

Your feline friend has needs that go beyond feeding and cleaning his or her litter box. Your cat needs to have a stimulating, yet safe, environment to explore and call “home.” In general, cats love being above all of the hustle and bustle – the higher the perch, the better! Windows to the outside are also a favorite among cats, especially if that window has a bird feeder stationed right outside.

Whether you have a multiple cat household or a single cat household, it is important to remember to spend quality time with your cat each day and to make sure he or she has access to scratching posts, toys, perches, windows and safe sleeping spaces. Your cat should be provided with suitable opportunities and outlets for scratching, climbing, perching and relaxing. These are needs that cats have to express and if they cannot express these needs, it can lead to unwanted behaviors such as your cat not using his or her litter box.

Feline Fun:

Maintaining a happy and engaged cat at home can be a simple process. Cats can be easily entertained with simple enrichment techniques.

Many cats enjoy scratching posts – posts can be as simple as a cardboard hanger to as complex as an entire cat tree or cattery. Experiment with both vertical and horizontal space to see what your cat enjoys best. Adding catnip to scratching posts or hanging toys can help encourage play or renew interest.

A great way to bond with your cat is through play. Try to play with your cat before meal times; cats are naturally more likely to be active and play when they are hungry. There are a variety of safe cat toys available – be sure that there are no parts your cat can remove and swallow. Regularly inspect your cat’s toys for wear and tear. Offering a variety of sounds, textures and sizes is a great way to find out what toys your cats prefer. Toys need not be overly expensive or complicated either. A simple cardboard box with holes cut in it can provide hours of entertainment.

Make sure to keep your cats claws regularly trimmed so that they can properly and safely enjoy all of the new temptations you provide!