

Getting To Know Your Cat Questionnaire



Cat's Name: _____

Surname: _____

House Number: _____

Postcode: _____

Background Information

- Did you have cats in the family when growing up? Y/N
- Have you had other cats during your adult life? Y/N
- What made you decide to get this particular cat? _____
(eg companionship, children wanted a pet, we didn't choose our cat - he chose us! etc)
- How long have you owned your cat? _____
- Had your cat been owned by others before you? Y/N If so how many (if known)? _____
- Approximately how old was your cat when you acquired him/her? _____
- How did you acquire your cat? (eg breeder, rescue centre, stray, other) _____
- How many cats in total live within your household? _____
- Are there any obvious disagreements between this cat and any of your other cats? Y/N
- Has your cat ever stayed in a boarding cattery? Y/N
- To your knowledge, has your cat ever been or originated from overseas Y/N If so what countries has your cat lived in? _____
- If you go or ever went away – who looks after your cat in your absence?

eg goes to boarding cattery, stays at family/friend's house, pet sitter stays at house, pet sitter visits house to feed/check cat, other options?
- Are there any other pets in the household Y/N if so what type/breed?

- Are there any children (< 15 yo) living in the household? Y/N

Personal Situation

The following questions may seem very personal and you do not have to answer them if you do not feel comfortable doing so. The reason I ask, is that there is potential for some of the infectious diseases that affect cats to also infect people (especially those with lowered immunity or carrying unborn children). In addition, there are medications that I may need to prescribe for your cat that affect people with allergies (eg penicillin or tetracycline antibiotics). You do not need to specify in any detail your medical history but a simple "Yes/No" will help us to consider the safest options for you and your cat when making any treatment recommendations. Any information provided would be kept in strict confidence.

- Pregnancy (Y/N) – due date? _____
- Do any of the following conditions apply to anyone in the household? Y/N
NB: you do not need to specify which is applicable, just answer yes if any of them apply
Chemotherapy patients, Immunosuppressive medications (eg long term steroid use after organ transplant), HIV positive etc
- Children under 5? (Y/N)
- Over 75 year of age? (Y/N)

About your cat's character

- How would you best describe your cat?
 - Nervous, timid most of the time even at home? Y/N
 - Nervous, timid around strangers but relaxed at home most of the time? Y/N
 - Relaxed, confident most of the time (except around new things)? Y/N
 - Very confident even with change, loud noises etc? Y/N
- List anything in particular that you know your cat is afraid of (eg other cats, vacuum, children, men, dogs, big feet, running water, VETS! etc...) _____
- Does your cat seek and respond to human contact? Y/N
- Would you describe them as an aloof lodger? Y/N
- Does your cat seem to appreciate or "enjoy" being:
 - stroked? Y/N
 - picked up? Y/N
 - sat on your lap? Y/N
 - having a tummy rub? Y/N
- Are there areas that your cat does not seem to appreciate being stroked?(eg tail, tummy, backs of legs) Y/N
Please specify areas to avoid _____
- How difficult is it to handle your cat...
 - When getting into a carry cage? _____
 - Giving medication? _____
 - Does the vet usually have difficulty at the veterinary practice? _____

Habitat

- Environment:
 - Which best describes your cat's lifestyle... Circle the option that best fits:
 - Completely Indoor (never steps a foot outside even under supervision)
 - Indoor/Outdoor
 - Limited Outdoor (ie only when you are home/supervising)
 - Kept in every night
 - Outdoor only
- House Entry/Exit:
 - Is there more than one access point for your cat to enter/exit the house? Y/N
 - Is your cat given free access to come and go when they wish? Y/N
 - If so, select which of the following routes your cat can leave/enter the house?
 - Access from an open window
 - We open a door
 - Cat flap
 - Other – please specify _____
- Cat Flaps:
 - Can your cat come and go as they please? Y/N
 - Does your cat flap have a one way lock on it? Y/N
 - Does the cat flap allow any other non-resident cat to enter your home?
 - Are you aware that some cat flaps detect your individual cat(s) via a tag on your cat's collar or by reading your cats' microchip? Y/N
 - Does your cat flap open into an exposed area outdoors? Y/N
 - Select which most applies - would you say your cat fits through the opening of the cat flap ...
 - With ease (even at high speed)
 - Relatively easily

With some effort

Manages eventually but can struggle to get through at times

- Litter Tray:

Do you have any litter trays in the house? Y/N

If so ...

How many litter trays do you have? _____

Is there at least one per cat? Y/N

Are they open-topped or covered? _____

Please indicate what type of cat litter you use?

Clay based, Silicone crystals, Wood pellets, Newspaper pellets, Granulated corn,
other _____

Which rooms are the litter trays located in? _____

Are there trays on each floor of the house? _____

Are the trays located within 1-2 metres of the food/water bowls? Y/N

Can your cat enter/exit the tray without difficulty?

