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Resolving to enrich my cats' lives

by Wilda Lyons / Coalition for Pet Protection 4 hrs ago

When another new year arrived a month ago, most of us made a list of resolutions to work on for improving ourselves and our lives. This year I added to the list, and included ones to enrich my cats' lives and our time with them.

I found some great insights and ideas at the www.petcha.com website.

"Pump up the Purr"

and have a great year

The first resolution needs no explanation, if you currently are lax on keeping the litter boxes clean, then listen up!

No one likes a dirty bathroom, especially felines. A clean box will lessen chances of litter box issues. Stay away from the use of liners, hoods, and scented litters. A good rule of thumb is to have one more box than you have cats.

Plan to make vet visits

less scary for your cat

Something as simple as a towel with their scent on it can help calm your feline. A carrier that detaches at the middle, leaving the lower half to keep the cat in, provides a feeling of extra security and safety.

Try to schedule appointments when your cat is the most relaxed. A play session to tire them out before going is a great idea.

Financial issues

The next two resolutions tie into vet care as well.

Budget plenty of money for medical care. The average yearly cost for one cat is approximately \$600. This does not include emergency vet care. If money is an issue, consider pet insurance, CareCredit, or at the very least, a separate savings account for medical care.

It's heart-breaking to have to make hard decisions based on the lack of finances.

Make vet visits easier by acclimating your cat to its carrier.

Have the carrier out, preferably in a quiet space. Allow the cat to explore it, perhaps shutting it in for short periods (don't forget the treats!). Walking a cat with a harness can also be fun, and a great stimulating and bonding activity. Follow the same advice, and ease the cat into the harness.

Schedule daily playtime. Just 10 minutes a day of play can go a long way in curbing boredom and destructive behavior. This also helps with bonding, and keeps your feline mentally stimulated.

Strive to keep your cat at a healthy weight. Like humans, excess weight in a cat can lead to various medical problems. Check with your cat's doctor if you have concerns.

Provide functional furniture such as cat trees. These are great to place by a window. Cats love watching the birds and squirrels. There are many DIY ideas for cat furniture.

Show your affection by treating your feline with relaxed therapeutic head-to-toe body massages. Cats react to this much better than hard, or fast petting. Let your cat come to you whenever possible.

They'll let you know

Cats are more vocal in their wants and needs than dogs. Take time to decipher your cat's different vocalizations; try mimicking those sounds. Your cat will appreciate the effort! One of my cats is particularly vocal at feeding times and upon our return home. How fun it is to "visit" with him.


A great resolution for all animal lovers is to support animal welfare organizations. Our website, www.petcoalition.org has a list of reputable groups. If money is an issue, resolve to donate your time. All animal welfare groups are up against incredible odds, but still continue to work to make life better for animals. Your money and/or time will make a difference, no matter the amount.

The Coalition for Pet Protection, founded in 1992, is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible and used locally. We help those in financial need for feline care. CPP is also maintains an emergency dog/cat food pantry. CPP's hotline is (402) 434-7922.

Currents

5 Bizarre
Roadside
Attractions
Worth the



5 Bizarre Roadside Attractions Worth the Detour

Photos:
Meet the
women
who are
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Photos: Meet the women who are fighting to create Cuba's first female boxing team



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