

Happy Tails: Your Cat & Dog Care Guide

HAPPY TAILS

Your Cat & Dog Care Guide

**By
Joel Osborne**

Useful Resource for Dogs: [**Dog Obedience Help**](#)
Useful Resource for Cats: [**Secrets Of Cat Training**](#)

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Table of Contents

Introduction

1. Is a Dog The Right Pet For You.
2. Choosing A Dog.
3. Top Five Dog Breeds For Urban Living.
4. Basics Of Dog Care.
5. House Training Your Dog.
6. How To Potty Train Your Dog.
7. What To Do When Your Dog Is Sick.
8. A Guide To Dog Breeding.
9. Is A Cat The Right Pet For You.
10. Choosing A Cat.
11. Basics Of Cat Care.
12. House Training Your Cat.
13. How To Potty Train Your Cat.
14. What To Do When Your Cat Is Sick.

Conclusion

Introduction

Have you always wanted to know the truth about cats and dogs?

Then look no further! We have prepared an exhaustive collection of all you need to know about cat and dog care, which will deal with such issues as to what to do when your cat or dog is sick, and what to look for when choosing a cat or dog. So read on, and become a pet care veteran in no time!

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1. Is A Dog The Right Pet For You?

We all need some company. Whether it be from another person whose warm embrace and comforting words would make our troubles more bearable, or from a pet whose undying loyalty and adorable demeanor is a cause for much fondness and joy, life would be so much more wonderful if there is someone, or something, to share it with. This is the reason why we enter relationships. And in the same light, this is the reason why we all have a special place in our hearts for pets.

And of all the pets that we can avail of, dogs are the most popular of choices. Those cute canine companions are indeed inspiring in their own little ways. Consider the following characteristics of dogs that make them perfect pets for most people:

- Dogs are known for their fierce loyalty. They know who their masters are, and they stick with them through thick or thin.
- Dogs are highly intelligent creatures. They can be disciplined relatively easily, and they can be thought some amazing tricks as well.
- There are many practical chores that a dog can do. A canine companion can fetch the papers or your slippers, fend off undesirable household pests, and perform a variety of specialized tasks, like for example the special role of a guide dog for a blind person.
- Dogs are excellent security measures for the household. Their bark alone would scare of potential burglars. And in the event that such a burglar does muster the courage to step inside your house, he will be met by an angry dog in defense of his master's property.
- Dogs are generally sociable. They can read people's intentions. They will exhibit the same kind of warmth to their master's friends and loved ones.

With all the wondrous delights of owning a dog, some important considerations may get lost amidst such hysteria. The fact of the matters is that dogs aren't for everyone.

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Lovable as they may be, it takes a certain kind of person with certain kinds of characteristics to be able to rear a dog properly under a healthy environment.

Is a dog the right pet for you? Let's take a look at the questions you should be asking yourself before deciding on a canine companion as your pet of choice.

- How busy a person are you? Dogs need constant care most of the day. If you're out of the house a majority of the time, you will not be able to provide for the dog the care it deserves. Additionally, dogs initially need housebreaking, that is, training them to be house-friendly so that they won't end up chewing on some expensive items and ripping that costly carpet to shreds. You would have to invest some substantial time to train a dog the proper way.
- How patient are you? Not all dogs can be trained easily. Though possessed with higher intelligence than most available pets, dogs can sometimes test the limits of your patience. Additionally, not all dogs are alike. Some breeds are different than others, in terms of physical characteristics and behavioral traits. While some dogs respond to negative conditioning, or punishing them when they do something bad, other dogs are more receptive to positive reinforcements, that is, praising them when they do something admirable.
- How much commitment can you give? Caring for a dog is not a short-term hobby. Often, it is a decade-long commitment, as dogs do have a lifespan of 10 to 20 years. During this time, you will be expected to give much love and affection for your dog so that it may grow up healthy and sound.
- Is your place perfect for a dog? Not all households are dog-friendly. Small spaces, for example, like condo units and studio-type apartments, will prove difficult for dog caring. Dogs need a lot of space to move around. They need to exercise on a daily basis, as their health is sometimes more volatile than ours. If you wish to care for a dog in a small dwelling place, you must invest some time everyday to walk him around the neighborhood so that he can get the workout he needs.

These may sound as steep requirements for owning a dog. But the joys that those adorable canine companions can bring into our lives will make all the troubles very much worth it.

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2. Choosing A Dog

Dogs are not just pets, they are investments. You feed them and they protect you; give them enough love and affection and they will respond to you with loyalty.

There are many considerations in choosing your canine. Below are some important guidelines:

Your Lifestyle

Unlike other pets, the history or breed of a canine manifests its personality, so be very specific in what dog type suits you best. Imagine a jogger accompanied by a short-legged, slow Chihuahua – how do they look? Is the jogger's nature of activity compatible to the nature of a Chihuahua? Obviously, no. Of course, an extrovert owner must have an extrovert and hyperactive dog like the Retrievers, Herding dogs and Scent dogs. Homebodies, on the other hand, goes along with the small kinds like the said Chihuahua or a poodle.

When you adopt a dog, you have to make sure that your lifestyle suits with your dog's lifestyle too, or else, both of you would not click.

Dog Size

True enough that it is not advisable to bring a Great Dane or a Saint Bernard besides a Spaniel in your small apartment, nor is it practical to adopt a purebred, large dog for a middle class family (larger dogs result to larger expenses – more food, larger bed, and bigger medical expenses). The point here simply is “size does matters!” However, there are still exemptions to the rules. Most of the times, an owner's ability to train his pet is what matters most, regardless of whether they may weigh almost the same.

