



# Keeping your cat content

**Cats have a reputation, the fussy  
feline. How can you meet their needs?**



# Cat Contractors

In 2020, there were more pet cats in the UK than dogs. However, as owners will know, you certainly can't interact with both species in the same way. Cats have been domesticated on their own terms, exchanging food and shelter from us for their innate ridding service. Because of this, cats need more autonomy than dogs to thrive.





# Solitary or Sassy?

Cats derive from self-sufficient, solitary hunters. Unlike humans and dogs, they haven't developed the same social skills or needs for group living. What does this mean for us? Generally speaking, cats inherently require (and desire) less social contact than dogs, and the amount of interaction they want from you will vary greatly between individuals. Not all cats are happiest on a lap, and that's OK!





# Environment

**Dogs tend to feel safest around their owners. Cats feel most secure in familiar environments, where they know the ropes. Autonomy is key here. Ensure they have places in the home where they aren't disturbed, where they feel they can 'hide' if they feel threatened, say by a young and noisy visitor. Their food, water and litter tray should be in an area with low foot traffic, away from busy home spaces.**

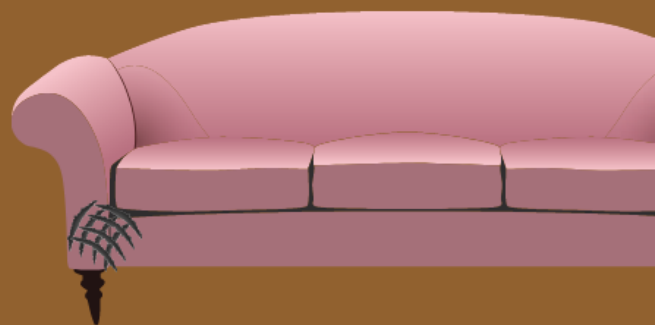
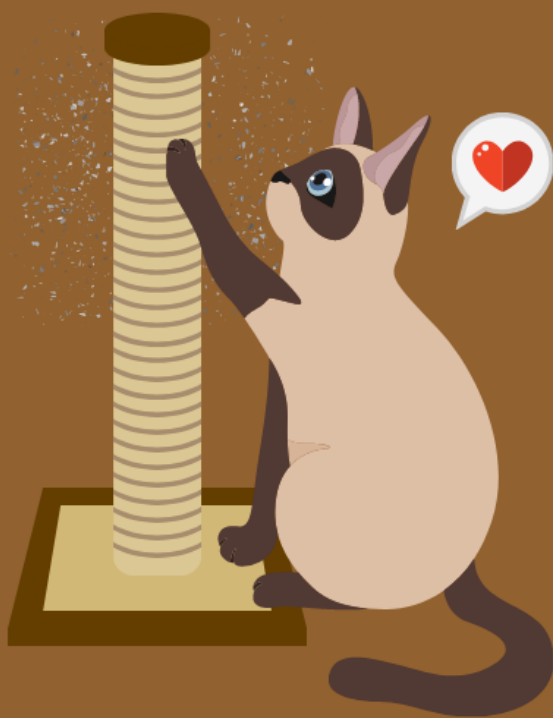




# Scratch that

Clawing is a very normal feline behaviour. Glands in the paws release particles onto the surface they scratch, both marking their territory and making them feel 'safe' and 'at home' when they next walk past and smell it.

Scratching the sofa might be a compliment! Providing appropriate outlets for clawing such as scratching posts makes your sofa less of a target.





# Hunting

Revisiting the solitary hunter background, most cats have an innate drive to catch prey. This entails stalking, pouncing and 'the kill' - biting and kangaroo-kicking their catch. This relieves stress and is enjoyable for your furry friend. Access to outdoors or daily play with a fishing-rod toy can meet this need. Avoid frustration by ensuring your cat can catch and 'kill' during play.





# Respect her space

Cats sometimes show love just by wanting to be nearby. If you have a particularly social cat who's always in your lap, fuss her as she pleases. If, however, she's resting peacefully, refrain from picking her up, moving her to another room or going over to give her a fuss. To test the waters, call her over. If she stays put, she's happy as is.



Psst Psst,  
here kitty  
kitty





## Are you herding cats?

**There will be many more ways to keep your cat happy and healthy depending on her unique personality. If you're finding conflict in your relationship, get in contact today for an adjustment session or behaviour consultation to see how both your needs can be met.**