



CATS need...



1. SAFE SPACES in Every Room



HIDING SPACES

Hiding is a normal response to being scared or overwhelmed. Don't disturb.

WARM SPACES

sunny spots, heater/blankets



HIGH UP SPACES with more than one way up and down.

CONVENIENT LITTER BOX

scooped clean, in a quiet location with low foot traffic



2. MULTIPLE Separate Resources



- FOOD:** Feed cats in separate locations. (Cats are solitary hunters!)
- WATER:** Some cats like their food & water in separate areas.
- LITTER BOXES:** One box per cat plus one extra, in separate & accessible locations, not easily blocked by another cat.



3. PLAY & Predatory Behaviors



INTERACTIVE PLAY

Cats NEED predatory experiences! Simulate the hunting experience by making toys move like prey. Rotate toys to keep things interesting.



FOOD PUZZLES

Puzzle feeders for foraging and tiny frequent meals.



4. POSITIVE & CONSISTENT Social Interactions



CONSENT + CHOICE

Respect what your cat likes and doesn't like as an individual. * Learn cat body language!



NO FORCE, NO PUNISHMENT



grabbing

spraying

shouting

scruffing



SOCIALIZE

... kittens to positive handling (between 2-7 weeks)



5. FAMILIAR SCENTS for Trust & Security



FAMILIAR BEDDING

USE SCENTS TO INTRODUCE NEW ANIMALS SAFELY

Would you like to smell your new housemate?



SCRATCHING POSTS



FACIAL MARKING on things

DO NOT:

- use scented litter
- use scented cleaners
- clean away all familiar scents



6. REWARD BASED TRAINING for Good Welfare

Use what your cat likes (eg, their favorite treats) to teach new skills & provide positive experiences.



CARRIER TRAINING for travel, vet visits, & emergencies



HEALTH EXAMS



DENTAL CARE



TAKING MEDS



TAKING WEIGHT



NAIL TRIMS



BRUSHING/GROOMING

TRICKS + GAMES for fun and bonding



ILLUSTRATION: Lili Chin doggiedrawings.net/freeposters

REFERENCES: "PURR: The Science of Making Your Cat Happy" by Zazie Todd (2022)

"AAFP and ISFM Feline Environmental Needs Guidelines" by Sarah Ellis & Colleagues (2013)