For the inexperienced dog handlers, stick to the old rule – just be intelligent in choosing the right size of dog for you.

Male or Female?

Gender is not really an issue; many do not consider it at all. Usually, dogs of different

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sexes behave just the same. Well, if you want to reproduce many from your chosen breed of canine, you would probably purchase a female.

Purebred or Mixed-breed?

There really is nothing much on the canine breed. Purebred dogs may always be the preference of dog owners-to-be nowadays. Besides believing that purebreds are more specific breeds that would answer to whatever the purpose a man wants to achieve, they are majestic and more beautiful than the mixed-breed. Although it is true that purebred have a specific purpose, it is still the training that matters most. A Rottweiler would never see its said purpose without proper training - if mixed with a poodle (without being trained), it will act like a poodle too. Mixed-breed dogs, on the other hand, can fulfill the task of a hunting dog if well-trained for that purpose.

Exercise versus Space

Exercise is vital for a dog's health as it is vital for human beings. In choosing your canine, you must be considerate enough of their activity in your home space. Obviously, larger dogs need larger exercise space like big gardens or backyards, and smaller dogs can go well in smaller houses. But then again, there are still little exemptions. Some large dogs like the Saint Bernard may sleep all day and may only require a few minutes of walk to exercise; while the smaller ones like a Terrier breed are the ones who need a mile run a day as an exercise.

Purpose

What is your purpose of getting a dog? This question must be reflected for you to understand how important it is to choose your dog carefully. Is it for guarding your home or your business? Is it for hunting? Or do you just want a companion to inspire you and your family? Whatever the purpose is, right selection is most essential.

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3. Top Five Dog Breeds Perfect For Urban Living

Everyone loves dogs. Those cute, adorable canine creatures are very delightful companions that could bring so much joy to each and every day. Dogs, in fact, are the most popular pets in the world. Wherever there are puppies on display, you're sure to see a group of people gathering around them. Is it because of their lovable eyes that always seem to beg for some attention? Or is it because of their intelligent behavior that makes them faithful and useful company? Or perhaps, it's because of their generally pleasant demeanor that could bring out a smile in all of us.

Sadly, not all households and not all lifestyles are conducive to adopting just any kind of dog. This is especially true for those who live in the cities, where life is faster paced and space is usually limited.

This shouldn't be taken to mean that city dwellers are completely deprived of the opportunity to own a dog, however. There are just some breeds that are more perfect for urban living. Let us take a look at them.

- **Shih Tzu.** Long and favorite breed of most toy dog lovers, Shih Tzus are amazingly resilient canines, considering the diminutive size. Their long hair, which can reach the floor because of their short legs, need constant brushing. But aside from this, Shih Tzus are perfect for city life. They are not gregarious dogs. Their aristocratic history actually gives them a regal bearing. Often, this is mistaken for arrogance, especially with their flat noses that make them look like adorable snobs. They are very well-behaved, and portable too, again, thanks to their size. You won't have to worry about ruined household effects, at least, not as much as when you care for a sports breed.
- **Lhasa Apso.** A close kin of the Shih Tzu, Lhasas are also popular dogs for city dwellers. They possess the same regal temperaments of their cousins, are not hyper active, and they generally need little housetraining. Lhasa Apsos, however, need the same grooming requisites as Shih Tzus.
- **Chihuahua.** Chihuahuas are a fascinating breed. Their attitude belies their small stature. They're one of the smallest dogs known to man, yet in their minds,

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they're the biggest bullies in town. They'd bark at canines and humans much, much, much bigger than them, and they won't back down an inch. Chihuahuas may be gregarious little creatures, but they are very receptive to their masters' commands. They're too small to reduce your home into ruins, and this makes them perfect household pets.

- Pugs. Pugs are still considered as members of the toy breed. They are closely related to American and British Bulldogs, albeit, smaller in size. They are not as ferocious as their cousins, however. On the contrary, they're quite lazy, and would rather spend the whole afternoon in deep slumber. This makes them great household companions who don't require demanding care.
- Labradors. This breed is being included in this list for those who would want a sports dog. Labradors are one of the most intelligent dog breeds. They learn fast, and are very mild mannered. They are not as gregarious as other dogs of the sports breed. They respond well to a little show of affection, but they're smart enough not to be giddy about it to the point of jeopardizing household effects. Labradors need regular exercise, however, so a daily walk would be necessary to keep this canine companion in good health.

City dwellers don't have to sacrifice the joys of owning a dog. It's just a matter of choosing the right breed to suit their lifestyle and living conditions. A dog can bring so much happiness into anyone's life, and with the right breed, city dwellers could experience urban living with these affectionate and faithful pets.

4. Basics Of Dog Care

Dogs are man's best friend. Whatever happens, your dog will always be by your side to serve and protect you. The only reward you can give them is your love, and love comes with caring.

