

Pet Care of a Cat



Cats are a very popular pet in the UK. They might come and go when they want, but they need careful looking after.

Food and drink	Environment
<p>Cats eat meat. They are not vegetarian.</p> <p>Clean water must be put out for them to drink, so that they stay healthy.</p>	<p>Cats need a dry, comfortable place to live. They often like having a few places to sleep.</p> <p>Cats are easily scared, so they need places where they feel safe. Under beds or on the top of shelves are good places.</p>

Cat Behaviour

If a cat does any of these things, it might mean they are distressed:

- licking themselves a lot;
- hiding more often;
- sleeping hunched up.

If a cat shows this behaviour, it can mean they are in pain:

- being bad tempered or angry;
- disappearing for a long time;
- keeping away from people.



How to treat a cat

Cats will come for a cuddle when they feel ready. You must not try to force them to sit on your knee or be stroked. Remember, each cat is an individual, so will behave differently.

Things to remember:

- Cats need exercise. They need to go outside, or have toys to play with.
- Cats need to scratch their claws to keep them sharp. If they are not given a proper scratching post, they may use the sofa!

Look after them properly, and your cat will be your best friend.



Questions

1. What sort of food do cats need to eat?

2. Why do cats need clean water?

3. Which two adjectives are used to describe the type of place cats need to live in?

4. Where might a cat go to feel safe? Name one place.

5. Name one thing a cat might do to show they are distressed.

6. If a cat starts being bad tempered, what might this mean?

7. What do you need to do if you want a cat to come for a cuddle?

8. Why do cats need to scratch their claws?

9. Think of one thing you have learned about caring for a cat from this text.

Answers

1. What sort of food do cats need to eat?

Cats need to eat meat.

2. Why do cats need clean water?

Cats need clean water to drink and stay healthy.

3. Which two adjectives are used to describe the type of place cats need to live in?

Dry and comfortable are the two adjectives which describe the type of place a cat needs to live in.

4. Where might a cat go to feel safe? Name one place.

Cats might go under beds/on shelves/on a bookcase to feel safe. (Accept one.)

5. Name one thing a cat might do to show they are distressed.

If a cat is distressed they might: lick themselves a lot/hide more often/sleep hunched up.
(Accept one.)

6. If a cat starts being bad tempered, what might this mean?

If a cat starts being bad tempered it might mean they are in pain.

7. What do you need to do if you want a cat to come for a cuddle?

If you want a cat to come for a cuddle, you need to wait for them to come to you.

8. Why do cats need to scratch their claws?

Cats need to scratch their claws to keep them sharp.

9. Think of one thing you have learned about caring for a cat from this text.

Pupil's own response.

Pet Care of a Cat



Cats are a very popular pet in the UK. They don't need to be taken for walks or need to be watched constantly and they can come and go as they please.

However, cats do need to be looked after very carefully.

Food and drink	Environment
<p>Cats eat meat. They are not vegetarian. They need food which is high in protein. Proteins are found in meat and fish.</p> <p>Clean, fresh water must be available all the time, as cats can quickly become very ill, if they are dehydrated.</p>	<p>Cats need a dry, comfortable place to live. They tend to sleep anywhere they like, but it is a good idea to get them their own warm bed.</p> <p>Cats also need a lot of places to hide. Cats are nervous and jumpy, so they need places where they feel safe, like under beds or up high on bookcases or shelves.</p>

Cat behaviour

Cats change their behaviour when they are distressed, bored, ill or in pain.

Signs of distress:

- cleaning themselves a lot;
- hiding more often;
- sleeping in a hunched up position.

Signs a cat is in pain:

- likely to attack;
- disappearing for long periods of time;
- avoiding all people.



Sociable or not?

Cats can be very sociable animals – when they feel like it. They cannot be forced to sit on knees, be friendly or enjoy being stroked, if they are not in the mood.

Things to remember:

- Cats need exercise. They need to go outside, or if they are an indoor cat, need a lot of toys to play with.
- Cats need to scratch their claws. It helps keep claws sharp, and strengthens their muscles. If they are not given a proper scratching post, they will use the furniture!
- If you are going on holiday, and you don't put your cat in a cattery, arrange for someone to come and feed it and keep them company for a while.

