



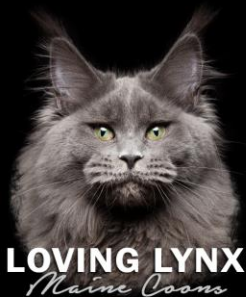
LOVING LYNX

Maine Coons

MAINE COON CARE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
HEALTH	3
INSURANCE.....	5
LITTER-BOX.....	6
DAILY CARE.....	7
CLEANING.....	9
BEHAVIOR.....	10
TRAINING.....	15
OUTSIDE.....	16
ENRICHMENT	17
WARNINGS.....	19
WEBSITE LINKS	21
RAW CAT FOOD	23
WHAT ARE WE USING?.....	27



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Maine Coons

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INTRODUCTION

Kitten-Proofing

Kitten-proofing your home helps ensure your kitten's safety as well as your own. Kittens are lively and curious, which can lead them into serious trouble unless you take preventative measures. A kitten has a lower vantage point than yours, like a crawling baby, and may be attracted to things you do not see when you are standing.

- ✓ Cover Electrical Cords
- ✓ Add Cabinet Latches
- ✓ Remove Pull Down Door Knobs



Protect Valuables

Cats are curious. That's one of their main jobs – being curious. So, you won't want to leave your Ming Dynasty antique vase sitting on the coffee table. Because about ten seconds into Kitty's first exploration of the house, she will spring up on the table and topple the Ming Dynasty. Vase, that is.

Breakables

Put away any breakable treasures that are remotely accessible to your cat. Jumping up onto high places (like shelves and counters) is innate cat behavior; trying to stop it will be stressful for both you and kitty. Instead, put yourself into the mind of the cat, look around, and remove anything you value.

Prevention

Don't say no, say YES. Prevent the kitten from doing something inappropriate by making sure it's not an option. You are the parent; you're steering the ship. Kittens will climb your furniture and drapes. Don't get angry, get creative. For example, put a cat tree/scratcher next to the piece of furniture they think is a scratching post. Consider covering cloth furniture with a cover, or even with a blanket.

Quarantine

Quarantine is a time frame of 2-3 weeks of personal one-on-one time with new owner(s). Rushing the introduction process can result in a scared, skittish and unsure feline that can result in unruly behavior at your fault not the cat. Quarantine should be in a medium-sized room where the kitten does not feel threatened. You will then need to provide proper enrichment items to redirect the cat attention, provide exercise and to provide an activity to bond with your new kitten.

The most important aspect of quarantine is keeping all animals separate during introduction and eliminates typical routes of bacterial and viral infections. Remember your kitten requires visits to the veterinarian's office for crucial vaccinations and exams, while a kitten its immune system is less than

adult making it easy to catch something. Most animals only visit a vet when sick, take care to disinfect any surface the kitten will touch at the vet.

Sales contracts between you and your breeder often mandate a veterinary visit within a specified brief time after arrival, this allows the vet to discover any issues that may have incurred due to stress of being re-homed or otherwise obtained. The quarantine is also the ideal time to reinforce litter box habits. In the eyes of your kitten you must realize that your home is much larger to them than it is to you. Therefore, being in a smaller area where they can easily locate the litter box is ideal.

Off Limit Areas

The garage needs to be off-limits to your cat. Too many poisonous/hazardous materials are stored there. Anti-freeze is the worst because pets are attracted by its taste. Clean up all spilled anti-freeze. Cats will climb up high on top of a car or worst the garage door opener and fall causing internal bleeding that will result in death. Strong recommended you take this serious.

Meeting New Animals

Introduction: Cat to Cat

“Slowly” and “Patiently” are the Operative Words

Although sometimes cats will get along swimmingly in just a couple of hours, you should not be surprised to have a battle on your hands if you try to introduce your new cat too quickly. The time you spend on this all-important process will be saved exponentially by not having to break up conflicts every day.

Introduction: Cat to Dog

Always Proceed with Caution

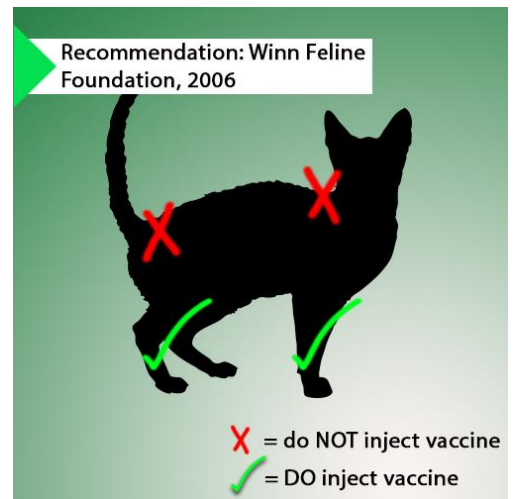
Once your dog and cat consistently get along during leashed visits, you're ready for the next step. Take your dog off the leash, and supervise the two closely. If you see problems, and they don't abate with a few simple voice commands, back up to the previous phase for a few days. Gradually make the no-leash sessions longer. Do not leave the cat and dog alone until you're sure they're both fully comfortable with each other and there will be no trouble. Make sure your cat has places she can jump to for safety. Make some private space in your home for each animal. Use cat doors or baby gates if practical, as well as gentle discipline and rewards to enforce the rules. Keep kitty's litter box and food bowl out of your dog's reach. Now relax and give these guys some hugs.

HEALTH

Vaccinations

Currently we are using. This protocol is now being adopted by ALL 27 North American veterinary schools. Important to note that mom's antibodies are not completely gone till 16 weeks thus shots given earlier may have no effect. Shots are given 3-4 weeks apart, never give a booster shot when a cat shows signs of being sick.

- Purevax® Vaccine
 - First Booster
 - Second Booster
 - Third Booster (Needs to be after 16 wks)
- Nobivac® Bodettela Vaccine
- Rabies Shot



Vet Visits

- ❖ Do not assume the exam or waiting room is clean.
- ❖ Disinfect the cat's carrier and your shoes after visiting the vet.
- ❖ Use a towel to cover the exam table, bleach towel afterwards.
- ❖ Do not allow routine procedures to be done out of sight.
- ❖ If a shot spills onto the cat have it wiped off with alcohol.
- ❖ Savannah Cats should be treated like any other cat breed (No special shots).
- ❖ Remember vets only take one small course in school about feline nutrition.