Dog care does not require too much of your time and effort. A few minutes will be enough to show them how important they are to you and your family. Let them sense your friendship, spare them a little of your time each day and they will be more than grateful to return your friendship. Below are some of the basics of dog care:

Housing

Having a new dog is like having another member of a family. Human-dog relationship is considered one of the most perfect relationships of all times because it is believed that dogs have an inborn pact with the humans. They are friendly, loyal and protective with the human family they consider their own and their territory which is now their home. It is important for your canine to know you and your family so it will know who to protect. Housing them with you has always been the best method of acquaintance. If your pet is an outdoor dog, be sure that you provide it with a house big enough to accommodate itself, a warm bed and a clean food bowl. It is good that sometimes, you also let your dog enjoy the ambiance of a good and loving family inside your house. Let your children touch and feel them. In this manner, your kids will learn the importance of animals and they will learn to love them too.

Feeding

Puppies. Puppies must never be separated with their mothers until they reach their first month. On their fifth week, besides getting the nutritious mother's milk, try mixing one-half water to one-half condensed milk in their food bowl. Feed them with this at least five times a day. As the puppies grow older, you may gradually transfer them to puppy food then to adult dog food. Six months old dogs may be fed at least twice a day, and starting on the ninth month onwards, feeding them once daily would be enough.

Adult Dogs. Most big canines result to obesity if they get used to eating more than the necessary amount – this is a bad and indeed an unhealthy habit you must prevent your dog to suffer. One meal a day (best time to give is during evenings) is sufficient to

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sustain the daily nutrients needed by a large and still growing dog. You may also give small snacks in the morning if you want to, and do not forget that fresh water must always be readily available.

Grooming

A grooming treat for your pet dog is a weekly bath and shampoo which helps remove and prevent parasites like fleas, ticks and lice. And baking soda in vinegar and water solution is best in removing stubborn dirt and bad odor from your dog, at the same time, also removes pests.

Also, make it a habit to untangle your dog's fur with a wide-toothed comb. This will prevent pests from hiding under the fur which can result to skin infections. Your patience is required in combing or brushing your canine's hair coat. Try to trim the hair of long-haired breeds at least once every two months for a more manageable hair coat.

Medical Health

Regular check-up monitors your pet's health. It is necessary for the early detection of any infections that manifests illness. But as an old saying goes "Prevention is better than cure." Dog's well-being depends on the level of its immune system – how far can your canine tolerate infections? Vaccination is a good example of illness prevention. Vaccines to fight hepatitis, leptospirosis, intestinal worms, heartworms and rabies should be administered between your dog's 6th to 8th week. Boosters should be given once a year after the initial injection between the periods of 12 to 16 weeks.

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5. House Training Your Dog

Training your canine may look difficult to achieve but the truth is that dogs have an exemplary intelligence which makes them easier to train than any other pets. All you have to do is to teach them their proper places in the house.

You should start your training during your dog's younger months. There are things your canine must know and there are also things he would have to learn later. Remind yourself that your dog cannot learn everything at once so be very patient. You are your dog's teacher; your dog is your pupil.

Reward And Punishment

Punishment is always necessary in dog training. Your dog must learn to understand the importance of disobedience to its superior. Scolding is usually needed to correct failures, but this should not always be your marked punishment. A few slaps on a dog is already a punishment. Why? The slap is painless, yes, but he hates the noise created by slapping and it hurts his feelings. If there is punishment, then there must definitely be a reward. Rewards should be given for obedience. The words "good dog" with a joyful voice gives the dog a great pleasure.

Establishing Your Dog's Areas

Dogs are clean pets. They may not know how to bury their feces on the ground like how cats do it; you are somehow assured that dogs would not eliminate their wastes in their bed or in your sofa. They would rather prefer grass and soil rather than concrete and cotton. Therefore, in toilet training your pet dog, all you need to do is to show them where to do their thing – their toilet area.

But first, you must establish them their "living room". Choose a specific area where they can perform their activities like playing and feeding. Prepare a warm bed for them to sleep at in a corner. Playing with your dogs at the said chosen space will help them feel comfortable in their place and they will soon learn to adjust to the environment.

Toilet training is simple but would require a lot of your patience. Teach your dog where he should pee or defecate. Avoid any incidents where your dogs accidentally eliminated his dirt outside his place because he might repeat it again.

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Leash Training

Leash training is very necessary. Your dog would be troublesome if you do not know how to train him. Teach him to walk beside you when he is on leash. If he sits down or struggles at first, pull the leash and speak to him in a kind manner. If he is a bit stubborn, tie him up in a shortened leash for an hour or two and after that, give your dog a chance again to follow you.

Chasing Automobiles

Do not let the habit of a dog like car chasing. Break him immediately so that he would not encounter some dangerous accidents. If he would not obey, take him out with a long sash cord tied to his collar. When he chases after a vehicle, say “NO!” and jerk him back. You have to be very patient in this kind of training because you may not immediately get positive results. You just have to bring your dog outside, of course leashed, and repeat the training as often as possible until he absorbs the knowledge.

Obedying Simple Commands

In teaching simple commands like sit, lie down or go home, you must show your canine the ways on how to do these things. Direct your dog's body with the actions. Be repetitive, no matter how boring it can get. It is impossible for the dogs to not learn these simple commands – just be very patient. Once your dog learns to follow, reward him with a tap, or an extra snack. Remember, reward and punishment is an important aspect in dog training.

6. How To Potty Train Your Dog

You bet that having a canine companion in your household would be quite a blast for the entire family. Dogs are such lovable and faithful pets that it's hard not to adore them even if you try your best to ignore their presence. Imagine the joys of having those lovely animals licking your toes to wake you up in the morning, or a sturdy sport dog fetching the papers while you take a sip of your coffee. Truly, having a dog as part of the family is a pleasure to savor!

