



Facts About Cats

- 🐾 All cats, even big cats like cheetahs and cougars, walk on the tips of their toes.
- 🐾 Cats have a very good sense of balance, so they can walk along very narrow ledges and even tree branches.
- 🐾 Cats sleep up to 14 hours a day! That's a long "cat nap!"
- 🐾 Most cats live for about 15 years, but the oldest cat ever was 34!
- 🐾 Cats don't wag their tails when they're happy, they wag them when they are excited or mad.
- 🐾 Cats are fantastic pets! They can be fun to watch and many cats love to cuddle and play, but it's important not to be rough with your cat because it might scratch you by accident.



Caring For Your Cat

- ▶ Cats are very independent – they wash themselves with their tongue, they don't need to be walked like a dog, and they can use a litter box if they don't go outside.
- ▶ **Go to the Vet:** Take your cat to the veterinarian at least once a year to make sure it's healthy. Your cat will sometimes get shots (vaccines), and medicine to help prevent fleas and worms.
- ▶ **Food & Water:** Make sure your cat always has a nice clean bowl of water that it can get to. Adult cats should be fed once or twice a day. Never bother a cat that is eating.
- ▶ **Brushing:** Most cats, especially those with long fur, like to be brushed regularly. This helps them to keep their fur clean and helps prevent them from getting hairballs in their stomachs.
- ▶ **Playing:** Young cats and kittens love to play! Always use a toy to play with your cat, or it may start to think that your fingers and toes are toys, and then you might get scratched or bitten.
- ▶ **Litter box:** Just like you like to have a clean bathroom, your cat likes a nice clean litter box! Ask an adult to help you clean your cat's litter box when it's dirty. **Always wash your hands really well** if you've touched your cat's litter or litter box, especially before you eat.

Don't Get Scratched!

Most cats only bite or scratch if they feel frightened or if someone won't leave them alone. There are a few ways to help make sure your cat feels safe so it won't scratch you.



- 🐾 Don't make loud noises or big, fast movements around your cat.
- 🐾 Never bother a cat that is eating, sleeping or in the litter box.
- 🐾 Don't go near a cat that you don't know, even if it looks friendly.
- 🐾 Ask an adult to show you how to pick up your cat. If you don't do it properly, your cat won't feel safe and may try to get away or use its claws to hang on.
- 🐾 If your cat growls or tries to get away or is hiding, leave it alone. Your cat will come find you when it wants to play again.

Bites and scratches from cats, even tiny scratches from kittens, can get badly infected, so if you do get bitten or scratched, tell an adult right away so they can help you clean the cut.

Wash Your Hands!

Although cats are very clean animals, sometimes they have germs, especially in their poop and in their mouths, that can make you sick. Don't touch your cat's bum (most of them don't like that!), and always wash your hands after playing with a cat. Don't let a cat lick your face or any sores.