

cat Lady Justin

CAT OWNER ESSENTIALS



Are you a cat owner?

If so, you know that cats can be a little... fussy.

They need their food and water in specific places, they like to have a lot of territory to roam around in, and they love to scratch furniture (to say the least). But that's okay – owning a cat is worth it because they're cute, cuddly, and independent.

But as a cat owner, there are things you should keep in mind to make your cat happy and reduce the chance of your cute pet choosing your shoes instead of your hugs.

These essentials are exactly what we'll discuss in this e-book, so keep reading to learn everything you need to know!

#1 Food

Your cat has to eat, so the first thing to bring home with your cat is appropriate cat food. The best food to pick is the food your cat has been using in the breeder, pet store, or shelter. Stick to that food and slowly transition to another one.

Your cat is adjusting to a new environment, new owner, new life. So, picking the same diet makes the transition process smoother. If you have adopted a stray cat, choose the food appropriate for the cat's age.

For example, little kittens need certain ingredients in their food to help them develop well, while grown cats will likely have slightly different needs.

Dry VS Wet Food

Dry food is more convenient and provides the necessary calories for cats to engage in everyday activities.

Wet food, on the other hand, is more expensive and often used to prevent dehydration in cats.

Wet food also helps with urinary tract infections in cats and might be a better choice for overweight cats.

Additionally, dry food might be good starting food until you learn the feeding preferences of your cat.



Some cats prefer eating their food throughout the day, and others might enjoy eating the entire meal all at once.

You can leave dry food a full day in a bowl, so your cat can eat it as she prefers.

If you aren't sure what diet your cat is used to, get both dry and wet food for the cat and mix during the first couple of weeks after the transition. You can also consult a vet if the cat has some underlying medical conditions.

The vet will advise you what food will be the best choice for the cat.



Treats

Cat treats shouldn't be the primary part of your cat's diet. You can give a cat a treat per day to treat her for learning toilet habits or showing affection.

But, treats don't provide the cat with the necessary energy. Essentially, those are empty calories, and you should use them sparsely.



#2 Bowls

The cat needs a bowl for water and food. But, you cannot just take whatever bowl you have in your kitchen cabinet.

The ideal food and water bowls for cats are shallow and wide bowls. These will allow the cat to feed and drink water without rubbing the whiskers.

Continuously rubbing the whiskers may be very uncomfortable for your cat. However, the too shallow bowl might cause your cat to bend too much and feed in an uncomfortable position. You can put the bowl on a block which will raise the bowl ever so slightly to allow the cat to eat easily!

Lastly, the dish shouldn't have a slippery bottom. If the bowl moves, the cat will struggle to eat and drink.

The non-skid rubber bottom is practical, but you can also put a rubber mat on the floor if you cannot find appropriate bowls.