Well, not quite.

There some nuances that go along with owning a dog. Ruined furniture, shredded carpets, nibbled slippers, and the likes are just some of the things you have to contend with. But perhaps the most disgusting of these are the fecal wastes that would be littered all over your house, care of a dog that, really, doesn't know how to use the toilet.

But the pleasures of having a dog are too magnanimously blissful to sacrifice for a little order in the household. There are, of course, some solutions that would make your dog more house-friendly. One of these is potty training.

Potty training your dog, I must warn you, can be a frustrating experience. If you're the type who doesn't want his hands to get dirty, then you better learn to change this soon. You will get your hands dirty, and you will have to clean up your dog's wastes, at least in the first few weeks of potty training.

There are many ways by which you can potty train your dog. Let us take a look at some of them.

Learning Before Knowing

Before your dog can learn, you must first teach him the right way of doing things. The common mistake that dog owners make is that they expect the dog to learn by himself. This is a little too much to ask from our canine buddies. They need to be taught. They need us to give them proper guidance.

So, the first step in potty training your dog is to muster the commitment to actually teach

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him. This would require some time and patience from you. Those little creatures can actually be adamant and stubborn most of the time.

Marking The Spot

The first thing you should teach your dog is the proper place where he could discharge his waste. Initially, your dog would just discharge anywhere he fancies. Allow him to do this. Yes, it could be quite frustrating to clean up each and every time he would leave his waste on the floor, but remember what we said about patience?

Eventually, your dog would settle on a favorite spot to answer nature's call. This is your cue to enter the picture. The goal is to teach the dog how to change his preferred spot. There are many ways by which this could be done.

- Place a newspaper on the spot where he usually goes to the washroom. Allow your dog to discharge on the newspaper. Everyday, gradually move the newspaper to where you want your dog to go. Your dog would adapt correspondingly, and before you know it, you'd have a toilet-mannered dog!
- When your dog is about to go, carry him to the spot where he should be discharging. This would tell him where the proper disposal point is.
- You could make use of commercial paraphernalia to potty train your dog. Among these are sandboxes for cats, and scented liquid that induces your dog to go to the washroom and you could simply spray this chemical in the spot of your choice.

Rewarding Or Punishing Your Dog

Informing your dog that he did a good or a bad deed is important in potty-training your dog. But not all breeds are alike, so you should deal with them differently. Generally, dogs of the sports class are more trainable through operant or negative conditioning, that is, punishing them if they do something wrong. Dogs of the toy class are more arrogant, so classical or positive conditioning would work better for them, that is, rewarding them for every good deed that they do.

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7. What To Do When Your Dog Is Sick

Good pet owners know when his pet suffers from an illness. Dogs do not always get sick. If ever they feel the pain or illness, they will sure show it through their unusual actions - this is the reason why any abnormality in their physical condition is easier to detect. But then sometimes, when you least expect that your dog is sick, hidden infections may show in physical examinations performed by licensed veterinarian, therefore, it is still best to always visit your pet clinic at least twice a year.

Vomiting and Diarrhea

If diarrhea and vomiting is the problem, avoid giving food to your canine for 12 to 24 hours. Give only ice cubes or ice cold water to avoid dehydration. Contact the nearest pet clinic if your dog's condition continues for another 24 hours.

Surface Wounds

Simple cuts and abrasions should be washed with a mild antiseptic. Remove the dirt and apply a mild agent to the wound of the dog. An example of a mild agent is tincture of merthiolate. If the wound requires additional attention, consult the veterinarian immediately.

Eye Injuries

If there is eye injury of any kinds, wash them with clean water as quickly as you can. If there is a foreign matter on lids, remove it at once. If the surface of the eye is scratched, put mineral oil on it. The oil forms a clear film that protects the eye until you reach the veterinarian.

Burns and scalds

Apply a protecting agent such as Vaseline, butter or lard. Be careful to the areas of the burns and scalds to avoid infection. For this kind of wound, only a veterinarian can help your dog because besides knowing how to ease your pet's pain, he/she may also prescribe the proper antibiotics.

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Poisoning

An open-mind and quick thinking is necessary in saving a poisoned dog. Contact the veterinarian for instructions immediately. There are some helpful first-aid methods to do if in any case the veterinarian cannot be reached immediately. The following methods are helpful:

- Empty the stomach of the dog. Induce vomiting. How? Try mixing one-half hydrogen peroxide (regular drugstore strength of 3%) and on-half water and pour it down the dog's throat. Use a tablespoonful of mixture to each 10 pound of weight of the body.
- Force your dog to drink of large amount of milk or beaten egg for this may also be effective.

In all cases of poisoning, take your sick dog to the veterinarian without delay.

Distemper

Distemper is a harmful disease and this may cause death to puppies. Symptoms are apt to include sluggishness, discharge from eyes and nose, elevated temperature, refusal to eat, and desire to sleep and to be left alone. Take your dog to the veterinarian if these symptoms appear. While waiting for the medical service, be sure to shower your dog with love and affection. This is a form of psychological therapy that is proven to heal many kinds of illness in no time.

Rabies

This is the most harmful disease among dogs. This can be transmitted to man and to animals through the bite of an infected animal. Symptoms appear in three stages. First, your dog may be irritable, nervous or depressed. It may refuse regular food. Second, your canine attempts to bite other animals or human. It may also break his chain and run aimlessly. Third, the symptom goes to a paralytic stage. Its jaws and throat become paralyzed. This is the first symptom in dumb paralysis. If your dog suffers from rabies, place your dog in complete isolation and contact a veterinarian immediately.

