



**Cats**  
catdoors.com

## A little book about cats...

Cats act independent and secure, but they still rely on us to provide for their basic needs. We've compiled some of the most common questions we run into about cats. Whether you're thinking of bringing your first cat home or you have lived happily with your furry friend for few years, we hope you'll find some useful information here.



## What items do I need for my cat?

This is a list of the minimum items your cat will need.

- ◆ Litterbox
- ◆ Litter
- ◆ Scooper
- ◆ Scratcher
- ◆ Water bowl
- ◆ Food dish
- ◆ Cat food
- ◆ Toys
- ◆ Cat bed
- ◆ Cat carrier



When you bring your new cat home, it's a good idea to introduce them to a smaller space first, for instance a bedroom. Don't worry if your new friend hides at first. Some cats are confident and will explore at once. Others need more time.

### Tips about scratchers

Get a horizontal and a vertical scratcher – there are cheap ones made from cardboard and it doesn't have to be a large initial investment. Some cats prefer to scratch one way over the other, and others like both. Providing scratchers will prevent problems with your kitty scratching things they shouldn't touch.

If you do get problems with scratching, you might need to trim your cat's nails. Cats who live indoors only don't wear their nails down.

### Tips about food bowls

For optimal kitty enjoyment, place the water bowl and food dish in different parts of the room, or even in different rooms. Cats love fresh water and often avoid water placed close to their edibles. This is because in the wild, water located close to food may be contaminated.

Most cats prefer wide and shallow bowls. This is because they like to eat and drink out of something that doesn't affect their whiskers. Ceramic or stainless bowls are the best. Some cats get acne from plastic bowls.

### **Tips about litter boxes**

If you have more than one cat, get one litter box more than the number of cats. That is, if you have two cats, get three litter boxes. It will help them feel confident and prevent problems.

You will find more tips about the box itself later in the book.

### **Tips about the home-coming**

Prepare before picking up your new cat. Choose a quiet room and cat proof it by checking for things that can be dangerous. Examples include string, yarn, rubber bands, paper clips, needles, pins, and plants toxic to cats. Lilies are among the most dangerous plants for cats.

When you come home, spend time in the room with your cat. Sit on the floor, speak softly, and offer treats. If you have other pets, give your new kitty some time to get comfortable in the new environment before introducing them. Be patient – cats can take up to a year to decide if they like something or not.



## **Do you have any tips about the cat litter box?**

**Cats are naturally clean and dislike dirty and smelly litter boxes. The first thing to do to keep both yourself and your cat happy is ensuring the box is squeaky clean.**

If the box is squeaky clean and your cat still prefers going somewhere else, take your cat to the vet. There might be a physical problem that requires veterinary attention.



### **Tips about the box**

Boxes that appeal to us humans are often disliked by cats. They want them to be large enough to dig, scratch, and turn around in. It also has to be easy to get into and out of.

Kittens, senior cats, and cats with mobility issues will need boxes with low edges. Cats who are overweight, large, or like to play in the litter will need large boxes with high sides.

Many humans like covered litter boxes – there's less litter and spillage around it – but many cats dislike these. They can feel trapped inside, and the cover traps the smell. The average cat has fourteen times a human's sense of smell and they don't like stinky boxes.

Many humans also like automatic litter boxes, because it's convenient. Many cats accept them, but others don't like them at all.

If you have a covered and/or automatic box and your cat avoids it, try a large plastic box that is scooped manually.

## Cats don't like to share

Having more than one cat but only one litter box can lead to problems. Get one box for each cat, and one extra. They can be side by side in the same space, but if you notice conflict among the cats, it's better to spread the boxes out in various locations.

Cats prefer to have their box in a quiet and private location that is away from their food. They want a box that's easy to access, and has an escape route.

## Tips about the litter

Humans like scented litter. Cats prefer unscented litter with a fine texture. Two to three inches deep is the best, so they can dig. If your cat really likes to dig, you might want to go up to four inches.

Clumping litter is easy to scoop, especially if you pick a scoop that fits your litter. Larger particles require larger holes... Scoop the box at least twice a day.

Your litter should never smell bad, and the bottom of the box should not be wet.

