

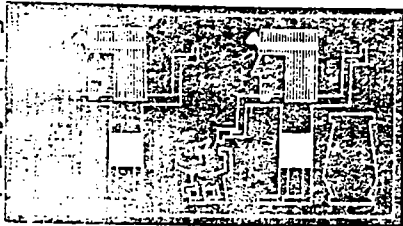


**The  
Care of  
Cats**

# Care of Cats

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Cats have been known since ancient Egypt. Their fortunes in life have varied from the deity-like reverence of the ancients to the suspicion and abhorrence of witch-hunting days. They range from royal Siamese and Persians to nocturnal gentlemen of the road. Although similar in many ways, each has a unique personality.



If you have chosen a cat for your pet, you have chosen well. These handsome, intelligent and affectionate animals have a special grace and dignity of their own. Cats are easy to care for, but knowledge of their habits and needs will make the job even easier.

## FEEDING

Kittens should remain with their mother until they are at least four to six weeks old. If you acquire a motherless kitten younger than four weeks, consult a veterinarian about feeding routine and formula. Baby or pet formulas can be substituted for the mother's milk; canned goat's milk or evaporated milk warmed to body temperature may also be satisfactory. Newborn kittens must be fed at two-hour intervals, day and night, with a medicine dropper or a pet nursing bottle. A kitten should take about a tablespoonful at a feeding, more if he wishes.

At around four weeks of age you should begin weaning the kitten. This is done by mixing a little quality canned cat food with evaporated milk.

Cats have specific nutritive requirements. For a balanced diet they need water, proteins, fatty acids and vitamins. The essentials are contained in a variety of scientifically prepared, high quality cat foods.

As soon as your kitten begins to eat solid food, keep a supply of fresh water available *at all times*. Gradually cut down on the number of meals as you increase the size of the servings. At around two months, your kitten will probably be eating his canned food "straight," without its being mixed with milk.

After your cat is six months old (yes, it's now a "cat"), he will be satisfied with one or two meals a day. Some thrive on only one meal daily, but two feedings are not harmful and may improve cat-human relations. Other cats are nibblers and appreciate having dry food available for snacks at all times.

Here are some diet DOs and DON'Ts to help you keep your pet vigorous and healthy. Never feed your pet cooked chicken or turkey bones. They easily splinter and may become lodged in his throat or intestines. Never serve food straight from the refrigerator. Avoid raw freshwater fish. It contains an enzyme that destroys some of the vitamins. Cold foods may cause vomiting. Some cats like milk, some don't. It is not essential for the mature cat and, in fact, is upsetting to some.

Don't leave food exposed to become dry and unappetizing. If you leave food out for the snacker, the dry foods are ideal because they do not spoil. To your cat's regular diet, you may add occasional treats of cooked vegetables (string beans or asparagus are common favorites), cottage cheese, eggs, or chopped raw meat such as beef or lamb kidney, heart, liver or melts. Avoid uncooked pork or fish. Some cats like occasional servings of horse-meat.

Apply the Golden Rule. A cat gets tired of monotony, just as you would. Feed him a varied diet. A cat likes his meals on time, just as you do. Set up a feeding schedule and stick to it.



And remember: always keep fresh, cool drinking water available.

