

Indoor Cat Home Checklist – Helpful Hints

Some questions can be thought of in different ways. We hope these hints will help you fill out the questionnaire more easily; if questions remain, please ask for more clarification!

#	Resource	Instructions
Space		
1	Does each cat have a personal space that provides her with safety and security?	Yes if each cat has a dedicated spot in a safe quiet place, and out of sight of all other cats' resting areas in multi-cat households. No if not out of sight of all other cats' resting areas.
2	Is each space located such that another animal or person cannot sneak up on your cat(s) while resting?	NA if you have no other animals or other people in your home Yes if so for all cats. No if not for any cat.
3	Is each space located away from appliances or air ducts that could come on unexpectedly while your cat(s) rest?	Yes if so. No if not.
4	Is a radio or TV left playing when your cat(s) stays home alone?	Yes if something is left playing. No if not.
5	Are there sights, sounds or smells outside your home that might disturb your cat(s)?	DK if you don't know (due to work schedule or travel, for example) Yes if so. No if not.
6	Do you have a "catio" (safe, enclosed structure that allows outdoor access) that your cat(s) use?	Yes if you do. No if you do not.
Food and Water		
7	Does each cat have her own food bowl?	NA if you only have one cat. Yes if it has a food bowl out of sight of all other cats' food bowls. No if its food bowl is not out of sight of all other cats' food bowls.
8	Does each cat have her own water bowl?	NA if you only have one cat. Yes if it has a water bowl out of sight of all other cats' water bowls. No if its water bowl is not out of sight of all other cats' water bowls.
9	Are both food and water bowls located out of sight of all other cat's bowls?	No if either one or the other is not.
10	Are all bowls located such that another animal or person cannot sneak up on each cat while she eats or drinks?	Yes if both food and water bowls are. No if either one or the other is not.
11	Are bowls located away from appliances or air ducts that could come on unexpectedly while any cat is eating?	Yes if both food and water bowls are. No if either one or the other is not.

1 2	Do you wash bowls each day with a mild soap?	Yes if both food and water bowls are. No if either one or the other is not.
1 3	Do you offer new foods in separate containers next to the usual food at mealtime so your cat(s) can choose to consume it (or not)?	NA means different types of food or water are never offered. Yes means different types of food or water are always offered as choices. No means that these changes are not offered as choices.
1 4	Do you provide any food in food puzzles?	Yes if you do. No if you do not.
Litter boxes		
1 5	Does each cat have her own box in a convenient, well-ventilated location that still gives the cat some privacy while using it (1 box per cat + 1)?	Yes if true and you only have one cat. Yes if true and out of sight of all other cats' litter boxes in multi-cat households. No if not, or if not out of sight of all other cats' litter boxes.
1 6	Is each box as long as each cat from the tip of her nose to the tip of her tail?	Yes if all are. No if any are not.
1 7	Are any boxes covered?	Yes if any are. No if all are not.
1 8	Are boxes located so another animal or human cannot sneak up on your cat(s) during use?	Yes if all are. No if any are not.
1 9	Are boxes located away from appliances or air ducts that could come on unexpectedly during use?	Yes if all are. No if any are not.
2 0	Are boxes located on more than one level in multi-level homes?	Yes if any are. No if all are not.
2 1	Is the litter scooped as soon after use as possible (just like we flush after each use), or at least daily?	Yes if all are. No if any are not.
2 2	Are boxes washed at least weekly with warm water, rather than strongly scented cleaners?	Yes if all are. No if any are not.
2 3	Is unscented, clumping litter used?	Yes if it is used in all boxes. No if it is not used in all boxes.
2 4	Do you change the brand or type of litter more often than monthly?	Yes if you do. No if you do not.
2 5	If you change the brand or type of litter do you offer it in a separate box so your cat can choose to use it if she wants to?	NA if the type of litter is never changed. Yes if always offered as choices. No if litter changes are not always offered as choices.

Activity		
2 6	Does each cat move about your home freely, explore, climb, stretch, and play whenever she chooses to?	Yes if all of your cats do. No if your any cats do not.
2 7	Does each cat have a vertical scratching post?	Yes if all of your cats do. No if your any cats do not.
2 8	If so does she use it daily?	Yes if all of your cats do. No if your any cats do not.
2 9	Does each cat have a horizontal scratching post?	Yes if all of your cats do. No if your any cats do not.
3 0	If so does she use it daily?	Yes if all of your cats do. No if your any cats do not.
3 1	Does each cat have climbing places (e.g., perches, towers) provided she can safely look down on her surroundings?	Yes if all of your cats do. No if your any cats do not.
3 2	If so, are these places used daily?	Yes if all of your cats do. No if your any cats do not.
3 3	Does each cat have chew items (like cat-safe grasses or catnip)?	Yes if all of your cats do. No if your any cats do not.
3 4	If so, are they used daily?	Yes if all of your cats do. No if your any cats do not.
Play		
3 5	Can each cat play with people or other animals if she chooses to on a daily basis?	Yes if true for all of your cats. No if not true for all of your cats.
3 6	Does each cat like to play with toys?	Yes if true for all of your cats. No if not true for all of your cats.
3 7	Does each cat have toys to chase that mimic moving prey?	Yes if they are provided at least 75% of the time (5 days out of seven). No if they are not.
3 8	Does each cat have toys that can be picked up, carried, and tossed in the air?	Yes if they are provided at least 75% of the time (5 days out of seven). No if they are not.
3 9	Are toys rotated on a regular basis (at least weekly) to provide novelty?	Yes if they are rotated regularly. No if they are not rotated regularly.

	Social Contact	
40	Can each cat get away from other animals or people in the household at all times?	Yes if all of your cats can. No if any of your cats cannot.
41	Do any cats interact with outdoor cats?	DK if you don't know (due to work schedule or travel, for example) Yes if any of your cats do. No if none of your cats do.
42	How many hours a day are you in sight of your cat?	
43	How many minutes a do you spend petting your cat?	
44	How many minutes a do you spend playing with your cat?	

If you have additional comments on or questions about any of these questions, please write them below, including the question #.