Wash the box every now then with hot water and detergent. Rinse well and spray with a mild bleach solution. Make sure not to use a cleaner with ammonia, because that smells a little like a cat's pee and might make the cat avoid the box.



# Common household dangers

**Many household objects can be dangerous to cats, dogs, and even children. Kittens and puppies are at the biggest risk, because they are so curious. But, many items can tempt even adult cats and dogs.**

This list isn't complete - try to look at your home from your pet's perspective, and be aware of the following common threats:

- ◆ String, yarn, ribbon, tinsel, dental floss
- ◆ Candy wrappers
- ◆ Rubber bands
- ◆ Electrical cords
- ◆ Antifreeze
- ◆ Insecticides
- ◆ Toxic plants such as azaleas and lilies
- ◆ Medicines, particularly tylenol and aspirin
- ◆ Xylitol
- ◆ Chocolate
- ◆ Raisins
- ◆ Detergent pods
- ◆ Candles



## Why string is dangerous

Cats are fascinated by all forms of string – from shoelaces to tinsel. Some dogs also chew up rope or even underwear and encounter a similar problem.

The string can entangle itself around the pet's tongue while the rest is swallowed, and this wrinkles the intestines like an accordion. Even if the entire string or item is swallowed, it can cause internal injuries and blockages. Many pets die from this every year.

Avoid expensive surgery through keeping your pets safe from string, yarn, dental floss, tinsel, ribbons, shoe laces, bows, rubber bands, and similar.

### Medications

Pets have a lower resistance to poisons than humans and even small amounts can cause liver damage and kidney failure. Prescription medicines are dangerous of course, but also common household painkillers such as Tylenol and Aspirin. As an example, one pill of aspirin can cause a fatal overdose for a cat.

### Candles

Candles might not be tempting to eat, but it only takes one swish of a tail to knock a candle over. Not to mention the risk of burning a curious nose.

### Detergent pods

An adult human would never consider eating a detergent pod. But, their shape is perfect for batting over the floor, and the bright colors look like candy. Keep detergent out of reach.

### Human foods and plants

Most people know not to give their pets chocolate. Alcohol, grapes, raisins, yeast dough, and many other things we digest can also be very dangerous to pets. Pets shouldn't eat peaches or apricots, because the seeds contain cyanide that may leak into the fruit – it isn't enough to matter to a human, but can be enough to harm a pet.

Lilies are gorgeous, but potentially deadly to cats. Even if your cat doesn't bite the flower, pollen may get on the cat's coat and be digested when the cat washes itself.

**For more information on toxic materials, visit [petpoisonhelpline.com](http://petpoisonhelpline.com).**

**If you think your pet ingested something toxic, call your vet or the nearest emergency clinic.**

**You can also call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435.**

## How do I transition my cat to a new type of food?

**Some cats and dogs get an upset tummy when changing foods, but a gradual change helps prevent problems.**

Unless you have or are getting a prescription diet and your veterinarian says otherwise, the following schedule is a good help to transition your pet to a new type of food without problems:

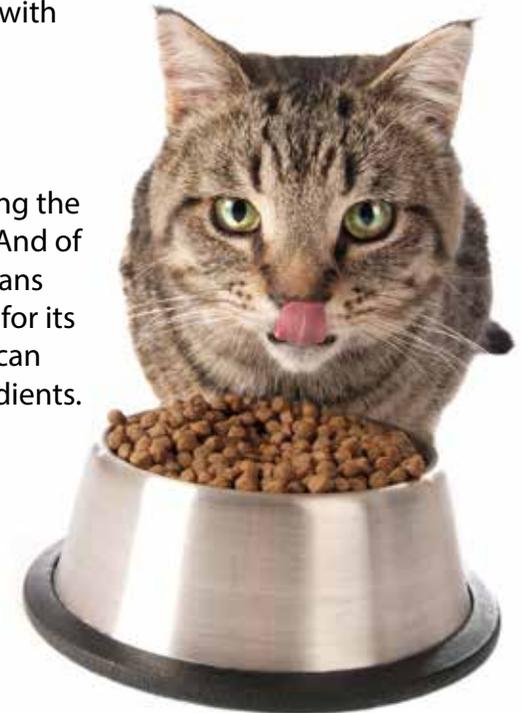
**Days 1 and 2** – mix 3/4 of the old food with 1/4 of the new food

**Days 3 and 4** – mix old and new food half-and-half

**Days 5 and 6** – mix 1/4 old food with 3/4 new food

**Day 7** – give 100% new food

If you see signs of problems during the week, slow down the transition. And of course, check on the new bags/cans how much your pet should have for its weight and level of activity. This can vary greatly depending on ingredients.



