lid so nothing can get in, and never leave any plastic bags lying around your home. Cats love to sleep in buckets and plastic bags, but neither one is a safe place for them. Your feline friend could end up suffocating.

It's also critical to never leave any potato chip bags out where your cat can access them. There have been a few news stories about cat and dog owners who forgot about a chip bag on their table, and their pet was able to get into it. Sadly, putting their head into a bag is much easier than pulling it back out. As a result, some animals panic and end up suffocating themselves.

The Garbage Can

Whether your cat used to be a stray and literally ate out of garbage cans or has never had to do such a thing, they're all the same—the smell of garbage can be appealing to them. Not only can they get into the can and knock it over, but they could also get seriously hurt if they happen across some onions, grapes, chicken bones, etc.

ID Collar

Keeping an ID collar on your cat's neck is a fantastic way to safeguard them if they happen to get lost. You can also choose to microchip your pet, which is another great way to help keep them safe.



Your best bet is to do both things. That way, your neighbors can quickly know that it's your cat. Or, if he ends up at a vet or shelter, they can scan for a microchip and get him back to you.

Spay Or Neuter Your Cat

This may seem like a no-brainer, but there are still plenty of cat owners who don't get this taken care of. Not spaying or neutering them will make their life more difficult than it needs to be, and they're not likely to live for as long, either. And, of course, if you spay or neuter your feline friend, you won't have to worry about him or her adding to the world's cat population.

According to the ASPCA, approximately 1.4 million cats are euthanized in the US alone each year. The majority of these cats are perfectly healthy and adoptable. Don't add to these numbers because you didn't take the time to spay or neuter your cat.

Vaccinate Your Cat

Every cat owner should ensure their pet is fully vaccinated, but it's especially critical if you let your cat go outside. Cats that are allowed to wander unprotected can pick up a feline upper respiratory infection (cat flu), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV+ is often referred to as cat AIDS), etc. Protect

them from these diseases by getting them regular vaccinations.

You'll also want to give your cat some protection against fleas, ticks, and worms. Taking the laissez-faire approach to your cat's health is never a good plan.

Keep Your Environment In Mind

What's in your immediate surroundings? For me, there is a busy freeway that I can see from my windows. There's also a neighborhood with lots of delivery trucks driving in and out every single day. As if these things weren't bad enough, my town also happens to have a coyote problem.

If your neighborhood has even one of the problems that mine does, you must take extra protective measures. I feel extremely fortunate that Riley made it to me as a stray cat with all of these local dangers, and I don't want to take any more chances. That's why he's an indoor cat only.

Your situation may be much, much better, but there are always dangers to be aware of. Knowing what your area's dangers are is the first step toward protecting your cat from them.

Use A GPS Tracker



Does your cat go outside? Another way you can protect him is to use a GPS tracker. These convenient and relatively inexpensive devices will allow you to know where he is at all times. If it seems like he's been gone for too long, check the tracking app and go get him!

As an added bonus, some GPS trackers feed into activity trackers. In other words, you'll be able to tell

at a glance how active your cat is and whether there has been any notable changes to his activity levels.

Always Provide Enough Food And Water

Is your cat getting everything she needs to thrive? Remember, it's easy for a cat to become dehydrated, and they don't tend to eat if you don't offer them something they like. The best way to make sure your cat is doing okay is to provide dry food, wet food, and a water bowl that's NOT positioned right next to their food.

Train Your Cat How To Get Home

Let's say that your cat regularly goes roaming around your neighborhood. The good news is that he's getting exercise. The bad news, though, is that it can be very tough to locate him. What you'll want to do to make it much easier is train your cat to respond to your voice. Whether you are regularly calling their name, offering them treats, giving them lots of affection, etc., getting your cat used to coming to you when you call can eliminate most worries.

When I was growing up, I can remember my mother calling for her cat, Shannon—who also happened to be the neighborhood scrapper. Despite this, Shannon would drop pretty much anything and respond when she was called. This is the same type of connection you'll need to build with your feline friend.

Watch The Temperature

Most people assume that since cats have been alive for millions of years, they must also be able to survive whatever type of weather nature throws their way. This couldn't be further from the truth, though. You MUST keep your cats inside once the temperature drops below 45 degrees F. This is VITAL for kittens, sick cats, and senior cats, but it will also keep cats of all ages much more comfortable.

