

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR CAT

"Cats weren't sacred in ancient Egypt for nothing" (me, 2019)
by Julia Aoki

0.1- INTRODUCTION

If you have a cat you know that taking care of one isn't easy. They can and will wake you up at 3 in the morning ^{on} in a Saturday because they dropped some food in their water and they need a new water bowl. You also know that once you get a cat, everything you own is now theirs.

If you don't own a cat, but plan to have one, first you need to know what a cat is. This is a cat:

Keep in mind that most of what I'll be covering here only applies to cats that live inside, as cats that live outside can take care of themselves pretty well, so you won't have to worry about things like trimming their nails or playing that much.



1- CLAWS & FURNITURE

First off, a cat's claws (or as I like to call them, stabby slishy slashers of death, pick your favorite) can cause quite some damage to your furniture. There are a couple of ways to deal with that, you can cover your furniture, trim their claws, or try to teach them that sharpening their claws on furniture is wrong. Good luck trying that last one.

They also like knocking things off high shelves, that's just how cats are, you'll have to figure that out yourself (and if you do, please tell me how to make them stop).

Don't declaw your cat, that's just mean, and can cause serious damage to their paws. Just don't.

However, I'm not going to say that and give you no solution (this time), so to the right you'll see how to properly trim your cat's nails. Trim them every two weeks.



Be careful not to cut the quick.

2- NUTRITION

Cats need food, and you'll be providing it to them. Cats eat depending on their size, weight and age, bigger adult cats eat more than young and small cats (pretty straightforward). Cats should be fed once or twice a day, at morning and night. Always have a bowl of clean water available for them to drink from. ✓

Contrary to what you may have seen on the internet, cats can eat raw meat and fish (they're carnivores and hunters after all), milk and chocolate (in small quantities). ✓



Fun fact: a cat's liver is so powerful, cats can rehydrate by drinking saltwater and they won't get any bad side effects from it (if humans tried that, they'd die of dehydration) ✓

Fun facts about cats:

- Cats are one of the most popular pets in the world
- There are more than 500 million domestic cats in the world
- Cats and humans have been together for nearly 10000 years
- Cats can live from 12 to 15 years
- Cats were sacred in Ancient Egypt.
- Bast is the Egyptian goddess of cats

3- LITTER

You might also need to worry about litter. I mean, you don't *have* to, but I'd recommend getting a litter box. ✓

To teach your cat how to use the litter box instead of, say, your dining table, you should show them where the litter box is when you first get them, and put them there every time they act like they need to do their thing. Luckily some cats learn how to use it themselves. Cats are smart. ✓

Put the litter box in a room you don't use much. Again, you don't *have* to. I would recommend the laundry or garage, or your bedroom too, don't let me tell you what to do. Clean it every couple of days and change the sand every week. Remember to use a good litter sand to avoid getting bad smells and other unpleasant things all over your- sorry, your cat's house. ✓

On an unrelated note, cat's can throw up a hairball every couple of weeks, and you can't teach them how to do it in a specific place, so you'll have to get used to cleaning that up. They can do that in pretty well hidden places, my cats have left those little gifts under my bed and behind the washing machine, so if you don't see any, start looking for them, as they can smell bad too. ✓

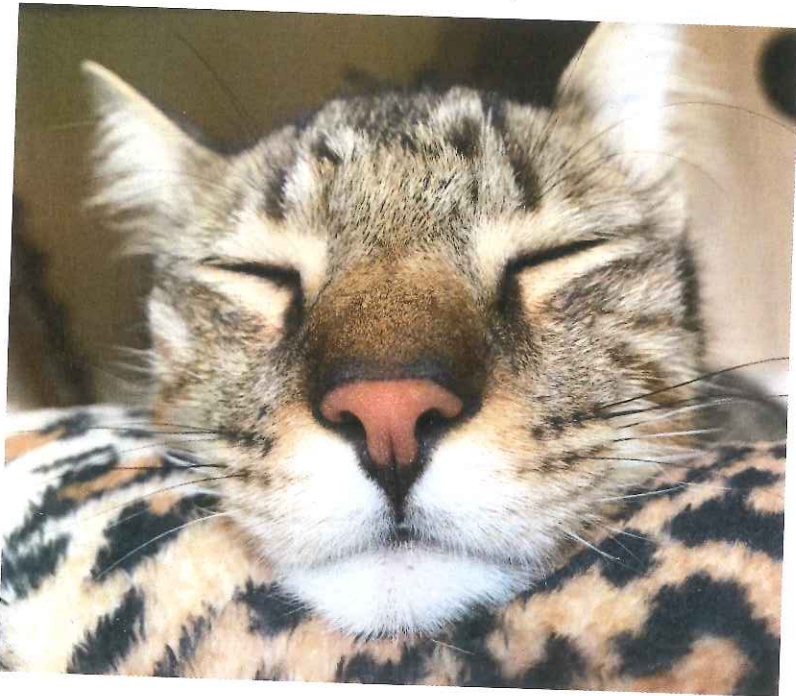
4- PLAYING

Cats are hunters by nature, so they're very active (when they're not sleeping), and they need exercise to stay healthy. You should play with them a couple of times a day for 10-15 minutes, or for however long they might want you to play with them. Use toys and strings, or your hands, trust me, use your hands, they'll like it. ✓

Cats also like to be petted, remember to pet them whenever they want you to, and you can't stop until they ask you to either. ✓

Be aware that if they offer you their belly that could either mean petting a cloud or getting caught in a trap of teeth and claws, pet at your own risk. ✓

Cats also sleep an average of 12-15 hours a day, so let them rest when they want to. Remember, the more you respect their space, the more they'll trust you. ✓



5- BATHS

Now, the part you've been waiting for, if you've been waiting for the part where I tell you how to deal with bathing your cat. Unfortunately, there's not much I can help you with. It's going to be hard, and potentially painful. Use warm (not hot) water and make it quick. Good luck. ✓

Some cats do like water, if you're lucky, you'll be blessed with one of those, then just bathe them normally. ✓

Don't use banana scented shampoo. It smells bad. Don't. ✓

0.2- THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Cats like boxes, paper bags, or anything that gives them a good place to hide. Always have one for them so they can relieve their stress there. ✓

Cats can and will take up half of your bed while sleeping. ✓

Although it may look like they don't care about you, they do. I speak from experience, since my parents thought my cat was sick when I was away from home for a while, turns out he just missed me. ✓

Well, that's all! I hope this helped you with some questions you might have had. Have fun with your new companion! ✓