

## A little guidance for feeding and care for your cat

### Feeding



3 times per day, every 7-8 hours, the night might count for 9-10 hours.

#### **Canned food:**

Only take quality products, take brands which you know very well and which you have used already. Give the new owner some of your canned food. Changing the food of a cat to a new brand must be done carefully and very slowly, cats are extremely conservative and react quite fast with diarrhoea. I also mix some natural porridge oats into the food (raw and uncooked as they are), which calms down the intestines and supports the cat to have a well formed stool.

#### **Fresh food:**

2-3 times per week I cook chicken (without the skin!) or turkey, well done.

Do not feed fish, because it is very likely that fish causes diarrhoea. The peoples' saying that fish is good for cats is a mere superstition.

I'm cautious with beef, which is quite healthy for cats, because of BSE. The beef must be hand warm, do not feed anything directly taken from the refrigerator. Therefore the beef, if deep frozen, shall be thawed the day before or in the microwave, soak it very short in boiling water, that the guard cells are closed, but do not cook the beef, thus leaving the beef almost raw. Cats like to eat the beef taken from the cheek bones of the cattle, thus having something to chew.

**Do not feed pork meat, it is too fat and absolutely nothing for cats.**

**Do not feed the remaining of your own food; also those are absolutely inappropriate for cats.**

### No food for cats



**Do not feed any fat** (f.e. butter), cats cannot digest fat, in contrary to dogs, and will excrete the fat 1:1 with their stool.

**Do not feed liver or intestines like kidneys or heart**, you run a high risk that your cat will get diarrhoea, liver has too much vitamin A, which cannot be decomposed completely by the cat, in the contrary to dogs.

#### **Dry food:**

Take only quality products, the dry food might be also soaked in water, because cats drink very little water and do not drink so much as they should when eating dry food.

Every dry food should contain as little phosphorus and Magnesium as possible (thus might be the cause for gravel or even for urinary calculus, which is very dangerous in neutered cats). Dry food shall NOT be the main food of your cat and shall not be fed every day; it shall be a titbit for your cat!

#### **Water:**

Change the water in the bowl every day, the water shall not be too cold.

No milk, because it causes frequent diarrhoea because of its fat-content.

**Milk is absolutely unsuitable for cats! The people's saying that a bowl full of milk is good for cats is a mere superstition!**

## Grooming

Your cat shall look like a top model, well groomed and clean.



### Coat:

A longhaired cat must be combed at least every 2nd day. When the cat changes its coat, daily combing is absolutely necessary.

Longhaired cats shall also get a bath once in a month at least. Use a very mild baby shampoo or intimate shampoo – you can buy it in every supermarket, a bath will make the coat healthy and shiny.

Use a metal comb for combing, whose teeth are rounded and not pointed.

Use a brush with natural bristles (no metal bristles or metal brushes, they hurt the cat and all the underwool is torn out), **brushes with plastic bristles might cause allergies, severe skin irritations and dandruff.**

Shorthaired cats, which have a very short close lying coat, a leather apron is used, as you use it to polish your car. The leather apron is stroked in the same direction as the hairs are growing, thus removing old and dead hairs (there are also existing gloves like those brushes used for removing the fluff), stroke the leather apron along the body from the shoulders down to the tail.

### Eyes:

The eyes shall be cleaned every day with hand warm water. Do not use any boracic water, this might cause weeping eyes.

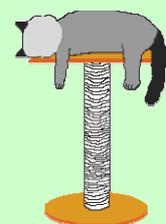
If it is necessary to use any eye ointment, do not use ointments containing Cortisones, this should be only used in an extreme case of emergency. Veterinarians prefer to prescribe ointments containing Cortisones, because their effect is faster working.

### Ears:

The ears shall be cleaned, if necessary, at least once a week using a soft tissue, which is very slightly moistened. Ear drops or oil are not necessary for cleaning the ears.

**Do NOT use any sticks as used for babies**, the risk damaging the tympanic membrane is very high.

## Scratching trees



Cats like scratching trees, and need to clean their claws, they like scratching trees whose columns are wrapped up in sisal.