# Can a cat become a vegetarian?

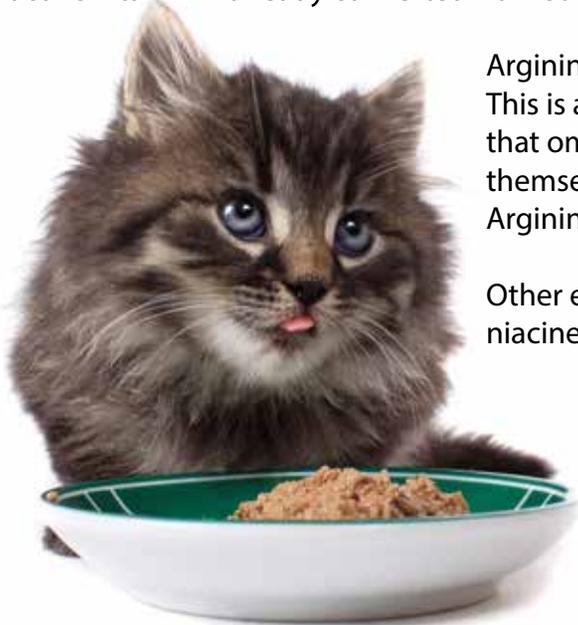
**Cats are obligate carnivores and must ingest meat to survive.**

Saying cats are “obligate carnivores” doesn’t mean they like to eat meat and dislike crops – it means their bodies are unable to produce certain nutrients. They must get these substances from another animal that already converted them.

This is one of the reasons carnivores don’t normally eat other carnivores - they cannot survive without feeding on animals who live off plants.

This also means cats should not eat dog food. Even a little dog food can fill up a cat to the point where it doesn’t get enough of its own food and will suffer potentially dangerous deficiencies.

As an example, a dog, human, or other omnivore can break down carotenoids from plants and convert into active Vitamin A. Cats must get active Vitamin A already converted from some other animal.



Arginine is another good example. This is a building block for proteins that omnivores can produce themselves, but cats need to get Arginine with every meal.

Other examples include taurine, niacine, and arachidonic acid.

# Do you have any tips on choosing a cat carrier?

**A cat carrier helps keep your kitty safe during transport. You need a carrier to take your cat to the vet, to travel, and in case you need to evacuate your home during an emergency.**

The carrier should be big enough to accommodate your cat - there should be enough space to turn around and get comfortable, easy to clean, and sturdy. You don’t want your cat to be able to get out, or even worse: the handle to break, allowing the carrier to drop to the ground.

Look for a carrier with a door both on front and on the top – it’s usually easier to load cats through the top.

## Help your cat get used to the carrier

If you have room, keep the carrier open and encourage your cat to play or rest in it. If they’re used to being in and around the carrier, it becomes a natural part of life and a point of security instead of a source of stress.



## Loading your cat into the carrier

If your cat is used to the carrier and associates it with safety, loading probably isn’t a problem. Some will walk in on their own when encouraged by a toy or a treat. Otherwise, take your cat and load through top or front door. Make sure to close the door quickly, so kitty doesn’t have a chance to escape.

If your cat resists, towel-wrap them like a burrito and place both cats and towel inside the carrier. This is easier through the top.

If your carrier doesn’t have a top door, you can turn it on end and lower the cat through the door. Quickly close the door and lower the carrier slowly to its normal position.

Never let your cat loose in a moving vehicle, even if they “talk” during transport. Many cats are vocal when being moved, but they are safer in the carrier, even if they try to persuade you to let them out.

# My cat scratches the furniture, what should I do?

**Cats like to scratch things – it's a natural instinct – but it doesn't have to be a problem if we provide options.**

Cats scratch for several reasons. Scratching...

