

Vital Cat Tips

Here are a few important tips that are vital to your cat's health.

1. **DO NOT use Lysol, Pine O'Pine or PineSol.** "Pine" and "sol" products are extremely toxic to cats and will kill them. Use Clorox products, or soap and water.
2. **DO NOT feed cats any fish.** Read the ingredients on ALL labels. Even if a food is called "Tender Beef Feast," there could still be fish products in it. We provide a sheet with more details on this issue and why we say 'NO FISH'.
3. **If your cat goes to the litter box and seems to be urinating,** but leaves nothing or a small amount of pee, you could have a plugged cat or one with a bladder infection. If your cat is a male, you may have hours or only minutes to get him to a vet. **DO NOT** wait. Your cat's life depends on it.
4. **If your cat DOES NOT eat in a 24 - 36 hours time period,** something is wrong. Get your cat to us right away. If we're not available, go to an Emergency Clinic. Do not wait. There are many reasons that a cat will stop eating and many of them can be fixed relatively easily. However, a cat can go into liver failure if it does not eat and keep itself hydrated. Don't walk - RUN to your vet.
5. **GIVE your cat bottled or purified water ONLY.** The City of Houston Water Department puts out an annual document called "Drinking Water Quality Report" which always includes "Special Notice". This notice says there are Giardia and Cryptosporidium parasites in our water supply. We have seen "indoor-only" cats with both of these parasites. Make sure your water filter removes "Microbial Cysts." This is the **ONLY** way to get these bugs out of your water.
6. **DO NOT let your cat outdoors.** If you want to protect your cats from disease, poison, bullets, broken bones and death - keep them inside. They may love to go outside, but if a child wanted to go rollerblading on IH-10, a responsible parent wouldn't let it happen because it is too dangerous. Your cat depends on *you* for its safety and health. If you need tips on how to keep your cat indoors or getting a cat to be indoor-only, ask us. We are here to help.
7. **You should have 1 litter box for each cat in the household + 1 more.** Cats love clean potties, so keep their litter box cleaned out once each day, if not more often. (You wouldn't want to step into a bathroom that has poop or pee on the floor and walls.) Cats are very fastidious creatures. Keep this in mind or they will find other places to go potty.
8. **If your cat does pee or poo outside the litter box,** and you faithfully keep it clean, your cat is trying to tell you something. Don't wait to see if kitty will stop. This will set a pattern and may not be correctable. Contact us ASAP so we can eliminate any medical reason first.
9. **FLEAS are much more than just a bothersome pest.** Fleas will suck enough blood out of your cat to cause its organs to shut down and die. Just because you're not being bitten does not mean your cat isn't being eaten alive. Fleas will eat from your pet before they bite you because a cat's body temperature is higher and attracts fleas. Please contact us about treating your cat and the environment safely.