Parasite Prevention

Parasites are a common occurrence in cats as they are easily contracted through drinking water or simple touch of infected surfaces, some parasites can live weeks without a host with prevalence rates as high as 45 percent. The parasites can be worm-like (e.g., stomach worms, roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms) or one-celled (e.g., Isospora, Giardia, Toxoplasma) organisms. We recommend giving "revolution" which is a topical application given once a month to prevent, control, and treat parasite infections. The active ingredient is selamectin, which interferes with the parasite's nervous system. It is an effective heartworm preventive, killing the immature form of the heartworm. It kills adult fleas and prevents flea eggs from hatching for one month. It is also used for the treatment and control of ear mites and sarcoptic mange. Revolution also treats and controls roundworm and hookworm infections.

FIV/FELV Blood Test

Test all your current felines prior to getting your new kitten. Upon receiving your kitten, you may want to test with the FIV/FELV Blood Test (Note that this test has a 40% false positive).

If getting one of my kittens the parents are already tested negative at the vet with a SNAP FIV/FelV Combo Test. Considered negative by parents.



Microchips

We microchip all our kittens with BuddyID™ Pro Chips. New owners will receive a BuddyID™ pamphlet with instructions on how to register these microchips. Should you lose your instructions you can follow the link below. All microchips are always attached to our main breeder account in case a microchip is not registered into the new owner's name. BuddyID™ is an innovative leader in the world of animal identification and recovery with over 25 years' experience. Veterinarian owned and operated. Official member of the "Pet Microchip Lookup System". BuddyID™ takes the extra step of posting a free SearchALERT™ in the national network for any registered pet at any time.

- ✓ LOCATED IN THE USA
- ✓ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Website Link: www.buddyid.com/register/



INSURANCE

Website: <https://trupanion.com/>

Cat health insurance is simple with *Trupanion*. You pay a monthly premium in order to be covered for any new, unexpected illnesses or injuries throughout your cat's life. When your cat or kitten gets sick or injured, the last thing you want to think about is how much the veterinary care will cost. The best cat health insurance helps protect you from that financial burden and makes sure you can focus on getting the best care possible. Whether your cat encounters a minor incident, like a snagged claw or stumble down the cat tree, or develops a serious medical condition like kidney disease or cancer, *Trupanion* is there to cover 90% of all eligible healthcare expenses. Coverage is applicable to new injuries or illnesses that occur after waiting periods.

- ✓ Illnesses & injuries
- ✓ Hereditary & congenital conditions
- ✓ Diagnostic tests
- ✓ Surgeries
- ✓ Hospital stays
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Veterinary supplements
- ✓ Prosthetic devices & carts

Coverage	trupanion	Petplan	Embrace	Healthy Paws	Pets Best
Provides 90% coverage for treatments of injuries & illnesses	✓	Depends upon the specific plan	Depends upon the specific plan	Depends upon the specific plan	Depends upon the specific plan
Has no financial limits: Per year, per illness, or per pet	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Covers approved surgeries, diagnostic tests, medications, & hospital stays	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Covers prescription pet foods	✓	For urinary crystals only	When wellness plan purchased	✗	✗
Covers dietary supplements	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Pays customer based on actual veterinarian bill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Freedom to use any veterinarian at any hospital of your choice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allows customers to choose their own deductible amount (including a \$0 deductible)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Customer Care available 24/7	✓ Award-winning and pet-loving!	✓	✗	✗	✗
24/7 preapprovals available, so you can rest easy knowing you're covered, even in an emergency situation.	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Option to pay the hospital directly, so you're not out of pocket for the entire bill.	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

LITTER-BOX

What litter box do we use?

We use clumping cat litter (red color tidy cat) in a large storage tote, preferably the larger size. The longer width, the better. Younger kittens get a low sided storage tote. We suggest you start with a low sided tote until the cat is established. For those owners with sensitive noses, we suggest Petco odor-lock crystal litter.



Litterbox Problems

Problems using a litterbox is often a sign something is wrong. Stemming from either inappropriate box size, box location, cleanliness of the box, litter type/feel on the foot, stress level, insecurity, dirty houses or even illness. Regardless of the cause you need to address the issue *immediately* to prevent on going issues and the cat's well-being.

➤ INSECURITY

- Problem: Insecure animal trying to establish that they are wanted or dominating another animal (Including vermin).
- Solution: Put the box in socially critical areas so your cat(s) can establish their scent. Provide high vertical space so the cat can get up above the action in your home. When giving this vertical space you also need to give an escape route if you have other cats, they may pin a cat up high with no option to get away.

➤ HIDING BOXES

- Problem: Hiding the litter box due to odor or ascetics.
- Solution: Prevent confining smelly boxes by doing open top tubs. Put the box in socially critical areas.

➤ DIRTY HABITS

- Problem: Dirty box. Imagine going to a public bathroom where someone pooped and didn't flush it...
- Solution: Cleaning the sides of boxes. Clean often. Give multiple boxes.

➤ SMALL BOXES

- Problem: Small boxes. Most pet stores offer 90% of boxes that are too small for any adult domestic cat.
- Solution: Bigger boxes. Multiple boxes. The box should be wide enough to turn around and long enough to poop twice without stepping in the poop. Get a large storage tub or plastic cement mixing pan as its cheaper and larger.

DAILY CARE

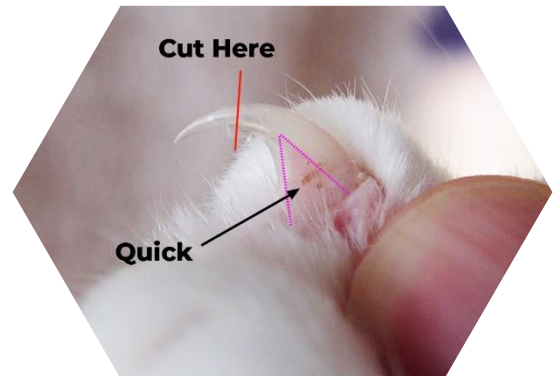
Trimming nails

Trimming your cat's nails should be done weekly to every other week to avoid destruction of objects. Start young so your cat is used to the process. Run out your cat's energy first and wait for him to be sleepy. Scruff the neck, bring the paw to the scruff and trim the nails with the other free hand.

