



YOUR NEW FURRY FRIEND



Congratulations on getting your new pet, we hope you have lots of fun with your new friend, here are some things to know about having pets.

When you get a pet you and your family are responsible for him/her for their whole life. That could be for 16 or more years! They will need you to love them and care for them even if they get sick and when they get old.



Pets need people to be kind and gentle to them. If you do then they promise to always love you back.



Having a pet is a **BIG** responsibility, it's not only up to your parents to take care of them, you can help too.
Some things you can do to help:

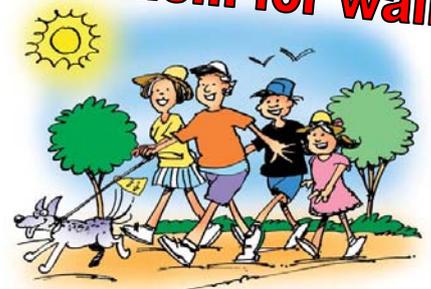
Learn to feed your pet



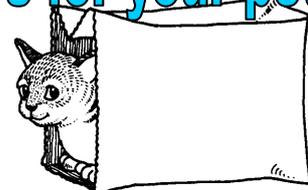
If you're old enough help clean up after your pet.



Play with your pet and help take them for walks



Make some homemade toys for your pet.





What Cats Need to be Happy and Healthy

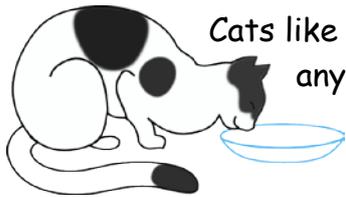
Food Cats eat Cat Food.

Human food is not good for cats and too much human food can make them fat or sick. The best cat food comes in dry biscuits and tins, try not to feed too much or they will get a tummy ache just like you.

Cats don't eat lollies and sweets it can make them really sick.



Water



Cats like fresh clean water, lots of it in summer when it is hot. Cats don't need anything else to drink, sweet drinks like juice or coke can make them sick. And you don't need to give them milk after they leave their mummy.

Shelter and Warmth

Just like you, cats like to be warm and snuggly. It is best for cats to stay inside at night to stop them from getting hurt from car accidents or from fighting with other cats.



Health Care

If your cat gets sick they need to go to the Doctor the same as you. A special animal doctor is called a Veterinarian. You will need to be extra nice to your cat if they are feeling sick.

Grooming

Most cats enjoy getting their fur brushed, it can feel like a massage to them. Cats that have long fur need to be brushed every day so they don't get knots. Most cats don't like water, so you so you don't need to give them a bath like a dog. They will keep themselves clean by licking their fur.





Exercise

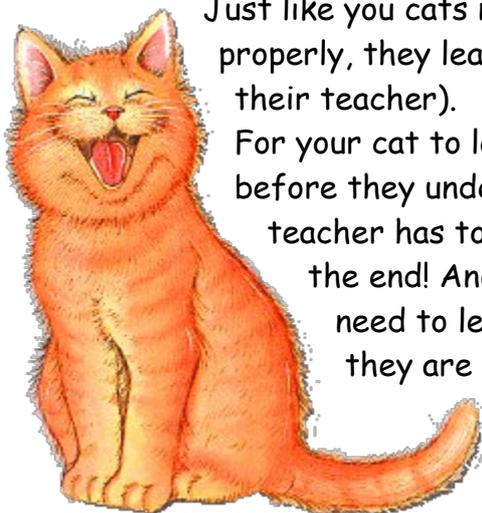
Cats can be very lazy, most cats are used to sleeping all day especially in sunny spots. To get your cat some exercise you will have to play with them. Try a feather teaser, ping pong balls or an empty paper bag to get their attention even a paper ball on the end of string can be fun so long as you are at the other end of it.

Time with You and having FUN

Some cats love to be with their family other cats like to spend time by themselves. If your cat likes to play find some fun things to do together like playing with toys or having cuddles together, if your cat likes to sit quietly with you maybe you could try reading them a story. If you have a cat that likes to be by themselves just let them they will come and see you when they are ready, sometimes that's just the way cats are.



School



Just like you cats need to learn some rules around the house and how to behave properly, they learn what they need to know from you and your family (you are their teacher).

For your cat to learn you will need to show them how to do things many times before they understand. Just like you with maths and reading, sometimes your teacher has to show you five or six times before you get it. But you DO get it in the end! And so will your cat, you just have to be patient. Some things cats need to learn is not to bite, where to go to the toilet and what furniture they are and are not allowed on, like the kitchen bench or dining table.

Kittens are very cute but they have very sharp teeth and claws. Try not to play games with them by waving your hands this will only encourage them to play biting games. If they do bite and pounce on you stand up and walk away, soon your kitten will learn if they get too naughty you wont be there to play with at all.

Here are some websites you might like to visit to learn more about caring for cats:

www.petsonthenet.co.nz

www.petpost.co.nz

www.netpets.co.nz

www.thepetnetwork.co.nz

How to Act Around Cats.



Don't Bother Cats Who Are Eating.

Some cats only like to eat if they have peace and quiet, try to stay away from your cat until they have finished eating

Don't Bother Cats Who Are Sleeping



If you wake a cat who is sleeping by touching them or running up to them they can get a surprise and run away or get scared and try to scratch or bite. To wake up a sleeping cat stand far away and call out their name. If you don't know the cat, don't wake them up just leave them alone

Don't Bother Cats Who Are Old or Not Feeling Well.

Cats who are old may not hear or see very well. They can be surprised or get scared if they don't see you coming and old cats can have sore bodies that may make them grumpier than they used to be. Be gentle and soft with your old cat.



Cats who are sick need quiet time to get better, they usually like to hide so let them sleep as much as they need to. If you want to give them a pat or cuddle ask your parents first and make sure they see you coming, walk up to them quietly and talk softly.

Don't Bother Cats By Teasing Them.

Imagine if you are being teased or bullied by someone else it can upset you and make you angry. It is the same for a cat but when they get angry they can bite or scratch you. Cats will also get upset if their fur, ears, or tails are pulled.

Don't Bother Cats By Crowding Them.

Most cats are not happy if there are lots of people around them, a good rule is to have one person patting the cat at a time. Try to be quiet around cats, they don't like loud noises because this scares them. Some cats don't like being picked up all the time so go down to see them



instead. Remember to ask first if you want to pat a cat you don't know, if there is no one to ask just leave them alone.