You'll also need to keep your cat indoors if the temperature exceeds 100 degrees F. Yes, despite them loving to seek out the warmest places in your home, they can suffer from heatstroke if the temperature gets too high.

On a side note, the perfect temperature for your cat is right around 86 degrees F. Since you're not going

to keep your heat turned up that high, try to offer them ways to warm up such as a heat-reflecting blanket, space heater, or heating pad.

Keep in mind that your cat will naturally consume about 15% more food during the winter. So, unless you're going to turn your house into a sauna, be prepared to purchase more food for them during the cold months.

Keep Cats Away From Toxic Cleaners

Don't let your cat get too close while you're cleaning. Most cleaners are toxic to cats, including:

- Alcohol
- Bleach
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Chemical compounds with the word "phenol"

Don't Use Incense Or Essential Oils

If you burn incense in your home, you'll need to stop immediately. Burning incense can cause cats to develop asthma. The smoke can make your cat cough, and there are suspected carcinogens released when you burn it. On top of this, your cat's sense of smell is 14 times higher than yours, so they really don't like it!

Essential oils can also harm your cat whether they're diffused or directly applied. The following oils are especially toxic and should NEVER be used around your feline friend:

- Wintergreen
- Citrus
- Ylang Ylang
- Cinnamon
- Clove
- Tea tree
- Sweet birch
- Pine
- Peppermint
- Pennyroyal
- Eucalyptus

Final Thoughts

As you can see, being a cat owner isn't super easy, like many people think it will be. You must take care to avoid things such as essential oils if you want your cat to live a long, healthy life. Review this article closely and make the necessary changes for your cat's safety!

Welcome to the wonderful world of cat ownership! To help get your kitty started off on the right paw, we've assembled this article full of tips for new cat owners. You and your new pet will need to figure some stuff out on your own, but for everything else, we've got you!

Top Tips For New Pet Owners

Which things should you take care of first? And what type of action will help you bond? Read on!

Be Sure Your Cat Feels Safe and Secure

This is, ultimately, your main job. If your cat doesn't feel safe and secure, then you've got to do something to make him or her feel that way. Don't worry—some cats take a while to warm up to their special humans. In fact, it's completely normal for your kitty to feel shy and/or nervous at first. You see, cats don't like to move from one home to another, and it's going to take a bit before he or she becomes accustomed to all the new scents and sounds of your place.

So, how can you help your feline friend during this process? Begin by giving your cat her own designated space. Give her a comfy blanket, a cat bed, and a couple of toys. Ideally, this area will be in its own room, or at least not in the main room of the house. Creating a safe haven like this will help your kitty acclimate more quickly.

However, if your new little friend still seems nervous after a few days, you can also introduce synthetic cat hormones. These can be delivered via a spray or a diffuser, and their intent is to make your cat feel safe and secure. You see, the pheromones that are emitted smell just like her mother's, which will reduce stress and boost her mental health. Pheromones can also help calm your cat down, which should reduce the chances of spraying and scratching.

Have A Litter Box, Food, And Water Set Up In Advance

The odds are extremely high that you've planned for your new pet. Part of this process involves setting up their space BEFORE they enter your home for the first time.



Choosing where to put his litter box, food, and water will instantly give him some very important clues once he enters your home. Be sure that he knows where to find these critical objects. There are also three highly important things to remember.

- Don't set his water bowl next to his food. This is a common mistake. Instead, set it in a different area of the room.
- Don't put his food or water next to the litter box. In fact, keep them as far away from it as possible.
- A truly secure and happy cat will have two litter boxes. This follows the rule of one + one. For every cat you bring into your home, you should have a litter box, plus one extra that can be shared. Even in single cat households, there are several advantages to providing two litter boxes instead of just one.

If You Have Other Pets, Introduce Them Slowly To Each Other

It's easy to skip this step, but doing so can also cause your home to quickly descend into madness. Instead, you should purposefully place your cat into her own room for a few days. When it's feeding time, give both pets their food on opposite sides of a closed door. This will allow them the opportunity to smell your other pet as they eat, which should forge good feelings.



Other things you can do include swapping their blankets so they get to smell each other and even swapping rooms. The important thing is that each pet has the chance to take in each other's smells in a safe environment. Once they seem to be getting used to each other, you can feed them on opposite sides of a closed gate. If they handle that okay, then you can move on to giving them supervised visits.

Be sure to let them interact with each other. Don't allow either pet to roughhouse too much, but you will need to let them work their hierarchy out. Basically, as long as they're not hurting each other, allow them to explore each other.