Trim the cat's nails on a different day than bathing. It best to not associate the two activities together. You should always have styptic powder on hand in case you cut a nail too short and bleeding occurs.

We use Kwik Stop, which is Ferric Subsulfate. Ferric Subsulfate is a hemostatic agent which stops bleeding fast by contracting blood vessels. It is best to buy this product from a reputable company such as Chewy, not from Amazon. Amazon sometimes has counterfeit product and this is not the type of product you can take a chance on.

YouTube Video Link: www.YouTube.com/watch?v=Ut886IEvn9w



Coat Care

Shedding Brush & Comb

- ✓ Semi-long to long hair require daily combing.
- ✓ Short hair requires complete combing 2-3 times a year, especially coming out of winter.
- ✓ Brushes are for "fluffing" only and do not remove shedding hair.
- ✓ Cats develop guard hairs that will muddy the coat color, by brushing them out the coat will remain clearer. Silver color cats in particular will look especially muddy when not groomed.
- ✓ In long hair cats the guard hairs that shed can become matted into the coat if not removed. It is extremely important to use a comb properly to avoid matting.
- ✓ If your cat becomes matted remember that a cat's skin is not attached to muscle so it can be accidentally cut, we strongly advise taking matted cats to a trained groomer.

Dental Care

Regular Home Brushing

The idea of brushing your cat's teeth may seem daunting, but it is an essential part of caring for your feline friend. While cats may be resistant at first, they should get used to the idea with a little patience and practice. Plus, it may help to keep in mind that brushing your cat's teeth a few times a week will be much more convenient (and budget-friendly) than having to take your friend in for dental surgery.

Annual or Semi-Annual Dental Cleanings

Even if you are taking great care of your cat's teeth at home, they still need a regular dental exam and tooth cleaning at the veterinarian's office. Your veterinarian can closely examine your cat's teeth and gums, including the areas under the gumline, and safely remove plaque buildup that you can't brush away at home.

Periodontal Disease

According to the American Veterinary Dental College, most cats and dogs have evidence of periodontal disease by the time they are 3-years-old. It occurs when food particles are left behind and cause plaque to build up on the teeth. If it's not removed, plaque hardens into tartar, which can lead to an inflammation of the gums called gingivitis.

Your veterinarian will check for signs of oral abnormalities and periodontal disease during annual check-ups, but you should also look over your cat's mouth regularly at home. Because many cats are notorious for their lethargic lifestyles, it can be rather difficult to tell if your cat isn't feeling well simply by looking at them. If you notice any of the following signs, you should consult with your veterinarian:

- ✓ Bad breath – While your cat may not have the most pleasant breath, it shouldn't smell foul
- ✓ Discomfort when examining the mouth area
- ✓ Loose, broken, or discolored teeth
- ✓ Inflamed or bleeding gums

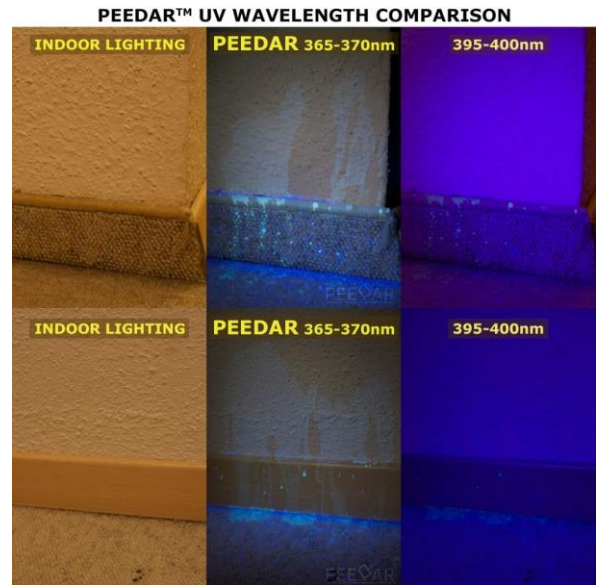
CLEANING

Black Light

Black light is also known as ultraviolet, or UV, light. UV light, simply, is light with a frequency higher than visible light. However, it's not necessary to learn physics right now. Just think of a rainbow. Water crystals break visible light into a spectrum where red has a lower visible frequency and violet has a more highly visible one.

Anything lower than red is called infrared (which can be sensed as heat but you can't see it), and anything higher than violet is ultraviolet. This is why it's known as black light, because it's not visible.

The most important feature to look for is wavelength. UV light wavelengths may vary from 10 to 400 nm (nanometers, or billionths of a meter). Most blacklight flashlights are marked to indicate what wavelength they emit. You'll most likely see LED lamps with 400 nm, 385 nm, or 365 nm in general stores. Try to avoid lamps with a wavelength of 395 or 400 nm. They are less useful in finding pet urine because they are very close to being visible light. For best results, we recommend going with 365 to 385 nm UV lights.



Cleaning Products

You might think of using bleach to clean the concrete floors after removing the urine-stained carpeting, but bleach won't kill the odor. It simply disinfects. Bleach is harmful to breathe, and it's toxic for your pets, too.

What we use:

- ✓ Natures Miracle to disinfect in/around litter-boxes weekly
- ✓ Peroxide Water for other jobs

BEHAVIOR

Cat Expert - "THE CAT COACH"

Got a problem? Marilyn has the answer.

Marilyn Krieger, noted Certified Cat Behavior Consultant known as The Cat Coach, is an internationally recognized cat behavior specialist and award-winning author. She offers on-site, Skype and Face Time consultation sessions throughout the world. Marilyn works directly with clients as well as through veterinarian referrals. Her intelligent, capable advice solves diverse behavior problems for all breeds of cats. Marilyn, a graduate of University of California, Davis and San Jose State University (MA), is certified through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants. She is the former chair of the Cat Division and former member of the board of directors of the IAABC.



