



Cat Sitting & Other Ways to Take Care of Your Cat When Away



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When holiday time comes around - or if you just need to leave your kitten for a few days - you'll need to think about the best way to take care of her while you're away.

For most cat parents, their precious ball of fur is no less than their own child. So, when it comes to leaving their little feline munchkin in the house to go out for business or leisure trips, it completely breaks their hearts. In addition, cat parents are also continuously concerned about the safety and well-being of their dearest fur baby, and leave no stone unturned to make sure that their fur kiddo stays protected and happy during their absence. New cat parents might find leaving their furry felines at home all the more difficult as they are continuously faced with questions about cat sitting while they are away. Although saying goodbye to your adorable furball never gets easy, this quick guide is for new cat parents, familiarising them with some effective ways of taking care of their kitties when away.

Cat Sitting

Cat sitting has emerged as one of the most popular and convenient ways for cat parents to look after their cats while they are away. Cat sitting generally involves a commissioned service for a trained individual to be present at your house while you are away, and is responsible for looking after your cat. Cat sitting services are convenient because they ensure that your fur baby gets to stay in their home. Most cat sitters are available for drop-in services as well as for overnight stays. Drop-in visits generally refer to services when the

cat sitter visits the house for an agreed-upon time to feed and interact with the cat. Overnight services refer to those where the trained professional cat watcher stays at the house for the entire duration of the cat owner's absence, making sure their precious furball is hale and hearty.

Family and Friends

As convenient as cat-sitting services are, they are extremely expensive. Even drop-in services can pinch your pockets hard. If you are planning to be away for a long period of time, one of the most affordable yet safe options is to look into pet-sitting arrangements with your family and friends. It is not just cost-effective, but since your cat is likely to be accustomed to the presence of your close friends and family members, it might have an easier time with them being around. Cats often take their time opening up to new people, and the familiar face of your family and friends can help them feel comforted when they miss you. Close friends and family members are best suited for the role of a cat watcher as they are also likely to know about your kitty's preferences too and hence can help to avoid stressing them out.

Cattery

Catteries are establishments specifically designed for feline boarding. Communal catteries have become much-favoured options for cat parents as they also offer shelter to other cats. So, at communal catteries, your kitty can play, mingle, and interact with other cats. Since most cats are not always comfortable with the idea of shifting to a new location, communal catteries can help reduce stress because of the presence of other cats. Communal catteries are also budget-friendly and provide all the services required by cats during their stay. However, if you send your feline buddy to a cattery while you are away, it is crucial to take all the necessary precautions beforehand like getting them vaccinated and having them checked by a professional veterinarian afterwards to ensure they have not caught any contagious feline disease.

Cat Camera

If you need to be away from your fur baby for a few hours, such as for work every day, you can monitor your feline with a cat camera while you are away. In addition to allowing cat parents to be able to see their cat at all times, cat cameras are excellent for surveillance purposes, making sure your home is perfectly secure in your absence. Cam for cats is also available embedded in collars, which allow you to monitor your kitty 24/7 and view the world through their eyes. Pet camera can also be programmed with several quality-of-life features, which make it considerably easier for you to interact with your feline munchkin while away from home. The most favoured features that come with the latest cat camera models include motion detection, night vision, audio alerts with two-way speakers, treat dispensers and interactive laser toys to keep your kitty stimulated.

Treats and food

Every time you are away from home, it is most likely that your fur baby misses you. However, cats are also wonderful foodies and food is one of the best ways to alleviate their stress while you are away. Cats love a variety in their everyday meal, so you can always keep their favourite cat food and treats stored at home where they can be easily accessed

to make sure they are well fed. Opting for automatic cat food dispensers that let out cat food in controlled portions for your kitty to feast on is a great way of making sure they are sufficiently fed till you return.

Water Dispensers

Cats need to drink sufficient amounts of water to keep up their well-being. But since cats and water don't really get along, cat parents frequently worry if their feline buddy is well hydrated. Furthermore, the water your kitty drinks need to be replaced every once in a while, to avoid the risks of contamination, and might prove to be a difficult task for cat parents to stay away from their dearest munchkin. So, investing in an automatic water dispenser is a wise idea if you are planning to leave your cat alone at home. Automatic water dispensers pour out sufficient amounts of water for your cat to drink after a set interval of time. It also automatically drains and replenishes the water bowl to make sure your cat is hydrated and has easy access to fresh water at all times.

FAQ on Taking Care of Cat When Away

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1. Can you toilet-train a cat?

Yes, it is possible to toilet-train your cat. With patience and by following the right methods, you can train your kitten to use the toilet and keep it clean too! But it might take a little longer than litter training.

2. Do you have to train a cat to use the litter box?

Yes, a cat needs to be trained to use the litter box. Generally, a kitten learns from its mother to pee and poop in the right place. But you too can train your cat by getting them used to the litter box.

3. How can I train my cat to use the litter box?

- Keep the litter box in a proper place
- Put enough litter in the litter
- Put the kitty in the box so that it gets accustomed to the litter box
- Try making changes to the litter box if the kitty doesn't use it

4. How long does it take to train a cat to litter?

Kittens have to be placed in the box many times for several days to get an idea of the litter box. It might take longer to train adult cats. On average, it takes around 4 weeks to train a cat to litter.