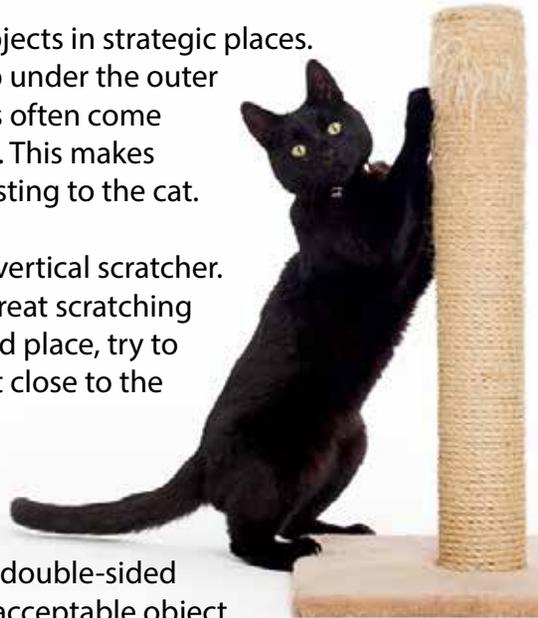
- ◆ Removes the dead outer layer and conditions the claws
- ◆ Is a way to mark territory. Cats have scent glands on their paws and scratching leaves both a visual mark and a scent
- ◆ Helps the cats stretch the entire body while flexing claws and feet

Make sure you have acceptable objects in strategic places. Many scratching posts have catnip under the outer material, and cardboard scratchers often come with a bag of catnip to sprinkle on. This makes the acceptable object more interesting to the cat.

Each cat needs a horizontal and a vertical scratcher. Sisal and recycled cardboard are great scratching materials. If your cat has a preferred place, try to find something similar and place it close to the "forbidden" object.

At the same time, cover the forbidden objects with something unappealing like aluminum foil or double-sided tape. As your cat gets used to the acceptable object, you can move it about one inch every day to the place you want it. (The closer you keep it to the cat's preferred location, the better.)

Keep the unappealing coverings until your cat has used the "right" object in its permanent location for about a month.



## Trim your indoor cat's nails

A cat's nails grow as fast as a human's. If you have an indoor cat, trim front and back nails every month, starting at about 8 weeks of age, so you both get used to it. If you can't do it yourself, take your cat to a groomer for regular nail trims. It's inexpensive and prevents problems with scratching.

- ◆ Select a quiet room that's free from distractions and has good light
- ◆ If your cat doesn't like to be held, try towel-wrapping it and cover the head – this helps kitty feel safe and makes him or her easier to handle
- ◆ Gentle press a paw to extend the nails



- ◆ Look at the nail from the side to determine where the nail ends and the quick begins. Cutting the quick will cause pain and bleeding – it's better to just trim the tip of the nail.
- ◆ Remember the dewclaw (thumb) on the front paws

# Introducing your cat to a new cat

**Cats can be quite territorial – especially if they're used to being the only cat – but they can and will form close friendships with other cats. Be patient and give the process time; some cats require up to a year to decide if they like someone or not.**

When you bring a new cat home it's a good idea to separate it from any other pets. Give it a room of its own and some time to settle in. Some cats will take to each other at once, and others need some time. Human impatience is often the biggest problem when introducing pets.



It's ideal to have the new cat in a separate bedroom with the door closed. Give the cats a chance to smell and hear each other through the door, without being able to see or touch each other.

Make sure each cat has a food and water bowl, litter box, and scratching post. Once the cats get together, it's a good idea to have one litter box more than the number of cats.

- ◆ Give the kitties food and any special treats close to the separating door. This can help them feel that being close to the other is a positive thing.
- ◆ Switch the cats after a few days, so they can explore the smells on the other side of the door.
- ◆ Rub your new cat with a towel to get their scent on it. Let the other cat sniff, and rub them as well. Repeat.
- ◆ Play with both cats close to the door, so they get used to hearing each other.

After a week or so, try to let the cats see each other. They shouldn't be able to touch and potentially get into a fight, but a screen door or a baby gate will help. (Cats can jump over baby gates, so you may need to use two.)