The Biggest Lesson A Cat Teaches Is About Consent

You want to be a good cat owner, right? Well, this requires you to humble yourself a bit. Cats will absolutely come to love and care about their owner. However, unlike a dog, your feline friend will NOT want your attention all the time.

Pay attention to your cat's moods and cycles. Learn to pick up on the subtle body language that he'll put off if he's not interested in playing. By respecting your cat's need for some private time, you'll actually enrich your bond.

If you fail to notice the signals he's putting off, you're likely to get nipped or clawed. Don't become angry at your cat for doing this. He's simply trying to tell you that you've crossed a line and had better back up. In fact, arguably the most important lesson your cat has to teach you is about consent. If you can learn to read his body language and only approach when he wants you to, you'll have a much happier cat-owner bond.

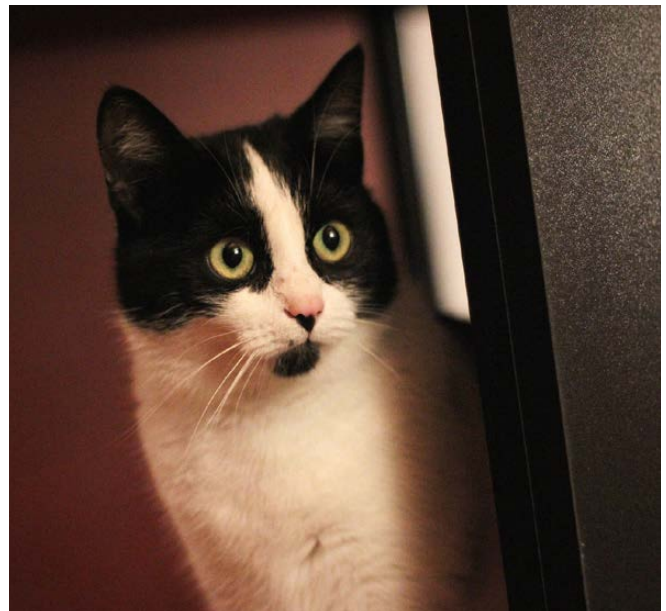
Feed Them High-Quality Food

There are so many cat food options available that it can become tricky to know what's what. The first thing you need to be aware of is that you should always feed your cat food that's specific to her life stage. In other words, feed kitten food to kittens, adult food to adults, and senior food to senior cats. Never feed outside of their life stage (e.g., giving senior food to a kitten).

Secondly, you'll need to learn how to read cat food labels. The most critical thing is that there are real meat products in the first position and, preferably, in the first few positions.

Remember, cats are obligate carnivores, which means that they **MUST** eat meat to keep living. Yes, we're aware of all the different ethical boundaries, but there is absolutely no choice about this. As a vegetarian, I proudly feed my cat meat because I know that's the **ONLY** way to keep him healthy. If this is something you just can't do, then please don't get a cat. A dog is an omnivore, meaning it can survive on a meat-free diet. But **DON'T** do this to your cat.

Schedule A Vet Visit



Some animals (and people) are like the boy who cried wolf. You won't have to worry about this with your cat, though. Felines naturally hide their pain, and they're quite good at it. This means your cat could be dealing with a serious issue, but they'll almost never clue you in to it.

The way to break through their resistance is by scheduling a vet visit. Be sure to do this within the first week or two that you own them. Preferably, they should visit the vet before they're given the chance to interact too closely with any other pets in your home, just in case.

While you've got them at the vet, consider getting them microchipped. This is one of the best things you can do to keep your feline friend safe. Other things that will help include getting them vaccinated and providing them with flea and tick protection. That last one is especially important if you've decided to let them go outside sometimes.

Try Different Litter In Their Box

The first litter you give to your cat might work perfectly. However, if your cat doesn't bury her poop and/or seems to have reluctance to use the box, you'll need to try a different litter.

You should also pay close attention to the type of litter box you give her. Many people buy a box with a lid, but there is a potential problem. If you've got other pets, your cat might feel like she's trapped inside a covered box instead of protected. This can happen because cats and other pets seem to enjoy ambushing each other in the litter box.

If this happens, go for an open box instead. It might not look—or smell—as nice, but it'll make your kitty feel more secure in her new environment. And ultimately, if this isn't more important to you, then you might want to rethink your decision to get a cat.

