

Cat Supply Checklist:

1. Commercial brand cat food
2. Food dish and water bowl
3. Interactive toys
4. Brush, comb and cat claw clipper
5. Safety collar with license and ID tag
6. Scratching post or pad
7. Carrier
8. Litter box and litter
9. Cat bed or box with warm blanket or towel

The No-No List:

Do not feed your cat:

1. Alcoholic beverages
2. Chocolate
3. Coffee, macadamia nuts
4. Grapes, raisins, or avocados
5. Moldy or spoiled food
6. Onions, garlic, or chives
7. Poultry bones
8. Salt and salty foods
9. Tomato leaves, stems, or unripe fruit
10. Yeast dough
11. Human medications unless prescribed by your veterinarian

Your Cat's Health:

Cats should receive a vaccine that protects against panleukopenia, calicivirus and rhinotracheitis. Other vaccines are given depending on a cat's lifestyle and risk factors. These include feline immunodeficiency virus and feline leukemia virus, two of the most common causes of disease and death in domestic cats. Rabies vaccination can be required at 6 months, given at 4 months of age, repeated a year later and every 3 years after that.

Ear mites are a common problem that can be transmitted from cat to cat and must be treated by a veterinarian. All cats can develop urinary tract disease. If your male cat looks "constipated" he may have a urethral obstruction and can't urinate. Blockage is rare in females but can be fatal and must be treated quickly.

Fleas feed off your pet, transmit tapeworms and irritate the skin. If your cat is infested, you will also need to treat all pets in the household. Make certain that any product you use is safe for use on cats. Cats die every year from improper treatment. Your veterinarian can recommend the best flea control program for your pet and home.

CARING FOR YOUR CAT



**Humane Society of
Scott County
2802 W. Central Park Ave.
Davenport, IA 52804
(563) 388-6655
www.hssc.us
Somebody here needs you!**

Our Mission:

To provide humane care for all of the lost, abandoned and unwanted pets in Scott County, to adopt these pets to caring, responsible, life-long homes and to educate the community about responsible pet ownership.

Brochure made possible by a grant from
The Riverboat Development Authority

Thank you for choosing adoption - THE LOVING OPTION! We hope you, your family and your cat will enjoy many happy years making memories together. This booklet is intended as a beginning guideline to help you keep your cat happy and healthy. Remember: your cat should see a veterinarian for a full physical examination every year to keep current on vaccinations and prevent disease.

Feeding Your Cat:

Kittens 6-12 weeks old-4 times/day

Kittens 3-6 months old-3 times/day

Adult cats one main or 2-3 smaller meals/day

Feed your cat a commercial brand of dry food that meets nutritional requirements and provides a well-balanced diet. Kittens should be fed a commercial brand of kitten food. Throw away any uneaten canned food before it spoils.

Fresh water should be available to your cat at all times. Be sure to regularly wash the food and water bowls.

Do not give cats cow's milk! It can cause diarrhea. Give treats sparingly as most packaged treats contain sugar and fat. Try soaking the kitten food in kitten milk replacer or warm water if

your kitten is refusing food or not eating enough. Gradually mix with regular food. Don't over feed your cat! Obesity is a major health problem for cats.

Bedding and Litter Box:

Your cat needs her own clean, dry place in your home to sleep and rest. Line the bed with a blanket or towel and wash the bedding often.

Please keep your cat indoors! Cats who are allowed outdoors can contract diseases, get ticks or parasites, become lost or get hit by a car, and get into fights with other free-roaming cats and dogs.

Place your cat's litter box in a quiet, accessible area, such as a bathroom or utility room. Avoid moving the box unless absolutely necessary. In a multi-level home, one box per floor is recommended. In a multi-cat home, each cat should have their own litter box.

Cats won't use a messy, smelly litter box, so remove solid waste at least once a day. Dump everything, wash with mild detergent and refill at least once a week. Don't use ammonia, deodorants or scents, especially lemon, when cleaning the litter box.

Grooming and Handling Your Cat:

Most cats rarely need a bath. Brush or comb your pet regularly to keep the coat clean, reduce shedding and cut down on hairballs and matting.

Check for wounds, hair loss and inflammation. Look for ticks and fleas or flea dirt, black specks of dried blood left behind by fleas.

To pick up your cat, place one hand behind the front legs and another under the hindquarters. Lift gently. Never pick up a cat by the scruff of the neck or the front legs.

Play and Scratching:

Cats like to stalk imaginary prey. Your cat can safely act out the role of predator by pouncing on toys instead of ankles. Don't use your hands or fingers as play objects with kittens as this can lead to unwanted biting and scratching behaviors. Avoid strings and toys with pieces that can break off and lodge in the intestines.

Your cat needs to scratch! Cutting your cat's nails every 2-3 weeks will keep them blunt and less likely to harm you or your furniture. Give your cat a sturdy scratching post, at least 3 feet high, that is stable and covered with rough material like burlap or tree bark.