8. A Guide To Dog Breeding

Believe it or not, selling dogs can be a very lucrative business. A great number of the world's population can't seem to ignore the sheer adorableness of these canine creatures. Most especially when they are puppies, if I may add! With their eyes longing for some care, and their small, fragile bodies waiting for a few months before they would burst into full activity, puppies are dream pets for many, many people all over the world. This is the reason why a lot of would-be pet owners seriously consider dogs as their first choice of companions.

Not only do dogs make great commercial commodities, the experience of owning a puppy is a very enjoyable one for you as well. Imagine your pair of trusted dogs creating new life through the form a litter of cute, lovable, little canine buddies... such would surely give you some blissful moments!

Whether you decide to keep these puppies or sell them for some profit, the fact remains that you must first be able to breed your dogs. Dog breeding is a hobby that a lot of dog owners have passionately pursued. The thought of owning more of these canine pets is a very tempting idea that a lot of us do dream about that day when we'll see new puppies feeding off our female dog.

Dog breeding is a rather simple task to undertake, mainly because not much is demanded from you. Let's take a look at some of the more important aspects of dog breeding:

- Dogs don't need any special treatment to breed. They just need a good and healthy environment to preserve the female's safety during pregnancy. Dogs mate naturally, and too frequently in fact! You don't have to do anything to induce them to pair up with one another.
- What is important, however, is that you should separate dogs of the same pedigree. As dogs naturally pair up to mate, those of the same pedigree would produce incestuous offspring. The litter would be weak, and many of the puppies may either die shortly after birth, or would grow up with a variety of defects, both physical and mental.

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- If you're planning to sell the puppies, make sure that dogs of the same breed pair up to mate. Mongrels or cross-breeds, which are dogs whose parents are of different breeds, sell poorly, as the market prefers puppies which have a pure lineage. Also, there are some breeds which are not healthily compatible with other breeds. A Dalmatian, for example, who happens to impregnate a Shi Tzu, would make it difficult for the mother to carry puppies of such a proportionate size during pregnancy. This may lead to birth complications that can be fatal for the dog.
- If you have a female dog that doesn't have a partner, you could try studding services. Since you will most probably pay for this kind of service anyway, make sure that you choose a stud that is from a champion line. This would ensure that the puppies are first class.
- Remember that a female dog is most fertile when she has been in heat for about a week. You could easily determine this, as the female dog's menstrual cycle can produce a lot of blood most of the time.

Dog breeding is a very rewarding experience, on a commercial and a personal standpoint. Many people would claim that having new puppies in the household is actually comparable to having new babies to fondly observe and take care of. This is a fair assessment. After all, dogs can become wonderful members of our family the moment they set their little paws in our household. That is how adorable they really are!

9. Is A Cat The Right Pet For You?

Cats are fascinating little animals. They are capable of so much warmth... whenever they are in the mood to show such. It is their fickle demeanor that makes them so lovable and unique. They could be lazy one moment and overly gregarious the next. Owning a cat is always an adventure. You just won't have an idea what they'll do next!

This has made cats quite the popular pets that they are for centuries now. The caring for cats can even be traced as far back as the great Egyptian civilizations. Images expressed in hieroglyphics show the great pharaohs and queens in the company of these feline creatures.

But though history shows a longstanding fondness for cats, the demands of modern day life doesn't really favor the general acceptability of cats as pets for any household. We are living in fast times, and often, our busy schedules would prevent us from attending to the needs of these little creatures. Much as we would love to bring one home, not all of us would be able to provide for a cat and care for it as she deserves.

Why Cats?

If your lifestyle would allow, cats make fantastic pets! Consider the following:

- Cats are known to be very clean creatures. You would always find them licking their bodies in attempts to keep themselves neat all the time. Seldom would you find a cat whose body is filled with dirt.
- Cats are resilient and hardy pets. They do get sick, but not as often as other animals. They can enjoy a variety of activities and you won't have to worry about their physical and internal health. This resiliency is the origin for the quote which says that "a cat has nine lives."
- Cats are very gentle creatures. They would cuddle up to you, or rub their bodies against yours, just to express their affection. Also, they generally move smoothly, hence, they could navigate their way around the house with minimal danger to fragile items.

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- Cats are easier to house train than other pets of similar stature. They do display a more retentive memory on certain occasions, and are generally more mild-mannered.

What Do I Need To Care For A Cat?

Generally, you'd need to give your cat a lot of love and attention, and this can only be shown if you have time to invest on caring for a cat. Cats have specific needs. Though they are not as demanding as their larger counterparts, like dogs, they still require a certain degree of attention that can take away some time from the other tasks in your daily schedule.

Cats are perfect pets for people who are homebodies. The mild demeanor that is observed from cats is an excellent complement to a laid back lifestyle.

Caring for cats, however, can be difficult for people who maintain busy schedules, especially those who aren't home most of the day. Cats do have a need to socialize with their keepers, otherwise, they develop an antisocial complex that would make them stubborn. Or more stubborn, rather. Cats are already famous, or infamous, for their obstinate character, and being deprived of the tender, loving care they need, and even expect, would only yield worse results.

Patience Is A Virtue

The number one requirement for prospective cat owners, however, is patience. Cats are creatures that would resist being trained if you would condition them negatively, that is, you'd punish them for every bad deed that they do. Cats are more accommodative to positive conditioning, or a system of rewarding them for the good acts they manage to practice.

