

HEALTHY HABITS, HEALTHY CATS

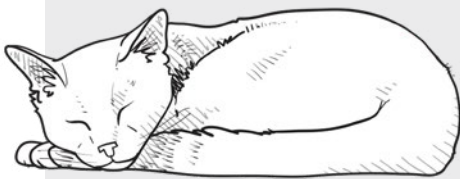


FELINE ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS

Did you know that all cats have basic environmental needs? In fact, most behavioural disorders result from situations where cats are prevented from performing their natural behaviour, which includes hunting, grooming, roaming, sleeping, eating and resting.

These needs can look very different for different cats, and it is important to tailor the environment to best suit your cat's personality.

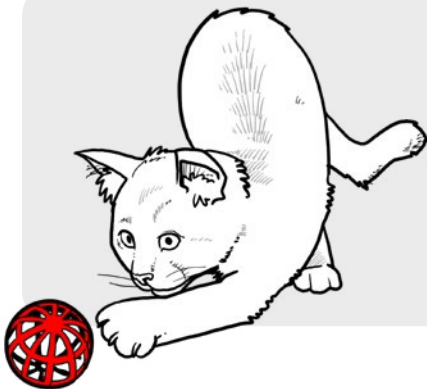
Check to make sure you have everything necessary to meet your cat's basic needs!



A SAFE PLACE

Cats need the ability to hide from potential threats to make them feel safe.

Provide vertical spaces for cats to elevate and withdraw, such as shelves and scratching posts, and improve their visual stimulation with window-seating. Provide opportunities for concealment with boxes, carriers and cat condos. Allow active cats opportunities to explore their environment by providing safe outdoor access with a catio or a harness and leash.



MULTIPLE & SEPARATE RESOURCES

Cats need individual and separate access to resources, including food, water, and areas for toileting, sleeping, scratching, and playing.

Toileting areas should be kept away from other resources. Food stations should be visually separated from other cats and animals.

If you have multiple cats, one resource per cat is necessary, with multiple entrances to avoid competition.



POSITIVE & PREDICTABLE INTERACTIONS

Most cats prefer shorter, more frequent interactions.

Use treats to create positive associations, and clicker train your cat to come to you.

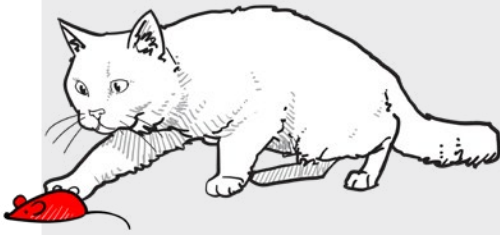
Interact with cats in a calm and quiet environment. Encourage short petting or grooming sessions.

Respect their need to isolate or withdraw, or to stay close, but perhaps without contact.

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PLAY & PREDATORY BEHAVIOURS

Hunting is an innate need and extends beyond the need for food.

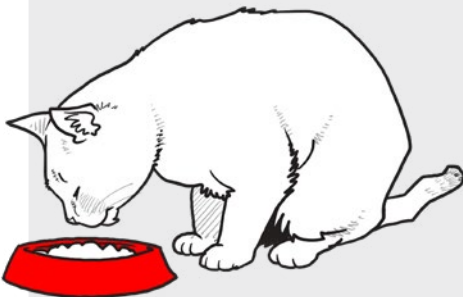
Increase the time used for feeding by using interactive puzzle feeders. Encourage foraging by hiding the kibble around the house. Play sessions should focus on positive reinforcement and increasing stimulation; they should be individual and not interrupted by other cats/animals. Ensure the cat can complete the entire predatory sequence to avoid frustration – allow the cat to capture and consume a treat to replicate the killing and consuming of prey.



RESPECTING SENSE OF SMELL

A cat's sense of smell is 12x greater than humans.

Clean food bowls thoroughly (wet and dry). Avoid strong cleaners and detergents, or scented cat litter. Regularly clean litter boxes with soap and water. Allow cats to mark the area for increased sense of security by providing appropriate scratching opportunities, such as scratching posts and mats.



INDIVIDUAL NUTRITIONAL NEEDS

Cats have individual nutritional needs based on health conditions, diet factors and their own environment and feeding practices. It is important to consult your veterinarian if your cat has any underlying health concerns.

1. Feed in a safe place without interruption by other individuals.
2. Provide multiple and individual feeding locations.
3. Encourage predatory behaviours through puzzle feeders, and by hiding the kibble to encourage foraging.
4. Provide positive interactions by maintaining a consistent feeding schedule or routine.
5. Clean dishes regularly to respect sense of smell.

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