With a cat and a person on each side of the screen, let the cats see each other. Redirect their attention by saying their name and throwing a treat or toy behind them. Give this stage time, offer meals and treats, and play close to the screen.



Once the cats do well with this stage, it's time to meet.

Bring the cats together when they're calm and keep a squirt bottle with water handy, just in case. Sometimes one of the cats hides from the other or bullies the other. Go back to separating them and introduce at a slower rate.

# Introducing your dog to a cat

**Many cats and dogs are great friends, but reaching that point can take some patience.**

If your dog isn't used to cats, start with considering the dog's personality. Does your dog have a high prey drive? Will it try to herd the cat? Is it gentle and friendly? It's also a good idea to brush off some doggy obedience skills. Practice sitting down, coming when called for, and a "leave it" command.

The next thing to consider is whether the cat you want has experience with dogs. Many shelters and rescues allow their cats to meet dogs and can give a good estimation of which cat would work the best. (Kittens adapt to almost any situation, but they of course have other needs and whims.)

When you bring your new cat home, give him or her a room of their own and time to settle in. Let the process of dog and cat becoming friends take its time – once you succeed they'll be friends for the rest of their lives and it doesn't matter if they need a few weeks or even months to get to that point.

Rub your cat with a towel and let the dog smell it – and vice versa. This is a great way for them to get used to each other before the first meeting. Many problems between cats and dogs start with the dog's need to smell everything new.

Make slow introductions by the doorway to the cat's room. Make sure you have some extra good treats available. It's a good idea to block the door with a gate, so the cat and dog can see and smell each other, but not touch.



Walk your dog past the door several times every day, and give treats and praise to both dog and cat when they are calm and ignore each other.

If the dog reacts strongly to the cat, distract with obedience commands such as sit or lie down. And, when your dog manages to pay attention to this with the distraction of a cat nearby, he or she deserves treats!

It's a good idea to let the cat set the pace. If your new kitty seems curious and approaches the gate, it's a success as far as the cat is concerned. If your kitty hides, stay at this stage until the dog is no longer a big deal.

Avoid forcing the cat to meet the dog. First impressions are important to cats and can stay with them for a long time.

If your cat seems unafraid and maybe even interested, you can let them meet face to face. Keep your dog with you on a loose leash and make sure the cat can retreat or hide. Praise good manners.

To start with, keep the cat and dog separate when unsupervised.

## Other things to consider

A little preparation goes a long way. Your dog barking at the cat or chasing the cat can cause stress and lead to other problems. Redirect the dog's attention in a positive manner and help both animals feel the interaction is positive.

Make sure your dog can't reach the cat's litter box – dogs have bad bathroom manners and cats don't like their butts sniffed when using the box.

Keep the cat's food out of reach of the dog.

Even if your cat is to be allowed outdoors, make sure to have the pet door locked during the initial introduction. They may dart outside and not know where they live.



# Tips for raising a kitten

**Many cats live to their 20s and the time put in on raising a kitten will reward you for many years to come.**

Depending on the age of your kitten, they may need a special kitten diet – and eat more often than an adult. They also need vaccinations. Depending on age, their sight and hearing may not be fully developed. Talk to your veterinarian for advice.

Kittens burst with energy; they want to explore, and may get into trouble. Make sure you have kitten-proofed the areas of the house your kitten will have access to. A kitten between two and four months of age will have about three times the energy of an adult cat. It is often easier to have two kittens than one – they entertain each other and can enjoy the other’s company for the rest of their lives.

Many worry about exposing their kittens to new situations, but this is a time in life when socialization is more important than ever. Exposing kittens to new experiences will help them adapt and learn, and prevents them from becoming nervous as adults.

- ◆ Spend a lot of time with your kitten. Pet them and let them become used to being handled.
- ◆ Do a weekly combing and grooming session, and make sure to touch the kitten’s paws. Getting used to it as a kitten will make it easier to brush the adult cat, trim the cat’s nails, and similar.
- ◆ Play with toys and give your kitten fun objects to explore, like a cardboard box or a paper bag.
- ◆ Provide scratching posts and reward with praise or treats when your kitten uses them.
- ◆ Don’t let your kitten bite or scratch you when playing. Withdraw without punishing or reprimanding, and reward good things.
- ◆ Practice using the carrier and let your kitten know it’s a positive and friendly place.

