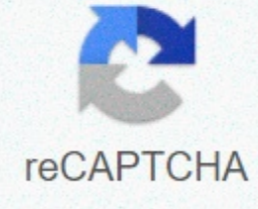




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Cat ninja 2

remarkable behavior similar to typical/instinctive human behavior. Here, witness a cat show a sharp eye while cautiously hunting its owner. This content is imported from YouTube. You may be able to find the same content in another format, or you may find more information, on your website. This content is created and maintained by a third party and imported on this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content piano.io Each item on this page was chosen by a Women's Day editor. We may earn commissions for some of the items you choose to purchase. Find out why following some widely maintained beliefs can harm your pet on August 5, 2013 iStock Find out why following some widespread beliefs can harm your pet 1 of 9 Feline Fact and Fiction If you're a lifelong cat lover or a new owner, what you think you know about these fascinating animals may be wrong. You're bringing the savages in with cats. That's why there's so much we haven't figured out yet, says Marty Becker, DVM, author of Your Cat: the Owner's and Veterinarian's Manual for VetStreet.com. Here are eight of the most common misconceptions about cats and the truths behind them 2 of 9 Myth: Cats can explore outdoors on their own. While you may think that your cat would love to go back to its hunting roots, it's risky to leave your cat out alone. Indoor cats live three and a half times longer than outdoor cats, Says Becker. Outdoor cats are subject to infections, parasites and injuries from dogs, coyotes, large birds of prey, cars and other cats, says Roy Smith, DVM, a veterinary veterinarian Central Texas Cat Hospital in Round Rock, TX, and president-elect of the American Association of Feline Practitioners. It's just not safe for them to wander alone. What you can do: Take your cat outside on a leash and harness, they can walk on a leash if you're patient and consistent. Or set up an enclosure with outdoor screened mos or run, a safe space to get on insects and feel grass on your fingers. 3 out of 9 Myth: Cats always land on their feet when they fall. Not exactly, although there is a phenomenon called high-rise syndrome, which refers to cats that collapse from many stories and survive. During a fall, cats turn their heads to the ground and spiral the rest of the body, says Dr. Becker. They spread like a flying squirrel and relax their muscles before landing to distribute the impact at four points. But that may not happen if a cat doesn't have enough distance to get angry. The most dangerous falls are two to six stories high. Falls from short distances, such as undressing, can also hurt pets. What you can do: Keep windows without closed screens. Try window screens to make sure your cat can't push through them and ban access to the balcony. Block unsafe places in your home for your cat to get on, such as a wobbly or narrow shelf. Also, wear a separation collar, which separates or slides instead of remaining intact and suffocating your pet if the collar gets stuck in something during a fall. 4 out of 9 Myth: It's OKAY to give your cat milk from time to time. Your cat can enthusiastically refeed it, but milk is not a good idea for most cats. Most cats are lactose intolerant, says Ilona Rodan, DVM, owner and medical director of the Cat Care Clinic in Madison, WI. They have diarrhea from milk, and they can also develop bladder stones if they get too much calcium. What you can do: There is no nutritional reason to give cats cow's milk. And kittens in nature don't drink milk after being weaned (in fact, most cats become lactose intolerant around 12 weeks of age). If you can't resist giving your cat a special gift, ask your veterinarian if cat drinks like CatSip or Catmilk Whiskies are fine for your pet. 5 out of 9 Myth: Purring means your cat is happy. While cats purr when they are happy, they also purr when they are nervous, injured, giving birth, breastfeeding or trying to communicate. It is a way to create and convey comfort for themselves and others, says Dr. Becker. We can't distinguish between a happy purr and a stressed purr unless that a situation is inherently nervous, like a visit to the vet. What to do: Pick up your purring pets: They're comforting to touch and hold. If you suspect your cat purrs because it's anxious, ask your veterinarian about Feliway, a synthetic version of the pheromones cats use to mark safe territory (that's why they rub against your legs!). Spritz it it yourself, in the car or in the cat carrier. 6 out of 9 Myth: Pregnant women should avoid cats. You can still hug Fluffy if you're waiting or trying to conceive. However, you may need to change your cat care routine. Here's why: Toxoplasmosis, a disease cats get from eating infected rodents, birds, or other animals, can harm a developing baby. Because cats are sick, though without symptoms, they pass the parasite in their stool, there is a slight risk of getting toxoplasmosis by cleaning the litter box, says Dr. Smith. Luckily, it's easy to minimize the threat. What to do: Keep your cat inside so you can't eat infected animals. If you're pregnant, put someone else in the sandbox, or wear disposable gloves and wash your hands if you keep cleaning. Most importantly, change the litter every day. According to the Centers for Disease control (CDC), the parasite does not become infected until 24 hours after it is wasted on waste. 7 out of 9 Myth: Cats are solitary creatures and do not need stimulation. Over the past decade, we've learned about the best living environment for cats, says Dr. Rodan. They need daily enrichment of mental and physical activity to stay healthy and happy. What to do: Challenge your cat's mind by placing bird feeders outside the windows so you can see unpredictable scenes unfolding. Provide cat towers, hangers, or stable shelves for climbing. Set scratch poles and different types of toys, and play with your cat every day. If you can, consider getting two cats (preferably siblings, which increases their chances of joining) so they have company. Another idea: Instead of preparing a bowl of food, put the puzzle feeders, like a roll of paper-paper towel, so cats have to hunt for food as they would in the wild. You can also measure and give kibbles while on the computer or watching TV, or hide small stashes throughout the house. 8 out of 9 Myth: Cats can only be trained than using the sandbox. Cats seem to instinctively know how to use the sandbox. But that's not as far as cat training can go. Cats are smart. People leave the wrong way teaching, says Dr. Rodan. They don't respond to physical punishment or screaming. You have to reward the positive. What to do: If your cat starts scratching furniture, for example, redirect your attention to the cat post. Try to put some catnip on the post (although not all cats respond; an affinity for catnip is inherited), and then give a favorite gift. Or teach basic commands like sitting with the Clicker: Use a device that clicks on noises in time with your commands, and then reward with a much-loved gift after your cat does whatever you want. The clicker helps cats learn to associate something they like (a gift) with what you're asking them to do (sit down). Keep training sessions five minutes or less, and don't give up. 9 out of 9 Myth: Cats Cats need to go to the vet on a regular basis. Unfortunately, cats visit the veterinarian less often than dogs, meaning that many suffer from preventable conditions such as dental diseases and parasites. Some veterinarians suspect that many sick cats are not treated because their owners do not realize they are sick. Cats disguise diseases and injuries because they cannot prove that they are vulnerable in nature or become prey, says Dr. Becker. And some deadly diseases, such as heart or kidney disease, have no visible symptoms. Those routine visits to the vet can save your cat's life. What to do: Bring young, healthy cats to the veterinarian once a year; cats age eight and older or those with chronic health problems should go at least twice a year. All cats, including those who never leave the house, need parasitic protection from the parasite, as fleas, ticks and mosquitoes that transmit the headwophate, which can be fatal, can enter and infect your pet. Next 10 Surprising Human Foods Dogs Can Eat Advertisement - Continue reading below This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported into this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this content and similar content in piano.io piano.io

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