



SHOPPING LIST - CATS

Essential

- Collar / Tags. Collars should be safety collars that stretch or have a pull-apart latch.
- Food Bowl. We recommend ceramic or metal. Each cat needs his or her own bowl for wet food, but may share dried food bowls.
- Water Bowl. We recommend ceramic, metal or a running water fountain. Be sure it is sturdy so that it does not spill easily.
- Litter Box. Even if you already have a cat, you will need a new litter box for your new cat until the cats become acquainted. Kittens may need a small litter box initially, but for adults, a litter box can never be too big. We recommend litter boxes with covers to minimize smell and debris.
- Litter. We recommend a clumping, odor-controlling, smooth litter that is unscented or only slightly scented.
- Litter Scoop.
- Cat Food. Vets now recommend feeding cats both wet and dry food. When choosing food products, avoid those with “meat by-products” of any animal and / or corn in the ingredient list.
- Cat Carrier. A carrier is essential for emergencies and trips to the vet. Top loaders are more expensive, but it may be easier to get a reluctant cat into them.
- Scratching Surface. Cats need scratching surfaces for exercise and claw management. Introducing a scratching surface to your cat as soon as possible will minimize scratching damage to furniture. A scratching surface should be on a sturdy object that doesn't move and is long enough for your cat to stretch his or her legs. We recommend Alpine Scratchers or posts covered with sisal rope.
- Toys. Start with one or two toys. Most cats like toys with dangling strings or toy mice.

Desirable

- Nail Trimmers / Clippers. Regular trimming will prevent damage to furniture, carpet and clothing from unwanted scratching.
- Brushes. Brushing reduces the amount of shedding on furniture, carpet and clothing. For long- and medium-haired cats, wire brushes are best; for short-haired cats, use a fine comb.
- Kitty Greens. Cats need greens (grass, usually) to help them digest their food. Providing them will save your houseplants from gnawing.
- Bed. Cats prefer beds that are round- or oval-shaped with a small padded lip and are placed on beds, couches or near windows. The best ones are easily washed.

Luxury

- Tree / Tower. Cats love sturdy, tall cat towers for napping and scratching, especially when placed next to windows.