

10 Fundamental Needs of Cats

Living with a cat can be fun, rewarding, and free of behavior issues if a cat's fundamental needs are met.

1. **C**lean Food & Water
2. **A**bility to Release Energy & Stress - play, scratching posts, etc.
3. **R**elieve Boredom
4. **E**liminate Comfortably - clean, big, uncovered litter box with comfortable litter material
5. **F**eel Safe - on high perching and hiding places from outside cats, other indoor cats, dogs, kids, etc.
6. **O**ppportunity to Explore - cats are curious by nature
7. **R**eproduce - spaying and neutering your pet is highly recommended and removes this “need”
8. **C**hoices - cats require multiple routes and pathways to resource areas (food, water, litter, etc.)
9. **A**ffection - cats need companionship, and to feel loved by you
10. **T**horough Prey Play Sequence - cats need to complete a simulated prey sequence a minimum of 2 times a day to remain calm and confident. Prey play consists of staring/stalking, chasing, grabbing/pouncing, then completes with biting. NEVER use your hands, or any other body parts as “prey”. Laser lights are an ok toy, but don't qualify for prey play because cats can't grab or bite to complete the prey sequence, and this often results in frustration and redirected aggression.



For more information, visit: www.CatBehavior.Solutions