


FELINE FORUM

Courtesy of:



Man's New Best Friend is ... His Cat

 Canine companions have been hounded out by catty competition as man's new best friend. Research conducted by Cats Protection, the UK's largest feline charity, reveals that cats are the purr-fect pal, with both men and women saying they would prefer to wake up with their kitty (46 percent) than their partner (26 percent).


Long gone is the image of a cat as a "girls" pet, although 98 percent of single women would prefer to date someone who loves cats and, among women who are attached, 86 percent said that a cat enhances, or could enhance, their relationship. The research also showed that both sexes believe that having a feline friend reflects what kind of person you are, with 94 percent saying that owning a cat showed you were "caring," 83 percent said "kind" and 36 percent said "sensual."

UK owners surveyed also said that curling up with their cat was a great way to beat stress. When feeling uptight, those questioned would much rather have a snuggle and a stroke with their cat than have a massage (66 percent), phone a friend (64 percent), or have a drink (52 percent).

Reasons for liking cats include:

- Affection — 57 percent said they were affectionate.
- Independence — 49 percent preferred their independence.
- Cleanliness — 46 percent liked the fact that cats are clean.
- Exercise — 27 percent were attracted by the fact that they don't have to walk a cat.
- Low maintenance — 24 percent said cats were low maintenance.


Top Ten Reasons for Relinquishment

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|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|  | 1. Too many in the house | 7. House soiling |
| | 2. Allergies | 8. Personal problems |
| | 3. Moving | 9. Inadequate facilities |
| | 4. Cost of pet maintenance | 10. Doesn't get along with other pets |
| | 5. Landlord issues | |
| | 6. No homes for littermates | |



The information for Feline Forum has been prepared by the Cornell Feline Health Center, Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY. Copyright 2003

Supplies for Cat Households

 Preparing for a new cat isn't as complicated as it may seem:

LITTER BOX AND LITTER. Shallow enough for the cat to jump into easily, the sides of the pan should be high enough to contain scattered litter as the cat scratches. You probably won't have to train your cat to use the litter box, but you will need to show him or her where to find it.

CAT DISHES. Each cat should have his or her own food and water dishes. These must be shallow because cats like to keep their faces and whiskers clean while they eat.

GROOMING TOOLS. Although cats groom themselves, they usually love to be brushed and combed — they enjoy the attention and the stimulation of being personally attended to. You'll need to clip her nails, too. If you have trouble, ask your veterinarian or groomer for advice or a demonstration.

A SCRATCHING POST. Cats can be easily trained to scratch on a scratching post instead of the sofa arm or table leg. The scratching post should be untippable and have a rough surface like sisal rope or the webbed reverse side of carpet. Don't cover the post with the same kind of fabric that you are trying to protect in your home — that will only confuse your cat.

TOYS. Many common household items, such as small balls and paper bags, make great cat toys. Avoid string, ribbon, or rolls of yarn. Cats' barbed tongues make it difficult for them to spit anything out once they begin to swallow it. Besides the potential for choking, string can cause serious problems if ingested.

Adapted from the Humane Society of the United States

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Supplies for Cat Households



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