Keep the pet door closed, or keep your kitten away from it. The world is filled with dangers for kittens – and they might never find the way home again.

# How do I know if my cat is sick?

**Cats are experts at hiding illness, and we humans most often discover it through a change in their habits.**

To a human, hiding illness seems counterproductive. If we’re sick, we go to a professional to get help. To animals, showing illness is the same as showing weakness.

A change in habits is the most common indicator on a cat being ill. Warning signs include: changes in sleeping patterns or grooming habits, changes in the cat’s voice and smell, foul breath, and changes in litter box usage. Many cats are surrendered to shelters every year for doing their business outside the box, when they really needed to see a vet.

When you see someone every day, it’s hard to notice changes in weight. If you can’t weigh your cat every now and then, take photos and compare on a monthly basis. Weight gain or weight loss can be warning signs. Also notice how your cat eats. If they have always been neat and suddenly start making a mess, there might be a dental problem.

If your cat has enjoyed playing with other pets and starts avoiding them – or has been a loner and starts seeking attention – something might be wrong.

If your cat slows down suddenly from being energetic – or drastically increases activity – it’s a good idea to visit the vet. Sudden increases in activity in older cats can be a result of a thyroid problem.



Your cat needs to see a vet at least once a year to get vaccines. Veterinarians are trained at spotting hidden illnesses, so tell your vet about any problems or changes. If your cat has a health issue or is getting older, it’s a good idea to schedule check-ups more often than on an annual basis.

## Choosing a cat bed

**Cats like to be warm and often want to curl up in a confined space – like the cat bed – because it preserves body heat.**

Cats can get heat strokes just like humans and other pets, but the average cat likes warmer temperatures than dogs and people. A cat can be comfortable in temperatures between 85 and 90 degrees.

Most homes keep lower temperatures than the cat's preferred climate, and a good cat bed helps keep kitty comfortable. Many cats like having a small bed, because curling up helps keep them warm.



## Fleas, ticks, and heartworm prevention

**Many feel flea prevention is superfluous for indoor cats. But, fleas and other insects can catch a ride on your own shoes, pant legs, or with the family dog.**

Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes. Heartworm disease is rare in cats compared to dogs, but it still happens and there is no cure for cats.

Fleas and ticks aren't just annoying; they also carry disease. Use a high quality prevention each month - and make sure it is for cats. Cats are much more sensitive to toxins than dogs and can't use a product for dogs. Discuss with your veterinarian.

[www.dogdoors.com](http://www.dogdoors.com)

## How do I teach my cat to use the cat door?

**Most cats take to their new cat door quickly – they want to get to the other side – others are more careful or need some training. Many get it in a few seconds, but others might need a week or two.**