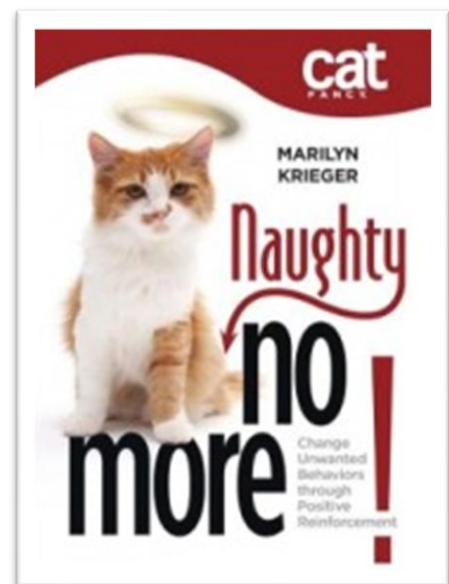
Website Link: www.TheCatCoach.com

Behavior Book: Naughty No More

In this easy-to-read beginner's guide, Marilyn Krieger, a leading clicker-training expert, tells you how to teach your cat to: sit and stay and not dart out of doors; not scratch the furniture; have stress-free introductions to new cats; stay off the table and counters; get along better with you, your guests and other cats; have a stress-free association with both the cat carrier and the trip to the veterinarian; do tricks and much more!

The recipient of several honors and awards, including the Tidy Cats Feline Behavior Award and a Muse Medallion in the 2011 Cat Writers Association Communication Contest and the 2012 about.com Reader's Choice Award for best cat behavior book.

- Clicker training basics
- How to stop counter surfing
- Stopping dangerous door darting
- Teaching cats to not scratch the furniture
- Introducing cats to each other without stress
- Changing aggressive behaviors
- Taking the stress out of vet visits and carriers
- Inappropriate elimination challenges and solutions



Biting

When working to retrain your cat to bite less, introduce something that makes her MILDLY uncomfortable ONLY when she misbehaves. For example, at the exact moment she tries to bite, shake a can that has a few coins in it or make a startling noise. Next, if she is biting when she interacts with you (such as petting or playing), stop interacting with her *immediately*. These tactics will require a lot of patience but work wonders. The top reason cats bite are out of fear and learned behavior to gain attention/affection.

Over Stimulation

Overstimulation in a cat refers to a normal response when they are pet or handled in ways the cat finds uncomfortable or in situations where they are receiving too much stimuli at one time. Their natural response can come across as “aggressive,” though, that is not the cat’s intention. An example of this type of response would be when a cat suddenly bites when they are being pet.

The best thing to do is DON’T PANIC. Slowly withdraw your hand and move away from the cat. If you are holding kitty at the time, pull your hands away and allow her to retreat, or stand up and let her jump to the floor. Learn how to recognize signals that precede biting: wildly flicking tail, ears laid back, dilated pupils, or body tensing. When you notice any of these, stop touching kitty and allow her to move away on her own.

We STRONGLY recommend never using a hand as a toy, instead use toy of some type that the cat can chew.

SIGNS OF OVERSTIMULATION

- Restlessness (cannot sit still)
- Twitching of their tail
- Skin rippling when you pet them
- Turning their head towards your hand ready to bite
- Flicking tail
- *These signs can be subtle, so it is important to learn about cat body language, and specifically how your cat’s indicators.*

What to do!

- ✓ Start slow! Forcing your cat will only increase a negative association with petting and interaction. Start with short periods of time. Let the cat chose to engage.
- ✓ As soon as you notice any signs that your cat is becoming overstimulated, stop petting them immediately and give them space. This is important to reinforce that you will respect their boundaries.
- ✓ Offer a delicious food reward to your cat while you pet them. Gradually increase the length of time you pet your cat per session.
- ✓ Engage in several sessions of interactive play with your cat. This will help alleviate stress and help them burn off pent up frustration. Interactive play sessions may include items such as wand

toys. One toy type to avoid, however, are laser pointers. Removing the tactile reward of being able to bite and bat at an item may increase frustration in overstimulated cats.

- ✓ Play sessions should be around 10-15 minutes in length.
- ✓ After every play session, you should provide your cat with a high-value food reward.

What NOT to do!

- ⊗ Continue petting your cat even after noticing signs of overstimulation. This will lead to frustration from your animal and potential injury to yourself.
- ⊗ Punish your cat for expressing overstimulation behaviors. Punishing your cat will result in an increased likelihood of biting or they will associate petting with physical punishment/pain.
- ⊗ Expect your cat to change rapidly. It will take time and patience to work with your cat.

Boredom

Excess of unused energy can also lead to such behavior.

Redirected Anger

One of the most difficult types of aggression for owners to understand is called “redirected aggression”. In this form of aggression, a cat generally attacks the closest object, often a family member or a cat in the same household, when it is frightened or excessively aroused by a stimulus that is inaccessible. The most common stimuli leading to redirected aggression are the presence of another cat, high-pitched noises, visitors in a house, a dog, an unusual odor, and being outdoors unexpectedly.

Chewing

Body Language

Relaxed/Content

These show the cat is content and often demonstrates trust in their environment.

