

Problem Behaviour

Often 'problem' behavior is very normal cat behavior that we see as problematic.

Common problems

- **Urine Spraying** - A form of territory marking that is normal outdoors. Cats often spray during stressful situations so if this happens indoors something is worrying your cat.
- **Soiling indoors**— Cats are clean by nature so indoor soiling is a sign that something is wrong. It could be ill health or behavioural so it's best to speak to the vet to rule out medical.
- **Scratching furniture** - Scratching removes the outer husk of the claw to reveal a sharp claw beneath. Cats may scratch indoors if they feel safer, to mark their territory or for attention.
- **Cat vs. Cat aggression** - A last resort when other means of communication has failed, usually over territory.
- **Over-grooming** - Most cases are initially caused by a skin problem e.g. flea bite allergy. However, its suggested that most cases have a stress component.

Brentknoll Veterinary Centre



Whittington Road
Worcester,
WR5 2RA

Phone: 01905 355938

Fax: 01905 352902

Email: info@worcestervets.co.uk

Brentknoll Veterinary Centre



A Guide to being A Cat Friendly Cat Owner

In the Home ...



Tel : 01905 355938

Cat Behaviour

The domestic cat is a complex animal and problems often occur because we don't fully understand their behaviour.

What is a cat?

- **A hunter** - Encourage this natural behaviour with play that involves pouncing, stalking and chasing.
- **An obligate carnivore** - Evolution has meant that cats cannot be vegetarian, in fact many plants are toxic to cats.
- **Territorial** - Cats will often fight to defend 'their' territory and don't always get along; if a territory isn't suiting them, they may leave.
- **Agile** - Exceptionally flexible, strong and well balanced so they need plenty of spaces to explore.
- **Scent sensitive** - When insecure they may scent mark with urine.
- **Self-reliant** - Cats are able to do most things for themselves.
- **Emotional** - Routine and predictability can help reduce stress.

Getting a Cat or Kitten

People have different expectations when getting a cat, some want a lap cat for cuddles and some want an independent cat.

Cats can vary in their demeanour so it's important to choose the right cat for you.

Choosing a Kitten

Don't be swayed by just looks, before you buy be sure to find out ;

- What are the parents like?
- Is there a breed predisposition?
i.e. Oriental breeds are very vocal.
- Have they had a Vet health check?
- What socialisation have they had?
i.e. dogs, children (*kittens are most sensitive to learning between 2-7 weeks old so exposure is best here*).

Choosing a Cat

There are many local rescue shelters with lovely older cats looking for homes so ask the Brentknoll staff about local charities.

Sometimes a cat will adopt you!



Health & Wellbeing

• The right diet matters

Cats are dependent on a meat diet and cannot thrive without it. Cat food comes in wet and dry, but some may supplement their diets by hunting.

• Parasite Control

Due to their outdoor nature, cats are prone to many parasites including fleas and worms. Preventative treatment is recommended to avoid the spread of disease.

• The importance of Vaccinations

Un-vaccinated cats are at risk of Feline Leukaemia, Flu and Enteritis (all of which are potentially fatal), so it's important to protect them with an annual vaccination.

• Pet Insurance for Cats

Cats are susceptible to conditions such as kidney disease, urinary tract infections and poor dental health; not to mention the accidents from fighting and climbing so insurance is a must.

• Microchipping

Collars tend to fall off easily but a chip is a safe way to reunite you with your cat if they get lost or injured whilst out.