**Indoor Cat Home Checklist – Helpful Hints**

Some questions can be thought of in different ways. We hope these hints will help you fill out the questionnaire more easily; if questions remain, please ask for more clarification!

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| **#** | **Resource** | **Instructions** |
| **Space** | | |
| 1 | Does each cat have a personal space that provides her with safety and security? | **Yes** if each cat has a dedicated spot in a safe quiet place, ***and*** out of sight of all other cats’ resting areas in multi-cat households.  **No** if not out of sight of all other cats’ resting areas. |
| 2 | Is each space located such that another animal or person cannot sneak up on your cat(s) while resting? | **NA** if you have no other animals or other people in your home  **Yes** if so for all cats.  **No** if not for any cat. |
| 3 | Is each space located away from appliances or air ducts that could come on unexpectedly while your cat(s) rest? | **Yes** if so.  **No** if not. |
| 4 | Is a radio or TV left playing when your cat(s) stays home alone? | **Yes** if something is left playing.  **No** if not. |
| 5 | Are there sights, sounds or smells outside your home that might disturb your cat(s)? | **DK** if you don’t know (due to work schedule or travel, for example)  **Yes** if so.  **No** if not. |
| 6 | Do you have a “catio” (safe, enclosed structure that allows outdoor access) that your cat(s) use? | **Yes** if you do.  **No** if you do not. |
| **Food and Water** | | |
| 7 | Does each cat have her own food bowl? | **NA** if you only have one cat.  **Yes** if it has a food bowl out of sight of all other cats’ food bowls.  **No** if its food bowl is not out of sight of all other cats’ food bowls. |
| 8 | Does each cat have her own water bowl? | **NA** if you only have one cat.  **Yes** if it has a water bowl out of sight of all other cats’ water bowls.  **No** if its water bowl is not out of sight of all other cats’ water bowls. |
| 9 | Are both food and water bowls located out of sight of all other cat’s bowls? | **No** if either one or the other is not. |
| 10 | Are all bowls located such that another animal or person cannot sneak up on each cat while she eats or drinks? | **Yes** if both food and water bowls are.  **No** if either one or the other is not. |
| 11 | Are bowls located away from appliances or air ducts that could come on unexpectedly while any cat is eating? | **Yes** if both food and water bowls are.  **No** if either one or the other is not. |
| 12 | Do you wash bowls each day with a mild soap? | **Yes** if both food and water bowls are.  **No** if either one or the other is not. |
| 13 | Do you offer new foods in separate containers next to the usual food at mealtime so your cat(s) can choose to consume it (or not)? | **NA** means different types of food or water are never offered.  **Yes** means different types of food or water are always offered as choices.  **No** means that these changes are not offered as choices. |
| 14 | Do you provide any food in food puzzles? | **Yes** if you do.  **No** if you do not. |
| **Litter boxes** | | |
| 15 | Does each cat have her own box in a convenient, well-ventilated location that still gives the cat some privacy while using it (1 box per cat + 1)? | **Yes** if true and you only have one cat.  **Yes** if true ***and*** out of sight of all other cats’ litter boxes in multi-cat households.  **No** if not, or if not out of sight of all other cats’ litter boxes. |
| 16 | Is each box as long as each cat from the tip of her nose to the tip of her tail? | **Yes** if all are.  **No** if any are not. |
| 17 | Are any boxes covered? | **Yes** if any are.  **No** if all are not. |
| 18 | Are boxes located so another animal or human cannot sneak up on your cat(s) during use? | **Yes** if all are.  **No** if any are not. |
| 19 | Are boxes located away from appliances or air ducts that could come on unexpectedly during use? | **Yes** if all are.  **No** if any are not. |
| 20 | Are boxes located on more than one level in multi-level homes? | **Yes** if any are.  **No** if all are not. |
| 21 | Is the litter scooped as soon after use as possible (just like we flush after each use), or at least daily? | **Yes** if all are.  **No** if any are not. |
| 22 | Are boxes washed at least weekly with warm water, rather than strongly scented cleaners? | **Yes** if all are.  **No** if any are not. |
| 23 | Is unscented, clumping litter used? | **Yes** if it is used in all boxes.  **No** if it is not used in all boxes. |
| 24 | Do you change the brand or type of litter more often than monthly? | **Yes** if you do.  **No** if you do not. |
| 25 | If you change the brand or type of litter do you offer it in a separate box so your cat can choose to use it if she wants to? | **NA** if the type of litter is never changed.  **Yes** if always offered as choices.  **No** if litter changes are ***not*** always offered as choices. |

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| **Activity** | | |
| 26 | Does each cat move about your home freely, explore, climb, stretch, and play whenever she chooses to? | **Yes** if all of your cats do.  **No** if your any cats do not. |
| 27 | Does each cat have a vertical scratching post? | **Yes** if all of your cats do.  **No** if your any cats do not. |
| 28 | If so does she use it daily? | **Yes** if all of your cats do.  **No** if your any cats do not. |
| 29 | Does each cat have a horizontal scratching post? | **Yes** if all of your cats do.  **No** if your any cats do not. |
| 30 | If so does she use it daily? | **Yes** if all of your cats do.  **No** if your any cats do not. |
| 31 | Does each cat have climbing places (e.g., perches, towers) provided she can safely look down on her surroundings? | **Yes** if all of your cats do.  **No** if your any cats do not. |
| 32 | If so, are these places used daily? | **Yes** if all of your cats do.  **No** if your any cats do not. |
| 33 | Does each cat have chew items (like cat-safe grasses or catnip)? | **Yes** if all of your cats do.  **No** if your any cats do not. |
| 34 | If so, are they used daily? | **Yes** if all of your cats do.  **No** if your any cats do not. |
| **Play** | | |
| 35 | Can each cat play with people or other animals if she chooses to on a daily basis? | **Yes** if true for all of your cats.  **No** if not true for all of your cats. |
| 36 | Does each cat like to play with toys? | **Yes** if true for all of your cats.  **No** if not true for all of your cats. |
| 37 | Does each cat have toys to chase that mimic moving prey? | **Yes** if they are provided at least 75% of the time (5 days out of seven).  **No** if they are not. |
| 38 | Does each cat have toys that can be picked up, carried, and tossed in the air? | **Yes** if they are provided at least 75% of the time (5 days out of seven).  **No** if they are not. |
| 39 | Are toys rotated on a regular basis (at least weekly) to provide novelty? | **Yes** if they are rotated regularly.  **No** if they are not rotated regularly. |

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|  | **Social Contact** |  |
| 40 | Can each cat get away from other animals or people in the household at all times? | **Yes** if all of your cats can.  **No** if any of your cats cannot. |
| 41 | Do any cats interact with outdoor cats? | **DK** if you don’t know (due to work schedule or travel, for example)  **Yes** if any of your cats do.  **No** if none of your cats do. |
| 42 | How many hours a day are you in sight of your cat? |  |
| 43 | How many minutes a do you spend petting your cat? |  |
| 44 | How many minutes a do you spend playing with your cat? |  |

**If you have additional comments on or questions about any of these questions, please write them below, including the question #.**