Pick Your Cat's Food And Water Locations Creatively

Every cat needs to have a minimum of one food bowl and one water bowl. However, to make them truly feel happy, try to provide a minimum of two water bowls.

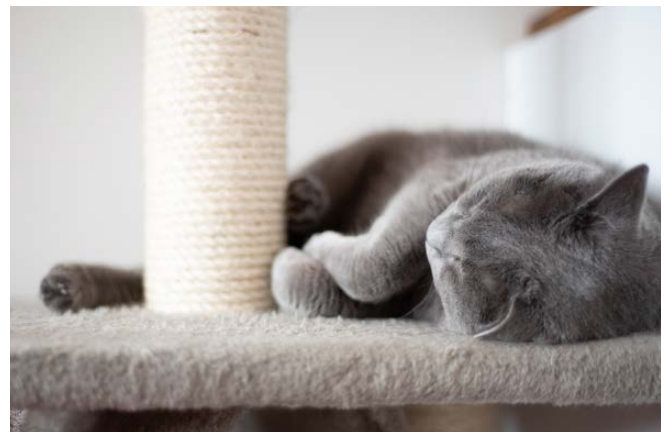
As to water placement, we've said this before but it bears repeating—DON'T set their water dish too close to their food dish. You see, in the wild, a cat assumes that water resting closely to their food has become contaminated. Avoid this issue by providing a lot of space between their food and water bowls.

You may also want to try giving them a water fountain bowl, as it oxygenates the water and will, therefore, taste fresher.

Be aware, however, that some cats won't take to a water fountain. So, once again, you're going to need to use some trial and error to find out what type of bowl your cat wants to drink from.

Regarding their food placement, if you've got a dog or other pet that'll try to steal the cat food, put it where your cat can reach but your dog can't. There are even some food bowls that attach to a window!

Put Cat Scratchers In Place



Have you been yelling at your kitty for clawing up your house? If so, you might as well yell at yourself for eating because they're both natural acts. Cats instinctively claw objects because it helps them mark their territory, allows them to stretch out their bodies, and removes the dead outer layers of their claws.

What should you do to encourage their natural behavior while discouraging them from destroying your furniture? It's really quite simple—put several cat scratchers in place. Praise them effusively when they use a cat scratcher instead of your furniture. Set them up so that they block the areas you don't want them to claw, and they'll learn where they should claw versus where they shouldn't.

Create An Enticing Environment Indoors

It's perfectly understandable if you wish to keep your cat indoors. It will keep them much safer, and they're likely to live a longer, healthier life. On the downside, it can also cause them to become

bored. Therefore, you're going to need to create an environment for them that keeps them safe yet doesn't bore them.

Set up a cat tree, give them a kitty condo, use window perches, set up a bird feeder that they can see, and give them access to a lot of toys (and make sure some of them are catnip toys!). Additionally, set aside about 30 minutes per day to play with them. You can also give them an old tablet so they can play games that were specifically made for cats. My cat absolutely LOVES these games, and he's much happier ever since I gave him my old Kindle Fire.

Learn What Games She Loves To Play And Play Them!

Whether your cat is into playing hide and seek, tag, or prefers to run after one of their toys to play fetch with it (or, like my cat, runs after their toy and then looks at you to pick it up for him), this is a fantastic way to enjoy playtime together. For those times when you can't play with her, though, provide some interactive toys so she can self-play in style!

You can also keep her mind engaged by using clicker training. And, yes, before you ask, your cat CAN be trained. Common commands include:

- Gentle – Use this to ensure she treats your hands in a gentle manner.
- Find It – Once your cat gets used to this command, you can play the shell game with your hands or various containers.
- Target – Use the clicker and provide a reward whenever your cat finds the object you want her to target. Keep it within two inches from her nose at first.
- Sit – Teach her to sit by clicking the button and providing a reward whenever she naturally sits. Be sure to include the word “sit.” Over time, she'll figure out what to do!
- On Your Mat and Stay – Give your cat a mat that's just for her. Click the clicker once she steps on it. Toss her a treat, then repeat the process. Gradually introduce the phrase “on your mat.” Once she masters this, begin working on the “stay” command. Over time, you'll be

able to determine where she should stay when you're busy.