There are a lot of paraphernalia you could make or buy that would help you train your cat. But all of them would be useless if you don't have the patience or the commitment to rear your feline pet with love and affection.

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10. Choosing A Cat

Before you get a cat for your home, be sure to know what kind suits your lifestyle. Cats, like clothes and furniture, must be compatible with you and your environment. Like a partner, they must be treated with utmost care and must be given extra attention. And like kids, training must be imposed early. These answer to why you should know your cat better and choose it appropriately before housing. Of course, besides pondering on the limit of your patience and cost, there are other factors to consider.

Male or Female?

Deciding on the cat's gender is not really an issue in choosing a cat today, but then, you must remember that choosing is now also part of your obligation. Knowledge on the behavior of different genders is necessary in your cat selection. Many people may think that both male and female have the same behavior and personality – they are wrong. Male cats are aggressive while the female cats are graceful, but almost 80% of cat lovers prefer the male rather than the female. What could be the reason? The truth in choosing a cat is that the gender is unnoticeable a big consideration.

Male cats, though a little violent and aggressive in protecting their territories, can be loyal and more loving than the female. The female cats, on the other hand, may show calmness, but can also be intolerably noisy – always howling and creating crying-like sounds.

Adult or Kitten?

Adopting an adult cat is more advisable than choosing a kitten. The notion that kittens are just like human babies is true. You have to give them extra attention, extra care, and most importantly, extra patience.

Kittens are so much energetic and vigorous that sometimes they can be destructive of your furniture and appliances. They can also show signs of tantrums and irritability. Kittens can be nice pets for kids as they can play with each other. Adult cats are more trained than the kittens. They can adjust easily to a new environment. Just give them enough food, shelter, and love, and they will be okay. For older and organized people, an adult cat can be a great pet, and for extra patient people who would like to personally

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train their cats, kittens will be good.

The Breed

It is necessary to know the breed of your cat because this can convey their physical conditions and their behavior. For instance, the Persian cat is the most common kind of breed cat owners have because of its loyalty and beauty... but, it is important to also know that these cats often have nasal problems because of their foreshortened nose. A Manx have spinal problems so a little harder bed is preferred. These physical attributes can help the owner in knowing how a certain cat should be taken cared of.

In terms of behavior, choose a well-behaved and loyal cat. For the elders, a Birman cat would be a good pet because of its gentleness, and non-aggressiveness. A Tonkinese would be enjoyable for the kids because it is energetic and lively, but is very loyal just like the Birman.

Domestic cats are also loyal and loving, but if you choose to take a domestic cat instead of a purebred, be sure to have it inspected by a veterinarian first. Domestic cats, also known as “moggies”, have no specific life history and only an expert can trace it, give the cat the proper vaccinations and treat its certain diseases.

The Physical Condition

Before buying a cat, make sure that it is healthy and free from diseases. Remember that you and your family would play and hug it; there must be no chances of transmitting viruses and diseases from the cat to another person.

Signs of a healthy cat:

- The cat's eyes must be clear, no excretions of any kind.
- The ears must be clean and free from wax.
- The nose must have no moist, or any signs of cold or nasal problems.
- The teeth must be white and gums pinkish.
- The body must not look like malnourished - there must be a proper amount of flesh.
- The hair must have no fleas and ticks.

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11. Basics Of Cat Care

Once you decide to purchase a cat, this means that you are now ready to face another responsibility – not only to yourself, to your properties, but to your pet as well. Cats are easier to take care of and satisfy unlike other pets. Give them food, shelter, love and attention and they will be alright. You need not also bathe them regularly. However, you still have to be specific in understanding their needs. Below are some basic ways of cat care:

Feeding

Just like human beings, cats must be fed at least two times a day in order to regain the lost energy they spent within the day. Some people think that giving dog food to their cat would make the latter heavier and more vigilant, but the truth is that dog foods do not really possess the required amount of nutrients needed by the cat. It is important to note that cats are more energetic and vigorous than the dogs, which means that more amino acids and protein are needed to sustain their proper nutrition – this can only be present and accurate in a cat food.

Kittens six months old and below must be fed with kitten food three to four times daily while the older ones (age ranges from 6 months onwards), must be fed at least two times. It is advisable to slowly shift kitten food to adult cat food when the cat reaches its first year.

Fresh water must always be present in the food bowl for body nourishment. Avoid giving your cats canned or powdered milk for it may cause them diarrhea and stomach pains.

Grooming

Leave the ribbons and uncomfortable cat dresses behind. The basic and most important part of grooming is brushing or combing the hair of your cat. This process would not only entangle looped hair but will also remove the excess hair that will later on turn into what they call “hairballs”. Several documentary episodes about cats show that the most common reason why these beautiful creatures undergo surgery is because of the big lumps of hairballs found within their body. This is caused by continuous “bathing” of

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cats using their tongue, and accidentally swallowing the hair taken from their coat. So, before your cat ends up in a pet clinic, make it a habit to always comb your cat's hair. This is a big help in reducing the risk of hairballs. A wide-toothed comb is advisable for long-haired cats while bristle brush will be good on short hairs.

The Environment

Deciding whether your cat stays inside or outside your house must be weighed seriously. Both each have their own advantages and disadvantages.

