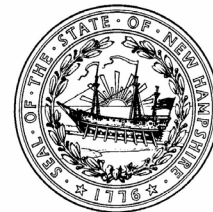


CARING FOR CATS

Recommendations

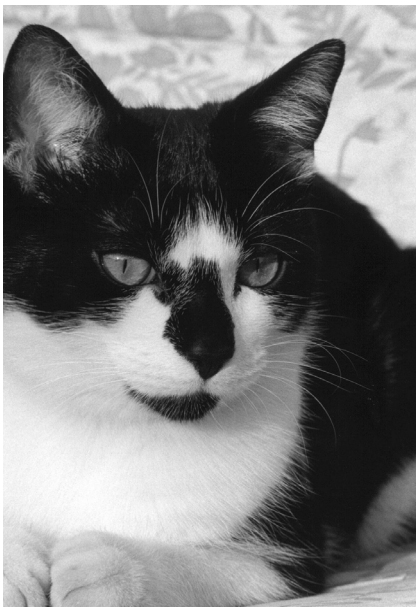
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The Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals



Basic Cat Care

- Fresh, clean water in a spill-proof container should be available at all times.
- Cats should be fed at least once a day with good quality cat food to develop and maintain a healthy body condition. Quantity should be determined based on the cat's lifestyle and activity level (indoor vs. outdoor, hunter vs. non-hunter, active player vs. inactive).
- Indoor cats must be provided with litter pans and litter should be scooped daily to prevent urine and fecal buildup and odor. Based on the quantity of cats in the household, more than one litter pan may be needed to meet the needs of the cats.
- For indoor cats, sturdy scratching posts should be provided. This will help discourage the cats from clawing furniture or woodwork.



- Long-haired cats should be taught to accept brushing at an early age to prevent future matting.
- If a cat is let outside or lives outside, it should have access to proper shelter such as a barn, garage, etc.

Health Care

Cats should have yearly veterinary exams to ensure their health and to provide any necessary medications and vaccinations.

Feline leukemia testing and vaccinations are strongly recommended for outside cats. As well, parasite control is recommended in outdoor cats to prevent possibly infecting family members with organisms such as intestinal parasites, fleas and ticks.

In New Hampshire, rabies vaccination by a licensed veterinarian is **required** for **ALL** (indoor and outdoor) cats for their own protection as well as for public health. How frequently this vaccine is given depends on the cat's age and type of vaccine used.

Additional Recommendations

Cats should be spayed or neutered. This will prevent the birth of additional litters and improve the health and behavior of the cat. Please note cat overpopulation is a significant problem in New Hampshire that leads to the suffering and death of many animals every year. NH Animal Population Control Program (Low cost spay neuter program for income eligible individuals.) can be reached at 603-271-3697 or http://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal_industry

Micro-chipping is suggested for all cats, but especially if the cat goes outside. Micro-chipping helps to identify the cat and its owner. Most veterinarians and some shelters perform this service. There are many different companies that manufacture microchips. Once the cat has been microchipped, chip number and contact information must be registered with a national registering agency for identification purposes. This may require a small registration fee.

Possible Signs of Illness, Neglect, or Intentional Cruelty

Appearance of Animal

Runny nose and eyes; congested breathing; ear mites; sores from fighting; thin body; matted fur; vomiting; diarrhea; parasites or allergies; hair loss (possibly from frostbite or mange).

Housing Conditions

No clean litter boxes; no clean water; no food available; no shelter; overcrowding (causes stress and infectious disease).

Behavior

Excessively aggressive; fearful; listless; unresponsive; self-mutilation; constant scratching, biting at self.

Reporting Cruelty

Animal cruelty should be reported to the police department of the town in which the animal lives. Please leave your name and contact information so that a follow-up response may be made.

Additional Resources

Catalyst Council: Resources for Cat Owners

<http://catalystcouncil.org/uploads/PDFs/Resources.pdf>

American Veterinary Medical Association

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/

American Animal Hospital Association

www.healthypet.com/petcare

For more information about animal cruelty, visit

www.humane.nh.gov

Be sure to view the **Interactive Presentation** on the **Welcome Page**.