

Domestic Cat in Macedonia



One of the most common pets in Macedonia is the cat (*Felis silvestris catus*). Traditionally Macedonians keep cats as pets either at home or in the yard. A big number of street cats is also fed and taken care of by cat lovers throughout the country.

There are homeless cats that used to be pets, but unfortunately they were abandoned or lost. Some of them are still very friendly and will come to you to ask for attention. Street cats can be found in cities and in suburban settlements across Macedonia. Street cats despite their independent behaviour still depend on us for their health, nutrition and safety.

Domestic cats usually choose their own corner in the home where they will sleep, but make sure it is a peaceful place and provide your pet with a bed and a pillow which will only be his/hers. For washing a cat use only a special shampoo for cats and make sure to dry the fur; after bathing the cat should stay some time in a warm room. Cats are often licking themselves to care for their fur and cat's inborn need to be always clean is well known. Help

your domestic cat to be clean by brushing it with a special comb, especially if your cat has long hair. When the cat takes care of its fur by licking, it actually swallows big amounts of hair and it may have problems expelling hairballs out of its stomach. There is a special kind of food for gentle ejection of hairballs out of the cat's stomach and by using this food you can help your cat.

Cats are the most prominent carnivores of all domestic animals. Domestic cat owners must know that by neglecting the cat's biological needs, wrong or inadequate nutrition cat's health can be put at risk. It is very harmful to feed the cat only with innards, red meat, milk and cheese. The diet should be varied. Small kittens need junior food that will satisfy their needs of vitamins and minerals for healthy development. Pregnant and lactating cats also need enriched food, versatile, dry and canned food, to help the mother cat bear the pressure of raising kittens. You will also need to provide a special food for easier digestion, because otherwise they will chew on your plants. Be warned: the majority of domestic ornamental plants are poisonous for cats.

If you decide to sterilize your cat, you will have to take a special care of his or her need for a balanced diet. Whether your cat becomes fat as a result of improper diet or because of the hormones after castration or sterilization, weight gain reduces the vitality of your pet and dramatically increases the risk of diseases. By using food with lower energy value you contribute to your cat's overall health and help it get back in shape. Adult cats need versatile food, based on poultry, fish, rice, vitamins, minerals and all the necessary components for healthy and long life.

The amount of food your cat needs depends on several factors such as age,





pregnancy, breastfeeding kittens, weight, sterilization, but for orientation only, a 5 kg cat needs 200 grams of dry food throughout the day. As already mentioned

above, the diversity of taste of the food is very important. Don't ever forget to provide a container with fresh drinking water. Cats are especially sensitive to lack of water, they will easier stand hunger than thirst.

Some helpful tips:

- Domestic cats are not your property, they are living beings that require attention and warmth, and are very sensitive;
- Don't give someone a cat as a present, unless you have previously ascertained that the cat will be welcomed and loved in that home;
- The cat is not a living toy and does not tolerate rudeness and cruelty; the cat has the right to defend itself;
- Buy the cat several toys, such as mice, balls, toys with feathers. In this way the cat will be satisfied with the toys and the children would be interested in playing with the cat.



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