- ✓ eyes half-closed
- ✓ sitting or lying down with minimal muscle tension
- ✓ minimal tail movement
- ✓ purring
- ✓ kneading (“making biscuits”)
- ✓ rubbing on people or things
- ✓ belly exposed (demonstrates trust because cats will often protect their belly in fearful situations)
- ✓ grooming the body rhythmically, in a relaxed manner

Play

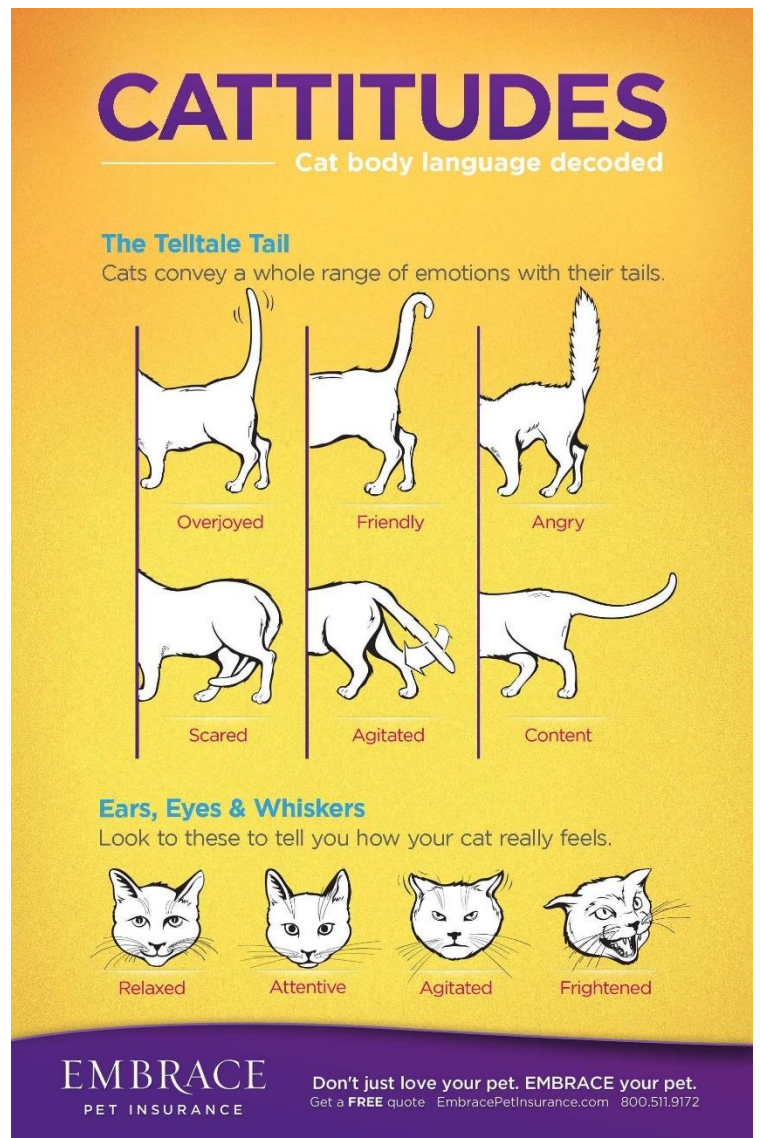
These behaviors are used during play and to initiate it. Hunting behaviors are similar to those of play.

- ears forward
- tail pointed up (an indicator that the cat is game for a friendly interaction)
- whiskers forward
- tail twitching
- predatory/hunting behavior such as stalking, pouncing, swiping, or biting
- immature cat rolling towards older cat (an indication of appeasing behavior)

Frustration

These types of behaviors are reactions to something that is not meeting the cat's expectations or their inability to control something (e.g., hunger, not wanting to be held). These behaviors are an effort to achieve what they desire.

- ⊗ Yowling continuously
- ⊗ circling or pacing
- ⊗ rubbing body or face on people, animals, or objects
- ⊗ scratching on objects
- ⊗ cats may switch behaviors quickly (unlike with fear/anxiety, where in some cases behaviors are prolonged)
- ⊗ very active
- ⊗ flattening or rotating ears
- ⊗ thrashing or firm swishing of tail
- ⊗ gazing upward
- ⊗ half-blinking
- ⊗ showing the tongue
- ⊗ Flehman response
- ⊗ nose licking or nose wrinkling
- ⊗ rippling and twitching skin
- ⊗ hair standing up if very frustrated
- ⊗ grooming specific areas (eg, shoulder or base of tail) quickly and in an intense manner



Pain

It is extremely difficult to notice pain in cats as they tend to hide pain well, but they do demonstrate some noticeable behaviors.

- hiding
- less social with other members of household
- limping
- more withdrawn or quiet
- ears back
- pupils dilated
- change in normal behavior
- squinted eyes
- hunched back

Fear/Anxiety/Curiosity

These information-gathering behaviors are an effort to learn about an object, person, environment, and/or if perceived as a threat, to determine the severity.

- ✗ hypervigilance and scanning the surroundings frequently
- ✗ fixation on the object of concern
- ✗ ears erect and directed at the source of concern
- ✗ sniffing
- ✗ Flehmen response, which is raising or curling the lips to detect information such as pheromones
- ✗ may startle easy if intensely focused
- ✗ tail swishing
- ✗ straight legs and upright posture
- ✗ watching object of interest casually/calmly (as opposed to the intense staring of repulsion)

TRAINING

Harness Training

Harness training a cat takes patience and perseverance. This will not happen overnight. Walking on a leash requires extensive time, patience and positive reinforcement to achieve. Never allow a cat to walk out of a door even on a harness, you do not want to teach a cat that walking out of a door will result in outside access. As soon as your kitten is settled you should start these steps;

- ✓ **Step 1** - Start placing a fitted harness on your kitten and allow the kitten to wear it for extended periods inside the home without associate with the leash. We suggest looking into www.KittyHolster.com The cat may protest by laying down but eventually will learn to wear the harnesses without struggle. Try associating the harness with play time for positive enforcement.
- ✓ **Step 2** - Start attaching a leash inside the home. Take a cat wand to entice the cat to walk. Give extra small treats sparingly for positive reinforcement. If the cat becomes scared, calmly pet the cat and redirect its attention back to the cat wand. Do not be forceful, don't give up quickly. Patience and repetition is the key.
- ✓ **Step 3** - Pick an outside area that is without fast moving objects or loud noises, preferably an enclosed smaller space such as a backyard. Play with a cat wand. Do not attempt to "walk". Your goal is to give positive enforcement to going outside only. From here you will extend your outside adventures.

Clicker Training

Best Friend Animal Society's Dr. Frank has a fantastic video on YouTube detailing clicker training methods. After 9,000 years of living with humans, scientists state that all cat breeds remain only semi-domesticated. If you want your cat to obey your needs, you need to make training worthwhile.

