

**Helpful Tips for You and Your New Kitty**  
**Provided by The O'Malley Alley Cat Organization**  
**(A colony of people helping colonies of cats)**  
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Did you know that indoor cats can live 20+ years!!! My orange tabby lived to be 17-1/2!

Please be a responsible pet owner and take your pet with you when you move!



Did you know that over 10 million companion animals are destroyed every year simply because there are not enough homes for them. **Please spay or neuter your pet.**

1. When bringing home a new kitty that is timid or frightened, be sure to confine kit to a medium or large pet taxi or small room for a few days. This comforts the kitty and allows him/her a chance to get used to the new surroundings (i.e. litter box, another cat or dog and children). Use same method for an outdoor cat. It is very important to confine your new outdoor cat for at least a month before turning the cat loose. Let the cat get used to the new surroundings from a confined area (pet taxi or bathroom) first and then you can gradually start letting kit out. **Hint: Always transport your kitten or cat in a pet taxi.** Cats are contortionists and escape artists. They can get out of boxes and out of your arms even easier!
2. Store bought flea medicine such as Hartz and BioSpot can be **hazardous** to your cat's health. In fact, I know of 30 incidences in Nacogdoches alone of cats **dying** from using such products. Use only products recommended by your veterinarian such as Advantage, Frontline or Program. They are non-toxic and are effective in killing fleas and in some cases, ticks, roundworms, heartworms and hookworms! **Use only** products labeled for Cats. **Dog Flea medications** are also **toxic** to cats and always kill them if used!
3. Premium grain free cat foods like Core Wellness, Halo, Evo and Blue Buffalo can potentially save you \$100s in medical bills down the line). If you cannot afford the premium brands, Purina One, Science Diet and Taste of the Wild are some of the better brands. Special Kitty and other store brands are extremely unhealthy for your pet. It is similar to eating fast foods; however, the impact on cats is much worse because their life spans are much shorter than ours. Extend your pet's life by spending a little extra up front on better cat food – feed your cat both wet and dry food. Wet food is good for the digestive tract and dry for the teeth. Contrary to wife's tales, **Milk** is not good for bones on kitties! It can cause diarrhea (bummer for both of you). PetSmart or Wal-Mart sell milk specifically designed for cats and their digestive systems.
4. Problems with Litter Box Training– if the kitty refuses to use the litter box, keep cat confined with a litter box to a medium or large pet taxi or small room such as bathroom. This will force it to use the litter box. Then you can move to a bigger area. Be sure to place kitten inside box and scratch its paws in the litter a few times. Make it fun! Treats also work to train cats! **Hint: Cats like clean bathrooms also!** Be sure to keep litter box as clean as possible so your cat will continue to use it.
5. Kitty Toys – some toys can strangle cats such as toys with ropes, strings and so on. Be sure to chaperone when using these toys. Leather shoestrings, milk rings, boxes and paper bags make great and cheap kitty toys! Long chords on blinds can be deadly also. Tuck those away.
6. We DO NOT RECOMMEND De-clawing. Please read the articles on our website under Helpful Facts link BEFORE deciding to de-claw your cat. At least 1 out of every de-clawed cat has problems.
7. Tips for cats that go outdoors:
  - a. Check car engine before cranking car by honking horn first and allowing time for cat to get out of engine. Important: Also make sure your cat doesn't get caught under garage door.
  - b. Antifreeze is deadly to all animals, even our songbirds! Check vehicle for leaks and fix them. There is non-lethal antifreeze called Sierra that I use in my vehicles. I find it at almost any auto part store.
  - c. Cats tend to wander at night, which may cause them to get hit by a car. Bring kitty in at night.

**PLEASE SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET. THIS WILL HELP ELIMINATE THE MILLIONS OF UNWANTED CATS AND DOGS IN OUR NATION THAT END UP IN SHELTERS AND ARE EUTHANIZED!**