

Important Cat Care Topics

Litter Box

Indoor cats need a litter box. Place one box in each level of a multi-level home. It should be placed in a quiet, accessible location as a bathroom or utility room. Avoid moving the box unless absolutely necessary. Then do so slowly, a few inches a day.

Cats won't use a messy, smelly litter box, so scoop solid wastes out of the box at least once a day. Dump everything, then wash with a mild detergent and refill at least once a week. You can clean less frequently if using clumping litter. Never clean the litter box with ammonia, deodorants or scents, especially lemon.

Scratching

Cats need to scratch! When a cat scratches, the old outer nail sheath is pulled off and the sharp, smooth claws underneath are exposed. Cutting your cat's nails every two to three weeks will keep them relatively blunt and less likely to harm the arms of both humans and furniture.

Provide your cat with a sturdy scratching post, at least three feet high, which will allow her to stretch completely when scratching. The post should also be stable enough that it won't wobble during use, and should be covered with rough material such as sisal, burlap or tree bark. Many cats also like scratching pads. A sprinkle of catnip once or twice a month will keep your cat interested in her post or pad.

Grooming

Most cats stay relatively clean and rarely need a bath, but you should brush or comb your cat regularly. Frequent brushing helps keep your cat's coat clean, reduces the amount of shedding and cuts down on the incidence of hairballs.

The No-No List:

Do not feed your cat:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Grapes & raisins
- Moldy or spoiled food
- Onions, garlic & chives
- Poultry bones
- Salt & salty foods
- Tomato leaves, stems & unripe fruit
- Yeast dough

*Cats will also chew on any plant that is in your house. You may consider removing them from your pets reach as some have the ability to make them very sick or possibly kill them.

More info: <http://www.aspca.org/>