5. What is the fastest way to litter train a cat?

The fastest way to litter-train a cat is to start training it when it is still a baby. Kittens are quick learners and less fussy about their preferences. Use positive reinforcements such as treats and cuddles to train them easily.

6. Is it cruel to keep cats indoors?

Indoor cats often lack the freedom enjoyed by outdoor cats, which may cause them to feel irritated or upset. However, being indoors significantly eliminates the risks to their health. Just make sure to keep them stimulated, well fed and hydrated.

7. Are outdoor cats happier than indoor cats?

Outdoor cats have easy access to go on wonderful adventures and exercise their freedom. Hence their curiosity and sense of self are more prominent and satisfied. In comparison, indoor cats often feel restricted, causing them to be irritated or upset, creating a stark difference when it comes to indoor vs outdoor cats.

8. Is it ok to have an indoor-outdoor cat?

Confused with indoor cats vs outdoor cats? It is natural for your indoor cat to want to go on outdoor adventures. It is okay to have an indoor cat who enjoys going outside but make sure that your kitty is regularly checked out for diseases and parasites.

9. Is it better to have an indoor or outdoor cat?

Indoor vs outdoor cats have their fair share of strengths and weaknesses. However, when it comes to the general health and life expectancy of cats, indoor fur babies tend to be healthier and live much longer than their outdoor counterparts.

10. Should I kitten-proof my balcony or window?

You can take steps like keeping cotton drapes and blind cords out of your fur baby's reach, keeping windows and balcony doors closed unless the kitten is being supervised, and ensuring that plants toxic to cats aren't within their reach.

11. **How do I kitten-proof my home?**

Some crucial first steps of kitten-proofing homes are:

- Keeping doors and windows locked
- Having protective covering on wires and vulnerable furniture like sofas
- Keeping small objects off the floor
- Never leaving food uncovered
- Using childproof latches on cabinets

12. **Is kitten-proofing my house necessary?**

If you are thinking of getting a kitten, definitely! You would want to create a safe cat house for your new furry friend and also protect your household goods and furniture from curious kitties. Kitten-proofing your home ensures both.

13. **Do cats fake sleep?**

Yes, they do. Cats fake sleep for a number of reasons such as when they are stressed or looking to get some pets from you.

14. **Do cats care if you sleep with them?**

Most cats love co-sleeping with their humans and they will happily snooze curled up beside you or on your lap.

15. **Is a Cat Always in Deep Sleep?**

Cats deep sleep for about 1/4th of their sleeping hours with the rest 3/4th dedicated to light sleeping or just snoozing. During light sleep, your furry friend is still resting, but in an alert state.

16. **How many hours does a cat sleep in a week?**

In general, cats sleep for around 13-16 hours per day, but this duration can extent to over 18 hours in some cats. So, how long do cats sleep in a week? Well, cats sleep a whopping 91 to more than 126 hours per week!

17. **Do Cats Dream and Snore?**

Yes, cats dream and snore. You will find your sleeping kitten twitching, moving their paws, making noises, and stretching. They can also snore when deeply asleep.

Snoring is normal as long it's not accompanied by other problems like sneezing, nose or eye discharge, coughing, or appetite changes.

18. How do I calm my cat to cut its nails?

While most cats are tolerant of having their nails cut by someone they love, it is always a good idea to reward them with cat treats or shower them with affection, helping them calm down while you trim their nails.

19. Do cats get mad when you cut their nails?

Trimming nails can make cats uncomfortable and fussy. So, avoid cutting cat nails when they are playing or stressed. It is important to give your kitty a nail trim once it is relaxed and comfy, like right after their mealtimes.

20. What happens if you don't trim your cat's nails?

Once it grows too long, your fur baby's nails can curve and grow into their soft paw pads, causing immense discomfort and pain. Failing to make sure to cut the cat's nails also significantly raises the risks of bacterial infection.

21. Is it necessary to trim a cat's claws?

No, it is not always necessary to cut cat nails unless they have grown too long. Cats rely on their claws for multiple purposes like climbing and marking their territories, making it a significant limitation of cut cat's nails.

22. Do cats realise their claws hurt?

As kittens, felines are used to rough play which often includes playfully scratching and biting their loved ones. However, they do not always realise that their claws can hurt their favourite humans, however innocent and loving their intentions may be.

23. Do cats remember their owners when alone for a few days?

Cats are territorial and independent, but they are also incredibly affectionate and loving and miss their loved ones in their absence. So, you do not have to worry about your cat forgetting you when left alone for a few days.

24. Can I leave my cat alone for a few days?

While it is not recommended, you can leave your fur kiddo for 2-3 days alone at home

without any supervision. Just make sure there are sufficient food, fresh water, and litter tray with enough litter available at their disposal.

25. **What can I do with my cat when I go away?**

To ensure your fur buddy stays healthy while you are away, you can opt for a cattery or cat-sitting service. Also, remember to take the necessary measures to make sure they are well-fed and hydrated while you are away.

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