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
Cats eat meat. They are not vegetarian. They need food which is high in protein. Proteins are found in meat and fish. Clean, fresh water must be available all the time, as cats can quickly become very ill, if they are dehydrated.	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. 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.

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.

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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.



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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?

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