Website Link: www.ClickerTraining.com

OUTSIDE



Outside Adventures

AdventureCats.org is the first and only resource for information on safely exploring the great outdoors with your feline friend. The site is run by a passionate group of outdoorsy cat lovers who want to challenge negative stereotypes about cats and their owners. Not all cats are content to simply watch the world through the window. Meet the fearless felines who accompany their humans on outdoor excursions and learn safe and fun ways your cat can become an adventure cat.

Website Link: www.AdventureCats.org

Following are some of the reasons people have provided for allowing their cat to be outdoors without their supervision, along with our comments and suggestions.

“I have a six-foot fence.”

Unless you have special fencing that’s designed to prevent a cat from climbing out, your cat will be able to scale your fence and escape the confines of your yard. Even if you do have special fencing, you need to make sure that it can keep other cats or animals from getting into your yard to get to your cat.

“My last cat went outdoors and he loved it.”

Your cat may enjoy being outdoors, but by allowing him to go outside, unsupervised, you’re putting him at risk and shortening his life span. Most cats that are allowed to roam outdoors usually don’t live for more than a few years. Cats who live strictly indoors can live up to 18 - 20 years of age. “My cat’s litter box smells.” Scoop your cat’s litter box on a daily basis. How often you change the litter depends on the number of cats in your home, the number of litter boxes, and the type of litter you use. Twice a week is a general guideline for clay litter, but depending on the circumstances, you may need to change it every other day or once a week. Wash the litter box with soap and water every time you change the litter. Don’t use strong smelling chemicals or cleaning products when washing the litter box, as it may cause your cat to avoid it. “My cat likes to sun herself.” Your cat can sun herself by any window indoors. If you’re really set on letting your cat sun herself outdoors, put her on a harness and leash and stay with her while she’s taking in the rays.

“My cat yowls and acts likes he really needs to go outside.”

Your cat may be feeling the physiological need to mate. If this is the case, make sure your cat is neutered (males) or spayed (females). Sterilized cats don’t have the natural need to breed, and therefore, won’t be anxious to go out to find a mate.

ENRICHMENT

Exercise

Exercise is where a cat can expend its pent-up energy. There have been more and more tests showing that cats kept inside can become bored and develop cat serious psychological problems. These issues can present themselves in many ways such as destroying furniture or not using litter boxes. We suggest a combination of real interaction (playing sessions with a cat wand, clicker training, harness training) and interactive toys (cat wheels, wall of shelves, cat trees).

Play Sessions

Play sessions with a cat wand are the best enriching activity with your cat. Get your cat out of breath with a vigorous session typically 10 – 30 minutes long. Try adding a session before bedtime to get optimal nighttime sleep results.

Website link: www.TheCatConnection.com

Cat Wheels

Cat wheels are the must-have enriching experience every cat needs to get that extra energy spent. Proven to not only enhance the physical well-being of our cats but altered their disposition to be more relaxed, and calm. Please note that cats still need one-on-one exercise with cat wands and other enriching activities. Cat wheels should be used as a tool to spend energy in between true exercise/play sessions.

Website Link: www.OneFastCat.com

Website Link: www.TheCatWheel.com

Cat shelves and trees

Shelves & Trees can be used both in real interaction and by the cat alone. Our cats typically require larger more robust options due to their weight.

Website link: www.CatastrophieCreations.com

TOYS

Cats require proper mental stimulation and exercise to live a balanced life. When picking enrichment toys, they must be durable and anti-swallow. Avoid weak or thin plastic, loose fabric, loose feathers and very small toys. Cat wheels are one of the best ways to expect substantial amounts of energy. But remember toys are not a substitute for real mental stimulation.

Full toy list with names and links: <https://www.lovinglynx.com/mainecoons/toys>



WARNINGS

Essential Oil Poisoning

Essential oils are the concentrated liquids (volatile organic compounds) of plants. Essential oils have become popular for their use in aromatherapy and alternative medicine; they are also used in cleaning products, food and drink flavorings, herbal remedies, perfumes, personal care products, and liquid potpourris used as home air fresheners and fragrances. Many liquid potpourri products and essential oils, including oil of cinnamon, citrus, pennyroyal, peppermint, pine, sweet birch, tea tree (melaleuca), wintergreen, and ylang-ylang, are poisonous to cats. Both ingestion and skin exposure can be toxic. Rapid diagnosis and treatment are imperative. *If you believe that your cat has ingested or come in contact with essential oils or liquid potpourri, call your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline*

Read More: <https://vcahospitals.com/>

Poisonous Plants

Animal Poison Control at 1-888-426-4435

If you see your cat eating a plant and you are uncertain if it is poisonous, or if you even suspect that your cat ate such a plant, call your veterinarian immediately.

Many toxic plants are irritants: they cause localized inflammation of the skin, mouth, stomach, etc. The toxic principle in other plants may have a systemic effect and damage or alter the function of a cat's organs, like the kidney or heart. "Lilies are a very big deal because they cause acute, potentially fatal kidney failure," says integrative veterinarian Carol Osborne, DVM, of the Chagrin Falls Pet Clinic in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Top ten most common toxic house plants:

Marijuana

Ingestion of *Cannabis sativa* by companion animals can result in depression of the central nervous system and incoordination, as well as vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, increased heart rate, and even seizures and coma.

Sago Palm

All parts of *Cycas Revoluta* are poisonous, but the seeds or "nuts" contain the largest amount of toxin. The ingestion of just one or two seeds can result in very serious effects, which include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and liver failure.

Lilies

Members of the *Lilium* spp. are considered to be highly toxic to cats. While the poisonous component has not yet been identified, it is clear that with even ingestions of very small amounts of the plant, severe kidney damage could result.



Tulip/Narcissus bulbs

The bulb portions of *Tulipa/Narcissus* spp. contain toxins that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

Azalea/Rhododendron

Members of the *Rhododendron* spp. contain substances known as grayantoxins, which can produce vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness and depression of the central nervous system in animals. Severe azalea poisoning could ultimately lead to coma and death from cardiovascular collapse.