Take care that the cat has something where it can scratch, thus you avoid that the cat uses your furniture or stores.

## Sleeping accommodations



Cats like to cuddle in pillows or wicker baskets, cats like to sleep in a cosy and warm place. They like to sleep on top of the central heating; you may buy some cosy shelves in well organized pet shops, which can be hung on the central heating. The sleeping accommodations must be clean, wash them from time to time and use those brushing for removing the fluff.

Please hold in mind, that cats will change their sleeping places from time to time, what ever they love today, might be out some weeks.

## Litter box

The litter box of your cat should not look like this.



Use sand made of natural materials (made of clay, made of wood, etc.); do not use any sand which is refined with asbestos, very often white sand is refined. The cat's litter box must be absolutely clean, cats are fanatics in tidiness. If the litter box is not clean, it might happen that the cat makes its job besides the litter box.

## Toys



Plastic balls (f.e. balls for table tennis); balls wrapped in sisal, rubber balls. The balls shall not be too small so that they cannot be swallowed.

Remove the eyes and the muzzle from the toy mice, they are mostly made of plastic and might be swallowed. Cats do not have an appendix which can collect those little things!

**No silver paper, no strings or cords, no folia which can cause a volvulus of the intestines and can cause severe problems!**

**No toys which are mounted on strings.**

We had already a case, where a cat got caught with its hind leg and strangulated itself, which caused severe damages to the hind leg.

Play every day with your cat; take care to provide diversity of toys. Cats love animation and diversification in their life, they are always busy.

## Care



Provide sufficient fresh air.

Do not get worried, cats do not get weeping eyes when the wind is blowing, weeping eyes are caused by other reasons.

**No swivel-windows**, it makes work for many years, but we had already one deadly accident, the cat had fallen so unfortunately into the swivel-window that it was strangulated to death.

We use so called baby lockers on our windows (you may buy them in every supermarket for building material, and can easily mount them by yourself), thus keeping the window straight opened and locked.

**Pedigreed cats are not used to run into the garden.** Pedigreed cats do not have any desire to be every day outside in the garden. You can also train domestic cats to stay indoors. Mostly it is a question of keeping your nerves and being patient, the training takes its time. A cat does not need to be outdoors, a cat needs fresh air and natural light.

Always keep in mind that a cat has a very well developed hunting instinct (also pedigreed cats!), therefore it is very likely that the cat hunts something interesting for her and jumps over the fence of your garden out in the street, or jumps out of the window in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The fairy tale that a cat always lands on its legs, is a mere fairy tale, which is unfortunately very wide spread in people's mind. Cats can get severe damages, also of their spine, if they jump out from a window or from a balcony in an upper floor.

Cats can jump and climb very well, that's true, but accordingly to their size. We have a fenced cattery with a roof also, and have closed our balconies with a fence. Using nets, advertised as being suitable for cats, are not suitable for shorthaired cats or breeds which have a heavy bone structure, because shorthaired cats are more active and heavy breeds have an enormous muscle power, thus a net will be bitten through quite fast.

## Vaccinations



- Cats are vaccinated against Rhinotracheitis (cat flue) and Panleukopenia; this might be a combined vaccination.  
Use vaccines with killed viruses, not modified living viruses.
- Also cats are vaccinated against FeLV; use here also vaccines with killed viruses, no modified living viruses.
- Both vaccinations are refreshed once a year.
- Please, **do not vaccinate the cat against FIP**. The way how this vaccine is administered (1 drop into the nose, with a temperature of 36° C) is disputable and the relapse quota is still too high. If the cat is not permitted to be outdoors, the risk of an infection is almost zero. FIP is a disease which ends deadly; the vaccine is not approved for many years and does not exist in many generations yet.
- It is also not recommended to vaccinate the cat against Chlamydia, because also here the relapse quota is relatively high.

Even a veterinarian might recommend those vaccines, use in general vaccines with killed viruses and do not vaccinate the cat against FIP or against Chlamydia.

I wish you a lot of pleasure with your cat.

The cat has a lovely disposition, is affectionate and loves to cuddle and to be hugged.