#3 Carriers

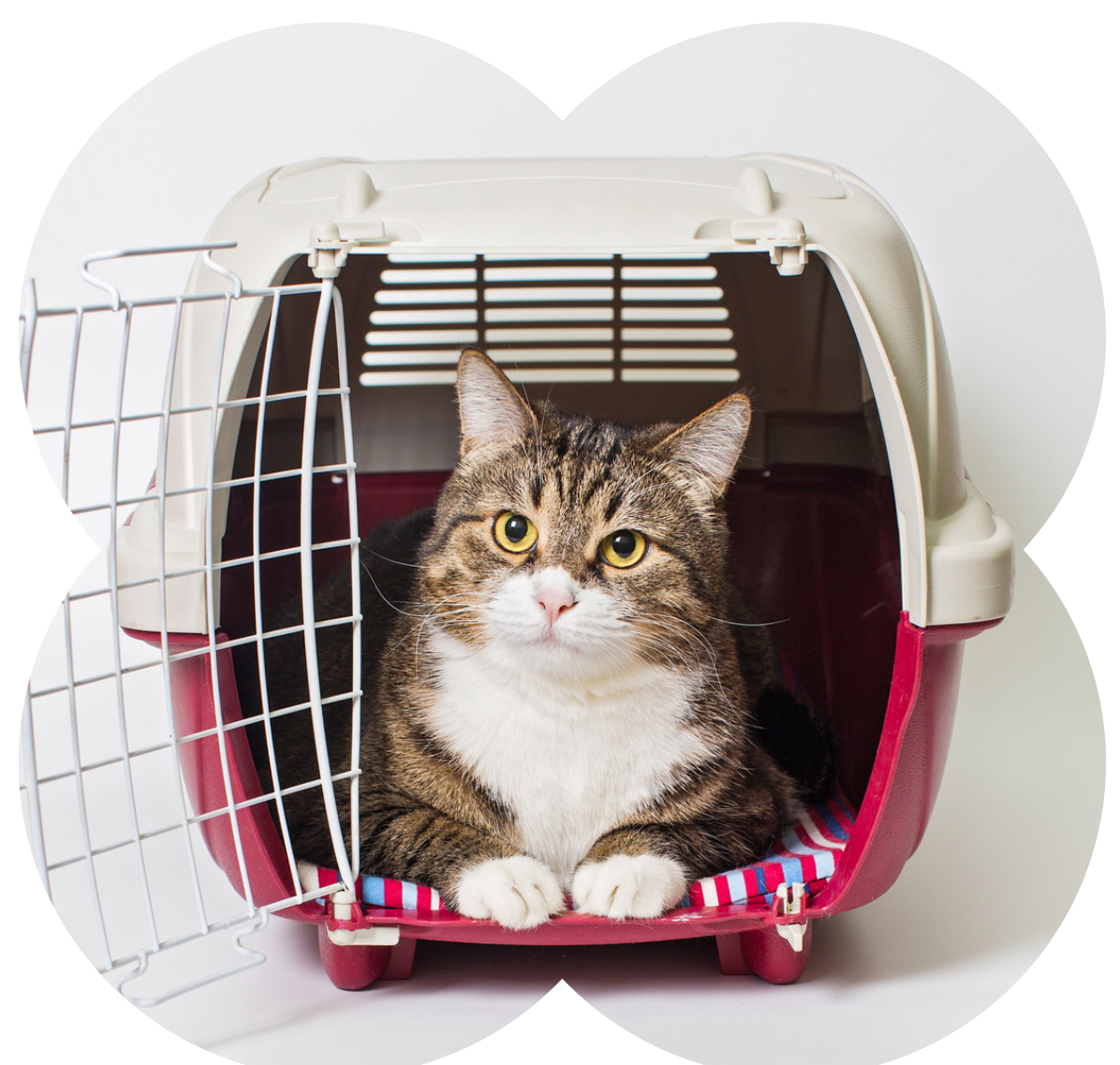
A cat carrier might be the first thing to get when adopting a cat. You'll need something to carry the cat home. It is like a car seat for babies!

A carrier should be comfortable. Also, ensure it has good ventilation and that you can easily reach the cat. A new cat might be shy, so you might have to take it out.

You can also use some carriers as sleepers. Ideally, pick the carrier with rigid sides and mesh doors.

If the cat is too scared and shy, you can spray calming spray on the inside and let it dry before putting the cat inside.

During winter, when the temperatures are low, add a soft cloth to help the cat feel warm inside the carrier.



#4 Bed

Yes, cats can fall asleep on top of the fridge, inside the sink, or anywhere else. But, your new pet still needs a dedicated place to sleep. It will be the cat's zone, somewhere where your pet can sleep feeling safe. Cat beds aren't expensive, and you can get pretty good deals online.

Pick the one with a machine-washable cover that can trap pet dander. If your cat seems interested in the world around itself, you can get the bed that attaches to the window. It will quickly become your cat's favorite place to relax!



Whichever cat bed you choose, ensure it is large enough for the cat to stretch and find a comfortable position.

According to the multiple funny videos online, cats sleep in pretty weird positions!

At the same time, when your cat gets used to sleeping in one place, your home will become cleaner, and less pet hair will linger around!

#5 Scratching Posts

Scratching is a cat's instinct. If you don't provide the cat with a surface to scratch and sharpen its nails, the cat will use your sofa instead. When choosing a scratching post, ensure the post is sturdy to prevent bending or tipping over.

Pick the one nearly as tall as the cat or taller, so the cat can also stretch while exercising!

#6 Toys

To keep your new furry friend playful and happy, get cat toys. Cat toys are a healthy choice for your pet because they can help it exercise. You can get the toys for the cat to run around the home. The toys will help the cat overcome boredom, improve hunting skills and exercise.

Additionally, if your cat is aggressive, playing with toys might help the cat relieve the aggression by directing all the energy into play!

#7 Litter Box and Litter

If you plan to keep your cat inside, a litter box with litter is one of the essential items to provide when getting a cat. You can choose between several litter box styles. The self-cleaning litter boxes are convenient and easy to use, but those are the most expensive.

Hooded litter boxes are great for shy cats and prevent mess.

