



CATS

Cat Facts



- ⊙ Typically, a cat weighs between 6 and 15 pounds at maturity
- ⊙ Around 60 million cats in the US are companion animals
- ⊙ Cats can live up to 30 years, but most live only 12 to 18

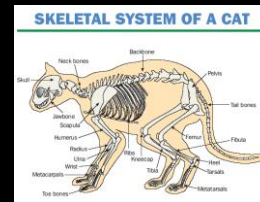
Cat Terminology

- ⊙ mature male cat
 - *tomcat*
- ⊙ mature female cat
 - *queen*
- ⊙ baby cat of either sex
 - *kitten*
- ⊙ group of kittens born to the same parents at the same time
 - *litter*



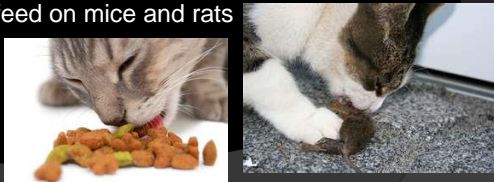
Cat Physiology

- ⊙ 500 muscles
- ⊙ approximately 250 bones.



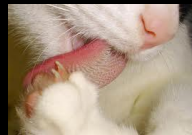
Cat Nutrition

- ⊙ most cats are fed cat food designed especially for their needs
- ⊙ by nature they are carnivores that can feed on mice and rats



Cats are extra sense-itive

- ⊙ Ears, noses, and paws for sensing environment
- ⊙ Extra taste organs to distinguish between foods



Cats are extra sense-itive



- ◎ Cats have three-dimensional vision
- ◎ Whiskers are attached to nerves that help the animals to feel in the dark

Kitty Magnets

- ◎ Claws are important tools for helping a cat catch prey



- ◎ **Declawing**
 - the surgical removal of a cat's claws by a veterinarian



Kitty Magnets

- ◎ Owners have the cats declawed so they don't damage carpeting, furniture, and curtains
- ◎ Keep declawed cats inside
 - they no longer have their most important defense mechanism

Cat breeds

- ◎ Long haired or short haired
- ◎ 36 breeds are found in the US



Cat Breeds

- ◎ Short haired
 - Less work
 - Little or no brushing
 - Less hair to shed



Cat Breeds

- ◎ Major shorthair breeds
 - Rex
 - Siamese
 - American Shorthair
 - Japanese
 - Burmese
 - Japanese Bobtail
 - Manx
 - Russian Blue
 - Korat
 - Egyptian Mau



Cat Breeds

- ◎ Long haired
 - More work
 - Require brushing
 - Susceptible to **hairballs**
 - wads of hair that collect inside the digestive tract and block the digestion of food



Cat Breeds

- ◎ Major long haired breeds
 - Turkish Angora
 - Himalayan
 - Persian
 - Balinese
 - Maine Coon



Cat Management

- ◎ Cat and Owner will be happier if their natural tendencies are suited to each other



Cat Management

- ◎ Select a healthy cat
 - Keep vaccinations current
- ◎ Handle a cat in a way that makes it feel secure
- ◎ Use patience
 - Allow a new cat time and room to adjust



Cat Management

- ◎ Bathe and groom your cat appropriately
- ◎ Leave fresh water and clean bedding



Cat Management

- ⊙ Cats must have space to exercise
- ⊙ Spay or neuter your cat if you do not intend to breed kittens



Cat Training

- ⊙ Litter box training most common
 - Put litter box in an area to which the cat will always have access (out of sight)



Cat Training

- ⊙ Litter box training most common
 - The cat should be placed in the litter box to show it an appropriate spot to do its business
 - May have to watch for signs
 - Positive reinforcement after success

Cat Grooming

- ⊙ Cats groom themselves, but can benefit from help
 - Great for bonding



Cat Grooming



- ⊙ A cat's hair coat should be brushed daily with a small, soft brush
- ⊙ A cat may need a bath occasionally

Cat Grooming

- ⊙ Nail trimming
 - Use cat claw clipper tool
 - Never below nail bed
 - Too short will cause bleeding
 - If unsure, you can take the cat to a vet or groomer for trimming
 - A scratching post can also help keep nails short



Cat Grooming

- ⊙ General health check:
 - Check ears
 - Mites or ticks
 - Check eyes
 - Discharge, infection
 - Check teeth
 - Plaque and tartar



Choosing a cat

- ⊙ Must consider:
 - Age
 - Kittens require more attention
 - Older cats are resistant to change
 - Gender
 - Do you want kittens?
 - Issues with keeping in tact animals



Costs of owning a cat

- ⊙ Purebred or non-purebred
 - Purebreds are more expensive
- ⊙ Special medical needs
- ⊙ Initial costs
 - Spaying, neutering, declawing