In-house cats, especially kittens, can be destructive to your property sometimes. They would scratch your carpet and walls and leave strong scents around the corners of your house (this is territorial defense for them). Most of the time, some strands of their hair would stick to your new sofa set and your bed. Most cats will also jump on your dining table and taste your food for lunch or dinner. Cats staying outside your door, on the other hand, have a greater probability to fight with or bully other neighboring cats and return in a disgusting state. Cats may roam in streets at night and eventually hit by a running vehicle. They can also be lost.

These are terrifying realities of a life outside a home, so keep in mind the most important rule in basic cat care: Adopt a cat and shower it with love and affection. Make them feel special and you will be returned with loyalty and kindness. In-house cats can reach 15 years or more.

If you decide to bring your pet outdoor, you must be ready to face the fact that outside cats has a bigger possibility for a shorter life - approximately 2 to 4 years only. The reason? The law of survival: Survival of the fittest... the strong will reign and the weak will perish. Once your cat stays outside your territory, the said law applies.

Health Care

Aside from proper diet, regular check-ups are necessary in order to monitor your cat's health. Proper vaccines must be administered to prevent certain illnesses and diseases from spreading.

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12. House Training Your Cat

Like a growing child, cats must be trained as early as possible to avoid any problems in the future. Hitting would not immediately discipline a cat; it will only bring confusion to the concept of training. Training, by definition, is stated as the teaching of vocational or practical and relates to specific useful skills. It forms the core of apprenticeships and provides the backbone of content at technical colleges or polytechnics. Today it is often referred to as professional development. Below are some basic trainings for your home cats.

Litter Problems

Even without training by humans, cats possess a different level of intuition which helps them discover the method of cleaning up their fecal matters. However, this inborn knowledge also fails among cats, specifically those who grow up in a common shelter accomplished by humans. In this case, human intervention is needed.

The best way of potty training your cat is to provide an average-sized litter box (just the right size for your cat) and put dry soil, clay or old newspaper to it. Be sure to put it in an accessible area but away from the living and dining room then observe what happens. Most of the time, trainers get positive results but sometimes, the effort just fails. In this case, problems must be detected right away. Trainers must consider other factors like the physical condition of the body: Is my cat sick? Does my cat have a urinary track disease or body infections?

Hitting must be your last option. Yes, sometimes it works, but you have to keep in mind that cats are not humans. They do not understand your purpose, like, rubbing their feces or pee into their nose – this just won't always work.

In training you pet cat, all you need is patience. Do what you need to do like cleaning the litter box and replacing its litter daily.

Scratching

Cats need to trim their claws regularly, that is the reason why they scratch. This is one of cat's natural activities; therefore, you could not just nag or hit them to stop. The most

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practical but indeed very effective treatment to this never ending property threat is a good training. You can do this by providing a scratching post accessible to them. Include different kinds of materials, like a piece of plywood or a small portion of your very old carpet, as cats prefer various textures to be scratched.

Also, try to trim your cat's claws regularly. You have to take note that cutting the entire claws is a torture to your cat, an overreaction – this is the same as minimizing your cat's chance of survival. Why? These claws are what they use to catch their prey (yes, including the disgusting rats). These are also their protectors, their armor that would help them defeat an enemy and protect their territory. So, just trim...

Non-Stop Reproduction

It is impossible to stop mating cats of different sexes. Unlike humans, cats have no complete control over their urge to mate, but, like humans, reproduction can be restrained.

Most of the time, the basic training includes creating loud noises. For some intelligent cats, this is a sign to stop the activities they do, including scratching, crying and even mating. However, you cannot really be assured that they would completely obey, even without your thumping sound. Usually, they do these at nighttime, when they are the only ones awake. Unless you lock your cat inside the house, you clearly could not prevent this from happening and you may end up having kittens every several months.

Scientific involvement can be beneficial sometimes. Neutering is a specific term for the surgery many cats undergo in order to prevent reproduction. This is a good resort for responsible pet owners. This does not only control birth but can also reduce intense crying and loitering of cats outside the house. This also minimizes spraying of strong scents on corners and aggressiveness.

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13. How To Potty Train Your Cat

Cats are amazing, little furry creatures that would show you some adorable warmth one moment, and a scornful behavior the next. No wonder that the universal symbol for fickleness is a cat, for fewer pets are moodier than these feline companions. But we love them nonetheless, and overall, they make great household buddies. They are very cute with their antics, and during their good moods at least, no other creature can be more loving and lovable than them!

Initially, however, during the first few weeks after we have brought them home, cats can tear the household asunder. Shredded newspaper pieces left and right (better newspapers than important documents!), nibbled shoes, and ruined furniture are just some of the normal sights in a house that has just accepted a cat as a part of the family. But worst of all, as many people would agree, are the litters that would be found left and right! Cats, after all, as with other household pets, aren't really known for their toilet habits.

But all is not lost for the cat owner who wishes to restore some order in the house. Cats are intelligent animals, and they can be trained. Potty training them, though frustrating at times, can be accomplished eventually.

The Number One Investment In Potty Training Your Cat

There are a lot of paraphernalia available in pet stores that will help you train, and potty train, your cat. Though they are blessed with amazing features and capable of many benefits, these should not be your primary investment.

Training always requires the presence of a teacher. The teacher would provide that human touch, so to speak, which would guide the feline fur ball to the ways of what is right. Hence, your number one investment should be your time, and your time should be accompanied by your patience.