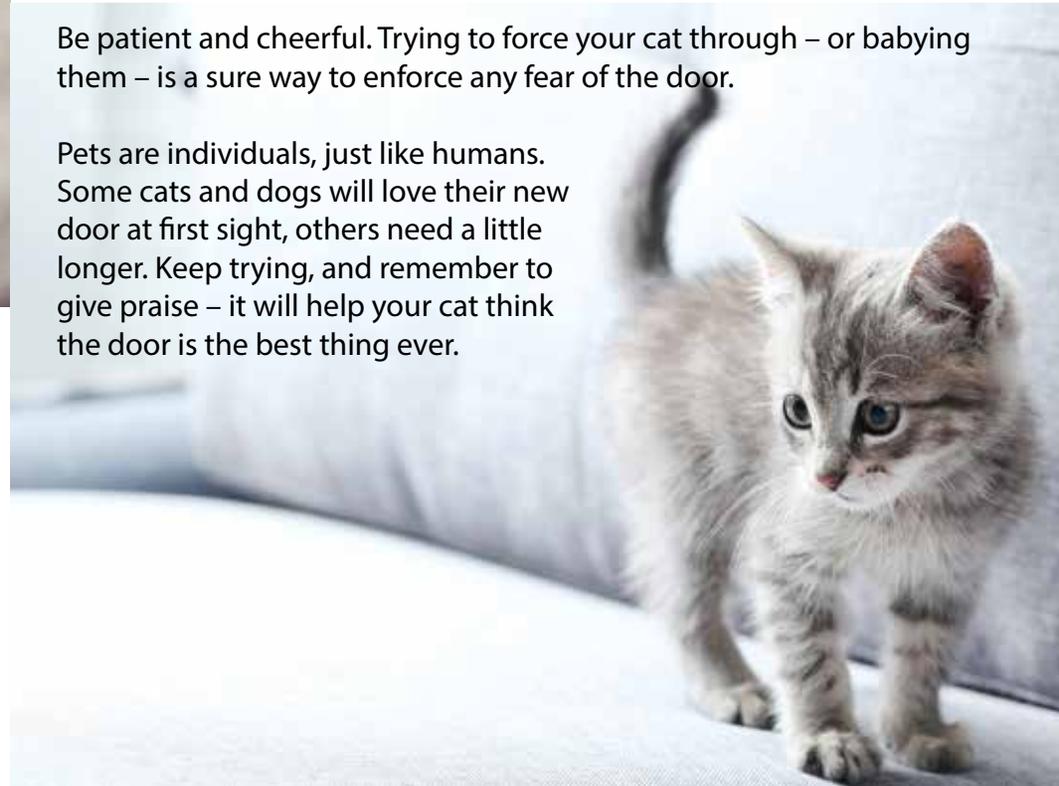
Start with propping the door open and call for your pet.

Put something they really want on the other side, like a yummy, stinky treat. Cats will often be motivated to go through if their food or litter box is on the other side.

Praise any progress.

Be patient and cheerful. Trying to force your cat through – or babying them – is a sure way to enforce any fear of the door.

Pets are individuals, just like humans. Some cats and dogs will love their new door at first sight, others need a little longer. Keep trying, and remember to give praise – it will help your cat think the door is the best thing ever.



[www.catdoors.com](http://www.catdoors.com)

# Frequently asked questions about cat doors

## **Can I use a cat door to help my indoor cat?**

Many use a cat door to provide access to a screened-in outdoor area, such as a lanai. Many also use them to give the cat access to a room the family dog shouldn't be able to reach, for instance, to provide litter box privacy.

## **Can I put a cat door in a window?**

Yes, there are special window kits, and it is possible to install a cat door through glass. Give us a call at 800-749-9609 and we'll tell you all about it!

## **Is there a pet door that can let the dog out but keep my cats inside?**

No door can guarantee a cat can't get out with the dog; the cat waits for the dog to go through.

Even if you have an electronic door that requires a collar key, a cat may run outside when the dog opens the door. Cats are smart and quick and will run in front of the dog, under the dog, or behind the dog. We have even seen photos of cats running under the belly of a dog using an electronic pet door.

One solution could be putting the dog door in a room with just one entrance from the main house. At the entrance of this room, put an indoor electronic cat fence. Pet Stop and DogWatch make these types of systems.

## **What is the best cat door for a wall?**

The PlexiDor is the best pet door for installing through a wall. Making a hole in a wall is fairly big operation, and you want to use a cat door that will last.

The PlexiDor is a construction-grade pet door with a good weather seal that keeps weather outside. It is crafted in the USA from the finest materials to withstand time and harsh climates. It is available with a white, bronze, or brushed aluminum frame.

The wall kit comes with an aluminum tunnel to cover the inside of the wall. The tunnel should be installed with a slope to lead rain and snow away from the wall.

## **I want to let my cat in, but not let them go out again. Can the PlexiDor do that?**

Yes, the small PlexiDor intended for cats and small dogs has several settings on the lock.

The door can be set to:

- ◆ Open from both inside and outside
- ◆ Be closed from both inside and outside
- ◆ Open in one direction only

That is, you can set it to allow your pets to come in, but not go out again. Or, allow them to go out, but not come back in.

## **Can a cat and a large dog use the same PlexiDor?**

Yes, small pets can usually open and go through a large or extra large PlexiDor.

The panels swing easily and most cats and small dogs figure out how to use one half of the large or extra large door. Cats are agile and find a way to get through, even if the lower edge of the door is far up.