Oleander

All parts of *Nerium oleander* are considered to be toxic, as they contain cardiac glycosides that have the potential to cause serious effects—including gastrointestinal tract irritation, abnormal heart function, hypothermia and even death.

Castor Bean

The poisonous principle in *Ricinus communis* is ricin, a highly toxic protein that can produce severe abdominal pain, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, weakness and loss of appetite. Severe cases of poisoning can result in dehydration, muscle twitching, tremors, seizures, coma and death.

Cyclamen

Cyclamen species contain cyclamine, but the highest concentration of this toxic component is typically located in the root portion of the plant. If consumed, Cyclamen can produce significant gastrointestinal irritation, including intense vomiting. Fatalities have also been reported in some cases.

Kalanchoe

This plant contains components that can produce gastrointestinal irritation, as well as those that are toxic to the heart, and can seriously affect cardiac rhythm and rate.

Yew

Taxus spp. contains a toxic component known as taxine, which causes central nervous system effects such as trembling, in coordination, and difficulty breathing. It can also cause significant gastrointestinal irritation and cardiac failure, which can result in death.

DO NOT FEED

Do not feed your cat the following:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Chocolate
- Grapes & raisins
- Moldy or spoiled food
- Onions, garlic & chives
- Salt & salty foods
- Tomato leaves, stems & unripe fruit
- Yeast dough
- Cooked bones (They splinter when eaten)

WEBSITE LINKS

Chewy has free 1-2 day delivery over a certain dollar amount. Offering many items including name brand foods at reasonable prices.

www.Chewy.com

The Cat Connection is retail shop located in Texas but ships. Many cat wands options you can't find elsewhere.

www.TheCatConnection.com

Kuranda offers cat beds and cat towers with a chew proof design. No fabric. Comfortable, easy to clean and made in the USA.

www.Kuranda.com/cat-products

Kitty Kasa offers stackable plastic cubes that are well made and easy to clean. Many colors.

www.KittyKasas.com

The Refined Feline is to replace the unattractive, aesthetically displeasing cat furniture that is currently in living rooms with sleek, modern furniture that owners.

www.TheRefinedFeline.com

Walmart... wait did I say Walmart? Walmart online offers a cat tree brand called "New Cat Condos". These trees often have free shipping and are as well made as pet stores you can visit locally.

www.Walmart.com

Custom Cages offers high quality enclosures that are powder coated. They also offer a Single Safety Catch that attaches to any door way to prevent cats from escaping

www.CustomCages.com/suncatcher-cat.html

Cats On Deck offers PVC lightweight modular cat enclosures.

www.CatsOnDeck.com

Cat Spaces offers DIY instructions building a cat enclosure.

www.CatioSpaces.com

SafetyKatz Walking Jackets are difficult-to-escape. They are US-made, soft, comfortable walking vests that secure with ultra-strong velcro closures to keep your cat safe and sound. Made by relative of JoyKatz (Retired Cat Breeder).

https://www.ebay.com/usr/rall3934?_trksid=p2047675.l2559

Cat Behavior

http://www.aafponline.org/resources/practice_guidelines.htm

American Association of Feline Practitioners

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/brochures/index.htm>

Cornell Feline Health Center. Declawing

<http://stevedalepetworld.com/images/stories/declawing.pdf>

Health • Comprehensive articles and issues

<http://www.sheltermedicine.com/portal/infosheets.shtml#top3>

Univ. of CA, Davis • Diabetes, Urinary Tract, Gastrointestinal, etc:

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/brochures/index.htm>

Cornell Feline Health Center • Nutrition and Feeding: <http://www.catinfo.org/>

Linda A. Pierson, DVM Infectious Diseases• FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis):

<http://www.winnfelinehealth.org/index.html>

Winn Feline Foundation FIP, FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus):

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/brochures/index.htm>

Cornell Feline Health Center Kitten Care• Comprehensive kitten care information.

<http://www.catchannel.com/kittens/default.aspx>

Cat Channel Senior Care

http://www.aafponline.org/resources/practice_guidelines.htm

American Association of Feline Practitioners

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/brochures/index.htm>

Create a web page for your cat, chat groups, more links

<http://www.catster.com>

Create a web page for your cat, blogs, more links

<http://www.catchannel.com>

RAW CAT FOOD

Written By Hare Today: <https://hare-today.com/>

What is Raw?

Raw feeding is the practice of feeding domestic dogs, cats and other carnivores a diet of uncooked meat, edible bones, and organs.



Why feed a RAW diet?

A Raw diet provides a range of benefits that a commercial diet can never hope to even closely match.

These benefits include:

- No pet odor
- Meaty bones will help clean teeth
- Much less stools produced
- Decreased or non-existent vet bills (your animals are healthier!)
- Why is commercial food not good?

There are a range of problems with commercial dog and cat foods. The truth about most commercial dog and cat foods is that they are loaded with additives and harmful chemicals that harm your dog or cat over time. Many dogs and cats are suffering from many elements that can be avoided when the right food is fed to them. The Pet Food Industry is a Multi-Billion Dollar Industry Driven By Greed. It's designed to glean profits at our dog's and cat's expense.

What else goes into commercial pet food:

- Dead zoo animals
- Euthanized pets from the pound (with poisons still in them)
- Road kill
- Dead, dying, diseased, and cancerous cattle from feed lots
- Dead horses
- Kkin, hide, feathers
- Anything else they can't turn into human food
- Why do so many people feed commercial foods?

Commercial pet food companies have got the advertising part down amazingly well. They have entered the market at every point. With some companies, breeders and vets get major discounts and kick-backs for selling their product. They sponsor dog shows, they advertise in dog magazines, they get high profile people (including vets) to talk about their product. They use fancy packaging. And most importantly, their advertising campaigns are slick, and tend to make people feel guilty if they feed any other way.

Raw Info for Cats

Cats are obligate (strict) carnivores. What does it mean to be an 'obligate carnivore'? Obligate carnivores or "true" carnivores depend on the nutrients only found in animal flesh for their survival. While they may consume small amounts of plant material, they lack the physiology required for the efficient digestion of vegetable matter.