Cats are intelligent creatures and can get bored. Give them things to do, keep them properly fed and watered, and they will be your best friend.

Cats do not like a raised voice. They won't understand why it is happening and will make them scared.



Questions

1. Give two possible reasons why cats are a popular choice of pet in the UK.

2. What does it mean when the text says "Cats are not vegetarian"?

3. What might happen if a cat does not have access to clean, fresh water?

4. What sort of environment do cats need to live in?

5. How do cats make themselves feel safe?

6. Why might a cat's behaviour change? Give as many reasons as you can.

7. Give one sign a cat might display if they are in pain.

8. Describe two things a cat cannot be forced to do.

9. Why do cats need to scratch things?

10. What is the general message of the last paragraph?

Answers

1. Give two possible reasons why cats are a popular choice of pet in the UK.

Cats are a popular choice of pet in the UK because they: don't need to be taken for walks, they can be left in the house on their own and they can come and go when they want to. (Accept any two.).

2. What does it mean when the text says "Cats are not vegetarian"?

"Cats are not vegetarian" means they need to eat meat and cannot just eat vegetables.

3. What might happen if a cat does not have access to clean, fresh water?

If a cat does not have access to clean, fresh water, it could become dehydrated and quickly become ill.

4. What sort of environment do cats need to live in?

Cats need to live in a warm, dry environment.

5. How do cats make themselves feel safe?

Cats make themselves feel safe by hiding under beds or up high on shelves or bookcases.

6. Why might a cat's behaviour change? Give as many reasons as you can.

A cat's behaviour might change if they are distressed, bored, ill or in pain.

7. Give one sign a cat might display if they are in pain.

If a cat is in pain it might display a sign (accept any one of the following): likely to attack/disappears for a long time/avoids people.

8. Describe two things a cat cannot be forced to do.

A cat cannot be forced to sit on someone's knee, be friendly or enjoy being stroked. (Accept any two).

9. Why do cats need to scratch things?

Cats need to scratch things because it helps sharpen their claws and strengthens their muscles.

10. What is the general message of the last paragraph?

Pupil's own response based on: The general message of the last paragraph is that if you care for a cat properly, they will be your best friend.

Pet Care of a Cat



Cats are a very popular pet in the UK. They don't need to be taken for walks; they clean themselves; can be left in the house on their own and are independent creatures who come and go as they please - which is just how they like it.

However, cats do need to be looked after very carefully.

Food and drink	Environment
<p>Cats are meat eaters. They cannot be vegetarian. They need foods which are high in protein, to help healthy growth and muscle tone, along with vitamins for healing and good eyesight. Proteins and vitamins are found in meat and fish products.</p> <p>Clean fresh water must be available at all times, as cats can become very ill, very quickly, if they become dehydrated.</p>	<p>Cats need a dry, comfortable environment. They tend to sleep anywhere they feel like, but it is advisable to provide them with their own warm bed.</p> <p>Cats also need a lot of places to hide. Naturally skittish and jumpy, cats need places where they can feel safe. An ideal place is on shelves or up high on bookcases.</p>

Cat behaviour

If cats display unusual behaviour, it can be a sign of distress, boredom, illness or injury.

If a cat is feeling distressed, these are signs to look out for:	If a cat is in pain or feeling frightened, they might:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• grooming themselves more than usual;• frequent hiding;• sleeping in a hunched up, protective position.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• become aggressive;• disappear for long periods of time;• avoid all people.

Cats don't respond well to a raised voice. They won't understand the reasons behind it and loud noises will scare them.