Does your cat ever toilet in inappropriate places in your house ...outside of the litter tray? Y/N If so,
where does this occur _____

- Cat fighting:

Has your cat ever been in a fight (even if you are convinced they couldn't possibly have started it ☺)
Y/N

- Hunting:

Does your cat hunt wildlife (including - rats/mice, voles, rabbits, squirrels, frogs, birds etc) Y/N

- Access to Toxins:

Do you have a dog? Y/N

Are you aware that some flea/tick treatments used in dogs can be fatal if accidentally ingested or
put on a cat? Y/N

Do you have cut flowers/plants in the house? Y/N

Are you aware that the petals, leaves, stems and pollen of many cut flowers and indoor plants can
be an internal irritant if chewed, even lethal (eg Lilies)? Y/N?

Do you (or your neighbours) service their cars at home? Y/N

Are you aware that ethylene glycol (the main ingredient in car antifreeze solutions) is reasonably
tasteful and usually fatal when ingested by cats? Y/N

Were you aware that many human medications (eg paracetamol, ibuprofen) will likely kill your cat?
Y/N

- Does your cat wear a collar? Y/N

Does it have a quick release safety function? Y/N

- Grooming:

Does your cat groom/clean? Y/N

Does your cat ever bring up fur balls? Y/N

If so, is this daily, weekly, monthly, every 3-6 months, once a year or less?

Do you brush/comb your cat? Y/N

- Scratching Posts:

Do you have any designated cat scratching posts or surfaces? Y/N

If so, how many? _____

Do they get used regularly? Y/N

Where are they located? _____

- Enrichment activities/toys

Do you have any specific cat activity areas (eg large climbing towers, cat trees)? Y/N

Do your cats use them in play, sleep on them? _____

Does your cat play with toys? _____

If so, what are their favourites? _____

Do they respond to cat nip? Y/N

Do you use a treat ball? Y/N

Does your cat enjoy being brushed/groomed? Y/N

Is there an assortment of places for your cat to retreat and hide away if it feels anxious or threatened (eg cardboard boxes, tunnels, bottom of the wardrobe, top of cupboard etc)? Y/N

Do you find your cat taking refuge in any of these spots on a regular basis (eg weekly or more)? Y/N

- Does your cat have an allocated cat bed?

Where does your cat choose to sleep at night? _____

eg in its own bed, on the sofa, on our bed, not sure (outside somewhere?) etc

Where does your cat choose to sleep in the day? _____

eg on a favourite chair, window sill, under a bush etc

Nutrition:

- Please indicate which of these best describes your cat's feeding regime:

Eats a single allocated meal in one sitting

Eats two allocated meals in two sittings

We fill the bowl once daily and cat grazes throughout the day

No set time – just top the bowl up when it is empty or when your cat asks for food

- Do you measure out or review the amount that your cat is getting based on its body weight? Y/N

- Does your cat get any treats – cats treats, human food etc? Y/N

- Has your vet/nurse ever suggested your cat has a weight problem? Y/N

- Please indicate which of the following foods your cat prefers (you can select more than one):

Dry food

Prefers wet food in pate style

Wet food – pouches

Prefers wet food in jelly

Wet food - tins

Home cooked food

Prefers wet foods in gravy

No preference shown

- What food type/brand(s) does your cat usually have? _____

- Are there certain flavours/types of food that your cat does not like:

Red fish (eg tuna, salmon, sardines)

Lamb

White fish (coley, cod, haddock,
pollock etc)

Duck

Chicken

Rabbit

Beef

Other....

- Would you describe your cat as “fussy” or “picky” with food? Y/N

- Are there any types of food that have disagreed with your cat on an ongoing basis (eg allergic reaction, loose tummy, vomiting etc)? Y/N

- Does your cat chew food properly or gobble it whole? _____

- Does each cat have its own separate food bowl? _____

- Does your cat bring up undigested food within 30 minutes of eating it? Y/N
If so does this happen more frequently than once every 2-3 months? Y/N
- Do all cats eat in close proximity? Y/N
If so, is there any conflict at food times (including one cat quietly retreating in response to another moving in on their food)? Y/N

Water:

- How many water bowls do you have in the house? _____
- What sort of water bowls do you have (eg plastic, ceramic, metal, glass, fountain etc)?

- Does your cat have a preference for running or dripping water (eg taps)?

- Does your cat prefer to drink from unusual places (eg glasses of water? basin? bath? toilet?) Y/N
If so have they always done this or is it a recent change? _____
- Are there any other preferences? (eg tap water, rain water, puddle water or bottled water?) Y/N

A BIG THANKYOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PATIENCE - YOU REALLY ARE A VERY DEDICATED CAT OWNER!

Putting it all into perspective, as any cat lover knows....no two cats are the same! The level of commitment you have shown towards these finer details early on means that I can gain an in-depth understanding of your individual cat. All the bits of information that you have kindly provided serve as a handy reference for any future problems that your cat may develop and allows me to tailor a specific treatment option that works for not just any cat, but your cat!