

# 10 Fundamental Needs of Cats

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What do cats want and need?

It's a question many owners may find themselves asking when they start to notice their furry friend is experiencing some behavior issues or anxiety. By meeting the needs below, you should have a well-adjusted cat. Note: It is important to acknowledge that many owners feel they are already meeting these things, but it may mean that they are not being presented in ways that fully meets the cat's true needs.

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## Additional Resources

Please contact our Behavior Team to speak with a skilled behavior specialist.

[BehaviorTeam@spca.org](mailto:BehaviorTeam@spca.org)

[www.spca.org/petuniversity](http://www.spca.org/petuniversity)

## 10 Fundamental Needs of Cats

1. To feel safe in their territory (From outside cats, indoor cats, dogs, you, etc.)
2. Clean food and water (Proper nutrition and balance of wet and dry food.)
3. Information primacy (The opportunity to explore their surroundings in their own time.)
4. The opportunity to make choices (They like to know the routes and pathways.)
5. The ability to release energy and stress ("I see a cat outside the window and can't get to it")
6. To have comfortable elimination. (This includes the size, location, and number of litter boxes.)
7. Positive Companionship (With humans or other animals living in the same household.)
8. The complete prey sequence, hunt (Which can be achieved through puzzle feeders and play)
9. To relieve boredom (Through creative and consistent interactive play.)
10. To fulfill the mating instinct (Decreases when Spayed or Neutered)