Lastly, a simple plastic box with litter will work just fine.

But, you'll have to clean it manually, empty the box regularly and change the litter when the time comes.

However, these simple litter boxes might be an excellent choice for young cats that haven't developed toilet habits.

You can switch to the advanced version once the cat gets used to the litter box.

#8 Collar with an ID Tag

When choosing a collar for the cat, ensure you get the one that allows the cat enough space to breathe and move freely. The rule of thumb to follow is to adjust the collar so you can fit two fingers between the cat's neck and collar. Next, the collar holds the ID tag with your information. If your new pet gets lost, a person who finds the cat can contact you and bring the cat home.

An ID tag should contain the cat's name, your name, phone number, and address.



#9 Grooming Kit

You'll need a brush for the cat, a soap cleanser, a nail trimmer, and a cat's ear cleanser.

Grooming keeps the cat cleaner and helps you remove old hair and dead skin cells. It is an activity with many benefits. First of all, if you regularly groom the cat, you keep the fur clean and tidy. Second, you can spend quality time with your cat and inspect the cat for untreated bruises, scratches, and cuts. Some cuts can get infected and seriously harm your cat if you don't see them and react in time. Also, by regularly brushing the cat, you'll have fewer problems with cat hair shedding around on every surface. That way, you can control the shedding and keep your space cleaner.

Every few weeks, clip the cat's nails. It will keep them tidy and prevent injuries. Get a set of cat shampoo and only wash your cat when it's calm. Don't wet the cat's head because it will make the cat stressed, and you can ruin the entire process. Also, don't forget to inspect the ears for signs of infections and redness, and remember to never use cotton Q-Tips when cleaning your cat's ears, as these can be uncomfortable for the cat. If the cat isn't calm, even the slightest movement can cause serious harm with a Q-Tip. Therefore, try to find a suitable ear cleaner and follow the instructions on the product to minimize the risk of injuries. Start with regular grooming when the cat is still young, so by the time your pet cat is an adult, she already has grooming habits!

#10 A Reliable Vet

The last thing on the list is a reliable vet. It will help you monitor the cat's well-being, treat any medical conditions and clear any doubts you might have about your cat. When you first get a cat, paying a visit to the vet is one of the first things to do. After that, you should visit a vet once every six or eight months for a regular check-up. If the cat shows signs of distress or illness, you should visit your vet sooner to get proper treatment for your furry friend!

Older cats over 15 years should be examined more frequently, up to three or four times a year.

A vet can also help you treat unwanted behavior in cats.

Having a reliable vet isn't only necessary for the cat's well-being. It is also a way to obey the laws and prevent fines.

For instance, if your cat develops rabies, feline AIDS gets parasites and worms, you may receive a fine for neglecting the cat.

Optional Items to Get for Your Cat

Here are three things you can buy to ease life with your pet. But, unlike the things from the previous list, these are optional!

Calming Diffuser

Calming diffusers release vapors with calming pheromones for cats. These vapors don't contain drugs, and they help them deal with stress and calm.

Some vets also recommend them for cats that cannot get used to using cat litter boxes. These products also help cats cope with general stress and make the cat feel happy all the time.

Cat Harness

If you have decided to take your indoor cat out for a walk, use a cat harness. Never use a dog harness because your cat can slip out of it and run away.

However, taking your cat out for a walk might not be a good idea for all indoor cats. Some indoor cats are playful and outgoing and benefit from outside walks.

But, shy cats who often hide and enjoy their boring routine might not enjoy these walks. They will be interpreted as a sudden routine change, which will make the cat stressed. If the cat is outgoing, you should slowly introduce the harness.

Ensure the cat is comfortable wearing it before you take the cat outside for a walk. You can even use a harness and a leash when you are going to the vet!

Pick the harness that matches the size of your cat and has adjustable stripes to ensure maximum comfort and safety.



Pet-Urine Removal Products

During toilet training, your cat might make a mess now and then. You can use whatever cleaner you have at home, make your pet-urine removal cleaner and buy the commercial one. Baking soda, vinegar, and essential oil can work well as a homemade cleaner. But, it won't be equally effective on all surfaces.

Instead, you can buy non-toxic cleaners for multiple surfaces, including carpets, mattresses, sofas, hardwood floors, etc. They can also help you remove stains.

These cleaners are also a must-have for cats with any medical issues or young kittens who seem to struggle with using the litter box.

Also, these cleaners help cancel the unpleasant odors and can be a quick fix when accidents happen!