

Man's Best Friend – the Cat!

"A dog is man's best friend." That common saying may contain some truth, but dogs are not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, a cat is their best friend. Despite what dog lovers may believe, cats make excellent house pets as they are good companions, they are civilized members of the household, and they are easy to care for.

Many people enjoy the companionship of cats. Most cats are affectionate. They will snuggle up and ask to be petted, or scratched under the chin. Who can resist a purring cat? Franny Syufy, a writer for *The Spruce* claims, "A cat's purr can be as pleasant to hear as a Brahms lullaby, and as therapeutic as a warm bath followed by a gentle massage." When they're not feeling affectionate, cats are generally quite playful. They love to chase balls and feathers or just about anything dangling from a string. They especially enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. Contrary to popular opinion, cats can be trained. Using rewards and positive reinforcement, just like with a dog, a cat can be trained to avoid unwanted behavior or perform tricks. Cats will even fetch! Trained or not, cats make great companions.

Unlike dogs, cats are well-behaved, civilized members of the household. Cats do not bark or make other loud noises. Most cats don't even meow very often. They generally lead a quiet existence. Cats also don't often have "accidents." Mother cats train their kittens to use the litter box, and most cats will use it without fail from that time on. Even stray cats usually understand the concept when shown the box and will use it regularly. However, cats do have claws, and owners must make provision for this. A tall scratching post in a favorite cat area of the house will often keep the cat content to leave the furniture alone. As a last resort, of course, cats can be declawed. In general, the refined behavior of a cat makes it a wonderful pet.

Lastly, one of the most attractive features of cats as house pets is their ease of care. Cats do not have to be walked. They get plenty of exercise in the house as they play, and they do their business in the litter box. Cleaning a litter box is a quick, painless procedure. Cats also take care of their own grooming. Bathing a cat is almost never necessary because under ordinary circumstances cats clean themselves. In fact, cats “spend up to one-third of their time self-grooming,” according to *Animal Planet*. Cats are more particular about personal cleanliness than some people are. In addition, cats can be left home alone for a few hours without fear. Unlike some pets, most cats will not destroy the furnishings when left alone. They are content to go about their usual activities until their owners return. Nothing could be easier.

There are those, however, who will insist that cats are not good pets; they are too independent and aloof. On the contrary, those are some of the things that make cats such great pets! Those who say cats are aloof have never snuggled up to a warm, soft, comforting cat. Cats love attention and happily return their owner’s affection. As for being independent, yes they are, and isn’t it wonderful? Independent means that there is no reason to rush home to take care of a loud, messy, demanding animal. With today’s fast-paced, busy way of living, this low-maintenance pet is ideal especially for those who work, travel, or live in small spaces. Our feline friends can make their home anywhere and don’t require a yard or outdoor space, walking in all kinds of weather, and obedience training. Cats are loving, self-reliant companions that can fit into any lifestyle

Cats are low maintenance, civilized companions. They are playful, affectionate, intelligent, and easy to care for. In so many ways, cats are the ideal house pet, so if you are looking to add a cherished animal friend to your family, consider adopting a cat.