- Come – Yes, a cat CAN learn to come on command. Simply share a positive experience—such as shaking her treat bag—with the word “come.” Reward her with a click and some treats once she completes the command. Over time, phase out the clicking and treats, and she'll still come!
- In the Cat Carrier (or In the Box) – You can teach your cat to go right into her cat carrier (or into a specific box). Bring out the cat carrier well before you'll need it. Get her to jump into it, then click and reward. Add in the phrase “in the cat carrier,” and she'll begin to figure out what you mean. Keep at it, and your cat will soon hop right into her carrier when it's time to go to the vet.

Be aware that cat training is a very intense activity for your feline friend. We suggest that you stop training after five minutes. To let her know she's done great, play with her with a stuffed animal or feather flyer. Make sure she “wins” by getting to carry her toy off.

Let Him Enjoy A Little Outside Fun

Doing this does NOT mean you have to let them go outside unsupervised. Instead, you should use an enclosed space such as a cat tent or catio. That way, they can't go wandering off and get hurt, but they'll still have the fun of being outside.

If you're feeling it, try using a harness and leash on your cat but ALWAYS test this new equipment indoors first. Once they get used to it, try going for a small walk around your yard. If they still like it, you can take them with you almost anywhere!

Final Thoughts

Bringing a new pet into your life is rewarding, but it also has its challenges. You can review this article for tips on how to make the challenges feel way less demanding. Also, be honest with yourself. Are you really ready for cat ownership? If the answer is yes, set your house up to welcome a new addition and then go adopt yourself a new feline friend!

Living with a cat is easy, but transporting them to the vet, a new home, etc. is definitely NOT. Fortunately, we're here to give you the tips and tricks of helping your kitty get from point A to point B without anyone getting hurt. Be sure to pay attention because this article might just save you from fracturing your relationship with your feline friend.

Traveling In A Vehicle

The following tips will make it much easier to drive with your cat. Be sure that you follow ALL of them.

Always In Their Carrier

I'm sure you've seen cute pictures of cats wandering throughout a vehicle, but I bet you didn't see the un-cute aftermath. For your cat's safety and yours, never let them out of their carrier while inside the car. Additionally, you'll need to secure their carrier so that they don't bounce around too much. To do this, you'll need to secure a seatbelt around the front of the carrier.

Keep Them In The Back Seat

We know—if you're traveling alone with your cat, you probably want them to ride shotgun, right? Well, this would be a bad decision for everyone involved. The reason? If you're involved in a traffic accident with your pet in the front seat, they're at risk of suffering injuries when the airbag goes off. Therefore, any pet you're transporting must be seat belted in place in the backseat.

Keep Your Cat's Head Inside The Vehicle At All Times

Although this step mostly applies to dogs, there have been a few cats that have also enjoyed sticking their head out the window. Do NOT let them do this, however. There are actually quite a few things that can harm them if you decide to do this anyway.

For instance, there are particles of debris in the air that could hurt your feline friend. Plus, they can get sick as a result of having cold air forced into their lungs. It's just not worth the risk.



Best Ways To Transfer Fifi

Keep Their Entire Body Inside The Vehicle, Too

How many times have you passed a pickup truck that's had a pet carrier in the open backend? Or, worse, had a pet carrier on top of the roof? The answer should be zero times, but we know it's not.

Responsible pet ownership means keeping your kitty safe at all times, and attaching them outside the vehicle is NOT the way to do this. If you must transport a pet, be sure that they're safe and secure inside your car.

Give Them Plenty Of Rest Stops

As a human, you can probably push your limits by driving several hours without taking a stop. But you're no longer driving alone, and your cat friend will need more frequent stops than you might be used to taking. Use these stops to clean up their carrier, give them food, allow them to use a litter box, etc.

Please note that you should NEVER open the car door when your cat isn't inside his or her carrier. If you decide to take them for a walk, be sure that your kitty is wearing a collar, ID tag, and a leash. This is for their safety, and it'll also prevent them from getting away.

Travel In Pairs, If Possible

Being in the driver's seat with a fussy cat isn't easy. Some cats will yowl for literally HOURS. If you bring a friend with you, though, it should make the process go much more smoothly. Have the other person sit in the backseat with your cat. That way, she or he can hear frequent words of support and praise, which should help calm them down.

Another nice thing about having a friend with you is that you can each take turns. When they're behind the wheel, you can be giving your feline friend the love he or she needs.