Cats are very, very, very stubborn creatures, and that is even an understatement! The more you dissuade them, the more they will do what you don't want them to do. It's their nature. It's how they are, so we just have to deal with it. Instead of fighting fire with fire, we should learn how to go around the situation to find a better way of handling things. And this is where your patience would come to play. Frustration won't get you

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anywhere. Show your cat that she is loved and she'll work with you.

Working With Your Cat

Potty training your cat can involve over-the-counter devices or mere innovative methods. Over-the-counter devices include litter boxes, which are small boxes filled with sand. Cats have an instinctive behavior to discharge their wastes on the sand. They'd cover their wastes by digging some sand and concealing their wastes with the same. Cats are very clean creatures, as can be evidenced by their propensity to always lick themselves.

Another over-the-counter device is a litter scent. This is a liquid chemical that emits a certain odor that would induce your cat to discharge her wastes. You would apply this chemical on the spot where you want your cat to answer nature's call, she would follow the scent and discharge on the said spot.

Of course, there are tactics that won't require you to purchase anything. Carrying your cat to the spot where you want her to go while she is about to do the act, for example, would inform her where she should be discharging her wastes. Also, putting a newspaper at the place where she goes, and gradually moving the said paper to the desired spot where you want her to discharge, have worked wonders for many cat owners the world over.

Reward, Not Punish

It is important to note that cats, being the prideful creatures that they are, don't take punishments well. They'll just grow to resent you, which is not really an ideal scenario between a pet and a pet owner.

Instead, try rewarding your cat by rubbing her tummy, or stroking her body, after she does something good. Words laden with positive reinforcements would also work well. Cats may not be able to understand what we're talking about, but the tender, loving tone of our voice would be enough to assure them that they're doing something right.

14. What To Do When Your Cat Is Sick

Taking care of a sick pet like cats is very similar to taking care of a sick child. It is important that owners should have enough knowledge to treat the cats' illnesses and monitor their pets' activities so they can report it completely to the veterinarian once they bring them to pet clinics. Remember, in your decision to adopt a pet comes along your responsibility to educate yourself regarding every single detail of their nature and their well-being.

For the mean time, while you observe your sick pet, try to follow the simple guidelines of how to care for it at home.

General Nursing

The most basic approach to treat a sick cat is to give it the comfort and warmth it needs. Be ready with an extra warm bed; always supply your cat with fresh water; and do not try to give medicines which are not prescribed by a licensed veterinarian because many medicines can be poisonous to cats. General nursing also makes real of your affection and patience towards your commitment – the pet which you adopted.

Monitor The Temperature, Heart Beat and Pulse Beat

It is important to record your sick cat's temperature, heart and pulse beat so you will be aware of the progress of your cat's condition.

Temperature. In getting the temperature, a renal thermometer lubricated with mineral water or a mild lotion can do the measuring job (in the absence of a renal thermometer, you may use a regular thermometer). The normal temperature of a cat is 100 to 101.5 degrees, therefore, if your cat reaches 102 degrees above, it is best to immediately consult a veterinarian or apply the necessary first-aid treatment.

Heart beat. The normal heart beat of a healthy cat will take 90 to 100 beats in a minute. Heart beats higher or lower than the said number may signify illness.

Pulse beat. Place your index finger inside the cat's thigh – that is where your cat's pulse is located. Normal cat's pulse beats 110 to 130 per minute, so if your resulted to

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unusual counts, then your cat may be sick.

Induce Proper Treatment

Temporary but proper treatments can be helpful in resolving illnesses. In this sense, knowledge in animal first-aid is your primary key.

Vomiting. Wait for your cat's last vomit to happen and vigilantly observe re-occurrence for 12 hours. While waiting, it is important not to give any food to it. If vomiting stops, feed your sick cat with a teaspoonful of boiled skinned chicken, but, if this persists for another 24 hours, you have to consult your veterinarian.

Diarrhea. Treatment for diarrhea is just the same as how it should be done during vomiting. However, the observation period takes 2 to 3 days before going to the nearest pet clinic.

Flu. Cat flu is a viral infection which is quite similar to colds. This illness is normal for adult cats but can be risky and dangerous for kittens due to weaker bodies and immune system.

For temporary treatment, fresh and clean water must always be available in the food bowl. Just like humans, cats have a very good response to water therapy. In addition to this, wipe discharges and moist in your cat's nose habitually. Observe for 2 to 3 days and report unusual activities to the veterinarian.

Skin Problems. Yes, fungi are not a man's problem alone. Some cats, specifically those who at sometime mingled with street cats, may collect skin problems like itching and flaking. You can treat the problem by temporarily applying an ice pack to the infected area to soothe the itch. Also, try to place two fitted socks in your cat's hind legs to prevent the possible wounds that would result to scratching. Consult your veterinarian for proper medication afterwards.

Bite wounds. Bite wound results from bullying or fighting with neighboring cats. You can disinfect the wound with antiseptic but you must never forget that veterinarian can give you the prescribed antibiotics for your suffering cat.

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Conclusion

So now you are a pet care veteran or at least a little bit closer to becoming one. I hope you will take away many great new tips and tricks about cats and dogs and use them in your own life as you care for your own pets.

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Get even more dog training, help to stop your dog's behavioral problems.

Does your dog have an aggressive behavior?

Does your dog never stop barking?

Does your dog bite and chew everything?

Does your dog need house training?

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Who else wants to have a more rewarding relationship, with their perfectly well trained cat, and be the envy of all their friends?"

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