How to Transition and Where to Start

How to transition a cat to a raw diet:

1. <http://feline-nutrition.org/nutrition/how-to-transition-your-cat-to-a-raw-diet>
2. <http://feline-nutrition.org/nutrition/beginners-luck-where-do-i-start>
3. <https://hare-today.com/resources>

Common Mistakes

A common mistake of many new raw feeders is to add too many new proteins at one time. When starting a new raw diet it is important to go slow and steady, adding one new protein at a time. Remember, variety is also important in terms of feeding different proteins, goal of 4-5 different proteins, over time, for max nutrition. A variety of meats is crucial to a raw diet, more info here:

<https://feline-nutrition.org/answers/answers-are-exotic-meats-nutritious-or-a-novelty>

Vitamins and Supplements

Cats need a few basic supplements, especially taurine. We offer the Alnutrin supplement for both boneless and bone in ground meats. Cats should also be supplemented with fish oil for the omega 3 fatty acids.

How much to feed

Adult cats, 2-4% of their ideal body weight per day. Kittens up to 10% of their current body weight or feed based on projected adult weight. Adult cats can be fed 2 times a day, kittens will need more frequent meals. Feed calculator here https://hare-today.com/raw_food_ratio_calculator

Bacteria

Healthy companion animals can handle significant bacterial loads from food. Your cat's body is designed by nature to deal with considerable amounts of bacteria– the type of bacteria he or she would encounter by eating wild prey. Your pet's stomach is naturally highly acidic there aren't many organisms that can survive it.

Your Cat's Acid Stomach (Don't mix dry & Raw)

Written by Lyn Thomson, BVSc DipHom

<https://feline-nutrition.org/answers/answers-the-importance-of-gastric-acidity>

Cats need a highly-acidic stomach in order to properly digest their food. Unfortunately, the carbohydrates found in many processed commercial cat foods make the stomach less acidic. Meat protein stimulates acidity by triggering the production of hydrochloric acid in acid-secreting cells. A complex cascade takes place when a cat ingests food.

Put simply, 80 percent of the gastric juices secreted are a direct result of chemoreceptors in the stomach detecting the presence of meat-based proteins.

This keeps it at a very low pH of around 1-2. A low pH means high acidity. This low pH is important because digestive enzymes work best in an acidic environment. That acidity also sterilizes ingested pathogens, both bacterial and fungal. When a cat swallows a commercial pet food that is high in carbohydrate and plant protein and low in meat protein, acid-secreting cells in the stomach are not stimulated to produce much hydrochloric acid. The pH rises to around 4-5.

That high pH means low acidity. The acidic chyme leaving the stomach is the trigger for the next stage of digestion in the small intestine. The acidity encourages the flow of bile and pancreatic enzymes necessary to continue the digestive process. If the contents are not sitting at a pH of around 1-2, digestion is impaired throughout the rest of the digestive tract as well. What does this mean for cats as obligate carnivores? A diet high in carbohydrates inhibits stomach acidity. Raw food for cats, whether whole meats or ground, requires a highly-acidic stomach for digestion. Cats should not be fed a combination of processed and raw foods, as they can experience a range of problems:

1. They will struggle to properly digest their foods.
2. They may become constipated with undigested bone spicules impacted in the rectum, which can be painful.
3. Raw meaty bones can sit for long periods in the stomach, which may lead to vomiting bone, or worse still, an obstruction.

They may experience a gastro-intestinal upset when the bacterial load of the ingested food runs riot in the alkaline environment. Gastric acidity is needed to sterilize ingested pathogens. Processed pet foods can be contaminated with salmonella and mycotoxins.¹ The gastric acidity is a first line of defense, making cats with reduced acidity vulnerable.





Feline Nutrition Foundation

Feline Nutrition was founded in 2008 as an organization dedicated to educating pet parents about the benefits of raw meat diets for felines and to advocate for changing how cats are fed. We're all about providing science-backed information on diet and health, so people can make informed decisions about what to feed their feline family members.

After switching our own cats to a raw meat diet in 2008 and seeing the dramatic changes in even our young, healthy cats, we formed the Feline Nutrition Education Society to change how people thought about "cat food." At the time, information was scattered, often fragmentary and not very friendly to the [beginner](#) still trying to figure it all out. We remember how it was in the beginning when the idea was new, and quite frankly, a little scary. Putting down that first plate of raw food, silently wondering "Am I about to kill my cat?" Now, it's second nature to us, and we couldn't imagine feeding our cats any other way. Our mission is to help others learn about good feline nutrition and how easy it is to feed their cats the food they evolved to eat.

In 2011 we added the Feline Nutrition Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit, to focus on education and outreach. The Society is now the membership arm of Feline Nutrition, with an ever-growing international membership base. Both organizations are collectively known as Feline Nutrition.

We have gathered information from many sources: veterinarians, researchers, seasoned raw diet experts, authors and people just like you – pet parents who want the best for their cats. We don't approach the subject of feline nutrition narrowly, like some do, and we believe there are many ways to "do it right." We want to help you find what works for you and your cats. Above all, we want to change the very definition of what cat food is in people's minds. Start from what cats evolved to eat and not from what can be made from the leftovers from human food production.

When it comes to cat food, everything you thought you knew could very well be wrong. Feline Nutrition is here to help you make it right.

<https://feline-nutrition.org/>

WHAT ARE WE USING?

Litterbox

1. Litter
 - a. Fresh Step Scented Crystal Cat Litter (First Choice)
 - b. Arm & Hammer Clump & Seal, No Dust (Second Choice)
2. Litterbox
 - a. Hefty Storage Tote 8.5-Gallon (34-Quart) (Low Sided)
 - b. Extra-large storage tote as litter box when adult.
3. Clean with diluted bleach water which eliminates urine enzyme, bacteria, viruses.

Travel

- Frisco Pet Carrier
- Shredded Newspaper or Towel

FOOD

Please visit our website for our up-to-date diet page:

<https://www.lovinglynx.com/mainecoons/diet>