Do NOT Leave Your Pet Alone In The Car



Here's the facts—if you leave your cat alone in your car when it's 72 degrees F outside, it'll heat up to 116 degrees within one hour. Even worse, on an 85 degree day, even with the windows slightly open, the inside of your vehicle can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. And, if it reaches 120 degrees in your car—which can happen rather easily—your kitty will most likely suffer from irreversible organ damage, and they might even die.

So, what do you do if you want to go into a rest area? If you're traveling with a friend, the two of you should take turns. If you're not, turn the air conditioner on in your vehicle and put a sign in the window that says, "A/C is on for the cat." Without this sign, someone could break a window and/or contact the police. Do yourself a favor and be sure you've got a sign.

Be aware that there is one major risk, even if you leave the A/C on. Someone could decide to break into your vehicle and steal your pet. Therefore, don't

leave your cat alone for more than a few minutes, regardless of what you have to take care of.

Traveling By Airplane

This isn't the best way to travel with your pet, but sometimes it can't be avoided. Be sure to do everything in your power to give them a smooth, uneventful flight.

Air Travel: Why You Should Consider Other Options

Be sure to weigh all the pros and cons of bringing your cat on an airplane. If you've got a cat with a "pushed in" face, such as a Persian, be aware that air travel is especially hazardous. Because they have a short nasal passage, they'll be extra vulnerable to heat stroke and oxygen deprivation.

Before you decide to book your flight, take the time to consider other options. Are you sure you can't drive to your destination? Or, alternatively, how about hiring a cat sitter so that your feline friend can stay at home? If neither of these options works, have you considered putting your cat in a kennel?

Pet owners are sometimes remiss when it comes to ensuring their cat stays in the most comfortable situation possible. Therefore, ask yourself one big question: will my cat be better off on the plane or staying at home? In most cases, you'll find that leaving them at home with a sitter is the much wiser choice, despite the fact that you'll miss them.

Visit The Vet Before Flying



If you've considered all your options and still need them to fly with you, be sure to visit the vet. In fact, the majority of airlines will require you to provide a

health certificate, which is only available from a vet. This certificate means that your cat isn't battling any illnesses that make her more susceptible to heat or stress. It'll also indicate that your cat is up-to-date on her vaccinations.

Be Aware Of Your Destination's Pet Rules

When you fly to Hawaii or an international destination, the odds are high that your kitty will need to go through quarantine. You'll have to pay for this time period, and it could last as long as 120 days.

In Hawaii, there are three different types of quarantine.

- 120 days – \$1,080 per pet
- 5 days (or less) – \$244 per pet
- Direct release – \$185 per pet

Qualifying for anything other than a 120-day quarantine involves extra requirements. If you wish to use the 5 days (or less) program, you'll have to meet all of the following:

- Your cat must have had a minimum of two rabies vaccines. The second one needs to have been received 30+ days after the first.
- Your cat's rabies vaccination needs to have been given more than 30 days ago. You may visit Hawaii within 12 months of the vaccine (or within 36 months of the vaccine for a 3-year vaccine).
- Your feline friend must be microchipped.
- A blood sample must be sent to an approved laboratory.
- Your pet must complete the waiting period.
- You must go through a 30-day pre-arrival period.

Again, ask yourself if it's truly worth it to put your buddy through this process. When they're in quarantine, you'll be allowed to visually observe them once. That's it. Truly, unless you're moving to Hawaii or will be there for an extensive amount of time, it's best to leave them at home with a sitter.



Still Want To Fly With Your Cat? Ask About Flying Them In The Cabin

Okay, so you understand all the risks, the waiting time, and the extra expense, and you still want to fly with your cat. The next thing you should do is contact your airline to see if he or she can fly in the cabin with you. Do NOT delay, and give your airline as much time as possible to accommodate your request. There is a limit to the number of pets that may be in the cabin, and you don't want to miss out.

Most airlines allow housecats of any size, but there are size restrictions in place for dogs. It is also possible that if you have a really big cat like a Maine Coon, that they might not be allowed in the cabin.

Questions To Ask Before Making A Final Decision

Be sure to call your airline and ask the following questions.

- Can I bring my cat with me in the cabin?
- Do you have any special immunization requirements and/or health requirements for my cat?
- Is there a specific carrier that must be used? Is a soft-sided carrier allowed?
- If you're unable to fly with your cat in the cabin, does the airline have any restrictions on transporting your kitty in the cargo area?

Use Precautions When Going Through Security

Your cat's carrier will need to be x-rayed by security. There are two ways to accomplish this:

- Take your cat out of his carrier (be sure you have a secure hold on him).
- Request a special secondary screening so that your cat can stay in his carrier.