# Frequently asked questions about cats

## Why do cats want to eat when you pet them?

It's a common scenario: you have a good cuddling session going, and the cat turns to the food bowl. To a human, this behavior can seem a little rude, or at least signal cuddle-time is over. To a cat, it signifies affection. Many cats even enjoy being gently petted while they eat.

## Why do cats wink?

To a cat, meeting someone's eyes is rude and can signify a challenge. When you meet a cat you don't know, blink and look away. If you're petting your kitty and he or she gives you a slow wink, it means affection. This is a kitty kiss that means you're really appreciated.

Have you ever noticed how cats seem drawn to the persons who are allergic or doesn't want to interact with them? Usually, a person attempting to stay away from a cat avoids looking to it and doesn't talk to it, because this is appropriate body language between humans. A cat on the other hand, sees this behavior as inviting. The cat is more likely to go to the visitor who tries to ignore it than to the person staring at it.

## Why does a cat wash a human's hair or face?

Kittens are born blind, and long before they're able to experience the world in other ways, their mother licks them. Grooming means love and caring. If your cat occasionally washes you, it means you're accepted and worthy of being cared for as a fellow feline.

## Why do cats give "love-bites"?

Some cats, when they feel extremely affectionate and are very happy, may take a piece of human skin between their teeth and hold it. This is different from biting - the cat has no intention to lash out at you or hurt you. It's more like a feline equivalent of kissing.

## Why do cats rub against humans?

Cats have scent glands on each side of the head, on their lips, chin, along the tail and at the base of the tail, between the front paws, and in some other places. These glands are used to mark territory. When a cat rubs against you, he or she is marking you as "taken."

## Why does my cat knock things on the floor?

Cats are generally too elegant to accidentally knock things over, even if it happens. If your kitty deliberately pushes things on the floor while watching you it probably means it wants attention -- which could mean food.



# What do I do if my cat goes missing?

**Sometimes pets get out. It happens, especially around holidays when unusual sounds like fireworks trigger a fight or flight response. A cat out of its own territory is frightened and likely to be hiding.**

1. Call your microchip company and tell them your pet is missing.
2. Contact your local Animal Services and file a missing animals report. Also, call all shelters and veterinarians in the area.
3. Make up posters and put them all over your neighborhood. Use colored paper to make sure they catch people's eye.
4. Notify the place where you got the cat.
5. Talk to everyone in your neighborhood. Tell your neighbors, the mail carrier, UPS driver, everyone who moves in your area. Give them a poster so they know what your cat looks like. There are also many Facebook groups for missing and found pets.

*A frightened cat in an unfamiliar environment will not come just because you call for it. You have to go out and look.*



Indoor cats are normally found 3-4 houses away from their home.

Look in your own yard, even in places you think may be too small.

Ask your neighbors for permission to seek in their yards.

Your cat is frightened and hiding, so try to think like a cat. Go down on hands and knees, look inside even unlikely hiding spaces, and behind things.

Many believe cats leave their homes to hide somewhere and die. This is a common misconception that can cost your pet its life. A sick animal isn't likely to run away; it will stay at home where it feels safe.

## A microchip is not a cat tracker

A pet microchip contains a registration number that can be read with a special scanner. The number is connected with the owner's information in a database, and can help the animal shelter or vet clinic who read the chip to find the owner.

## Fun cat facts

- ◆ Cats are good at climbing up trees, but not as good at climbing down. A cat can't climb down with its head first because all the claws point the same way, so they won't get a grip.
- ◆ A cat can hear high-frequency sounds up to two octaves higher than a human.
- ◆ A cat can leap up to five times its own height.
- ◆ The Singapura is the world's smallest cat breed, and an adult Singapura can weigh just 4 pounds. The Maine Coon cat is the largest, and males often weigh 25 pounds or even more.
- ◆ Cats rarely meow at other cats, just at humans.
- ◆ Cats have 32 muscles that control their ears, and can rotate its ears 180 degrees. A human only has six muscles controlling the ear.
- ◆ A cat's nose print is unique, just like a human's fingerprints.
- ◆ An average cat can run at around 30 mph over short distances.



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