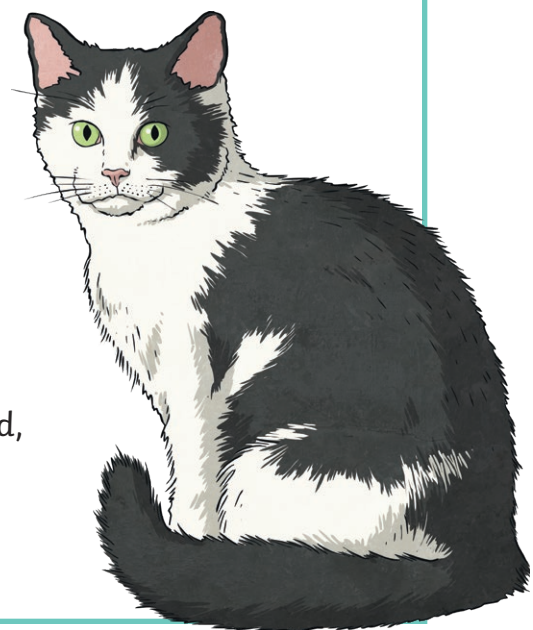
Sociable or not?

Cats can be very sociable animals – when they feel like it. They cannot be cajoled or forced to sit on knees, be friendly or have their head scratched, if they are not in the mood.

They usually prefer to live alone, and will often only tolerate other cats if they have been raised from being a kitten, with them. They don't like to share food, water, litter trays or beds. It can be an expensive business, keeping cats.

Things to remember:

- Cats need exercise. They need access outside, or if they are an indoor cat, need a lot of toys to play with. Sometimes they will need somebody to help them play
- Cats need to be able to scratch. It helps sharpen their claws and strengthens their muscles. If they are not provided with a suitable scratching post, they will use the furniture!
- If you are going on holiday, and you choose not to take your cat to the cattery, make sure someone can come to your house and keep the cat company for a while, each day
- Cats are intelligent creatures and can get bored easily. Keep them entertained, warm, properly fed and watered, with opportunities to find adventures, and they will be your best friend



Questions

1. What does 'cats are independent creatures' mean? Give two examples.

2. If someone you knew was getting a cat, what would you advise them about the food they should be giving it and the reasons for those food choices?

3. In your own words, describe the general character of a cat and why they need places to hide.

4. How would an owner know if their cat was feeling distressed? Give three examples of behaviour.

5. Explain why a cat might become aggressive, and what does that mean?

6. Would it be useful to raise your voice to a cat? Explain your thoughts.

7. What is the paragraph written in italics, about?

Questions

8. What does the word 'tolerate' mean in this text?

9. Which of the points in the section called 'Things to Remember' do you think is the most important point, and why?

10. What sort of person do you think would suit owning a cat? Explain your thoughts.

Answers

1. What does 'cats are independent creatures' mean? Give two examples.

Pupil's own response, based on: cats don't need to be taken for walks/clean themselves/can be left in the house on their own/can come and go as they please.

2. If someone you knew was getting a cat, what would you advise them about the food they should be giving it and the reasons for those food choices?

I would advise someone who was getting a cat, to get cat food that is meaty and high in proteins and vitamins. Cats need protein for help healthy growth and muscle tone, and vitamins for healing and good eyesight.

3. In your own words, describe the general character of a cat and why they need places to hide.

Pupil's own response, but generally based on: Cats are skittish/jumpy/nervous and they need places to hide so that they feel safe.

4. How would an owner know if their cat was feeling distressed? Give three examples of behaviour.

An owner would know that their cat was feeling distressed because it might groom more often, hide a lot more or sleep in a hunched up, protective position.

5. Explain why a cat might become aggressive, and what does that mean?

Aggressive means likely to attack/might scratch someone/growl and hiss. A cat might show these things if they are in pain or frightened.

6. Would it be useful to raise your voice to a cat? Explain your thoughts.

Pupil's own response, based on: No, it would not be useful to raise your voice at a cat as they won't understand why they are being shouted at, and loud noises would scare them.

7. What is the paragraph written in italics, about?

The paragraph written in italics is about how sociable a cat is and that they cannot be forced to do something like sit on your knee or be stroked.

Answers

8. What does the word 'tolerate' mean in this text?

In this text, the word 'tolerate' means to put up with another cat or live happily alongside another cat which it hasn't grown up with.

9. Which of the points in the section called 'Things to Remember' do you think is the most important point, and why?

Pupil's own response.

10. What sort of person do you think would suit owning a cat? Explain your thoughts.

Pupil's own response based on the whole text.