There are pros and cons to both approaches. If you have the time for a secondary screening, this will be in your cat's best interests.

Know The Risks Of Traveling In The Cargo Area

Most pets will travel without any issues. You can't be too careful, though, and you need to be aware that there are animals that get lost, injured, or killed while flying in the cargo area.

In February 2023, there were three incidents. One pet was killed while traveling on an Alaska Airlines flight, and two more died while being transported by American Airlines.

Interestingly, Alaska Airlines is regarded as the most pet-friendly airline for 2023. On a scale of 1-5, they earned a 4.1 rating from NerdWallet. United Airlines, on the other hand, came in 9th place (last) on the list with a 1.5 rating.

Use These Tips For Cargo Hold Traveling

Despite knowing that the cargo hold isn't the best place for pets, you'll sometimes have no other choice. Therefore, use the following tips to keep your feline friend as safe as possible.

- **Use a Direct Flight** – This will help you avoid mistakes that could get your cat lost.
- **Travel on the Same Flight** – Ask if you can watch them being loaded/unloaded, too.
- **Notify the Captain** – Let the captain know that your pet is in the cargo area. This may lead him or her to take special precautions.
- **Don't Ship a Persian Cat in the Cargo Area**
- **Put a Travel Label on the Carrier** – Put your phone number, address, name, and your destination on the label.
- **Clip Your Cat's Nails First** – This can protect them from getting hooked by crevices, holes,

their carrier door, etc.

- **Provide Them with Time to Get Used to Their Carrier** – To minimize stress, be sure they have at least 30 days to get used to their carrier before they fly.
- **Only Give a Pet Tranquilizer if Your Vet Prescribes One** – Be sure your vet knows that you'll be flying with your pet.
- **No Food for 4-6 Hours Before the Flight** – This can prevent them from throwing up. Also, don't place a water bowl in their carrier. You can, however, attach some ice cubes inside their carrier.
- **Avoid Holidays and Summer Travel** – These hectic time periods will come with less care given to your pet.
- **Have a Current Photograph** – If anything happens to your cat, having a current photograph could make a huge difference.
- **Examine Your Pet Closely After Flying** – Check your cat over and look for anything wrong. If your cat doesn't seem quite right, take them to a vet immediately. Get your vet to give you documentation about what may have happened to them and when.

If You See Something, Say Something

If you happen to witness any mistreatment of a pet—regardless of whether it's yours—ask to speak to a manager. Be sure the mistreatment is documented.

Traveling By Ship



Although it's unlikely to be an issue, there are a few cruise lines that allow pets. The specific ships that do allow pets—aside from assistance dogs—must usually be crossing an ocean. Be aware that even the ships that allow your cat may require he or she be kept in the ship's kennel. It's probably easier for everyone involved if you leave your cat at home with a sitter.

Traveling By Train

Amtrak has changed its policies, which is good news for pet owners. Now, there are select trains that allow you to bring your cat on board. There are also some smaller train companies in the US that will allow you to bring your cat.

If you're going to be traveling in Europe, the odds are good that your cat will be allowed to join you. It will be your responsibility to ensure your feline friend is able to exercise, be fed, etc.

Final Thoughts

Before you decide to travel with your cat, be sure to ask yourself what you're hoping to accomplish.

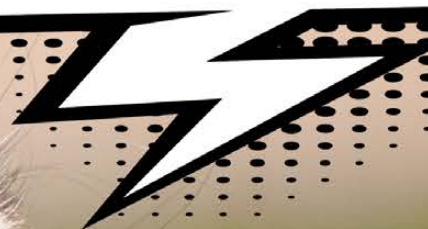
Some pet owners have gotten so used to traveling with their dog, that they don't take the time to think about the many ways that traveling with their cat is different.

For the most part, dogs get very excited when they have the opportunity to get in the car. Meanwhile, most cats absolutely hate it. I had a cat who would literally yowl for the ENTIRE trip, regardless of how safe I made her. You'd better believe that cat only traveled when I moved. When I took a 3-½ week trip to Europe, for example, she stayed home with a sitter, and she was very happy to do so.

Knowing your cat's personality is the first step toward deciding what they will or won't want to do. If you have an adventurous daredevil who likes leash walking, you might have a travel companion. Otherwise, do yourself and your cat a big favor by leaving him or her at home.



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