

Why One Should be Allowed to Foster a Kitten

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Many a times the words "no you are not allowed a cat, I own this house" have been uttered. Some reasons as to why a cat isn't allowed in the suite have been given, however they all have some sort of solution. Owning a cat is beneficial to me, and my mental health, and this paper will discuss why one should be allowed to have foster a cat.

Cats have been human companions for an estimated 12,000 years (Smithsonia.com, 2007), starting in the Middle East when people started settling down. Farmers would have stores of grain, and with grain came mice (Smithsonia.com, 2007). It is thought that wild cats wandered into town, and loving the surplus of rodents around, they decided to stay, in a way domesticating themselves (Smithsonia.com, 2007).

Cats are superstars at pest control, the proof being in the pudding. Back in Victoria, Socks, Colourful, and Smokey have brought in as many as twenty baby rats one summer, saving the house from infestation. As it is known now, the house on E 48th has an unresolved mouse problem. Though there have only been two sightings, one in October and one in January, they continue to be a presence. There have been many attempts by the exterminator to catch this rascal, but Walter the mouse continues to live on. First went down the bait traps, which even after months of sitting there, went untouched. A test was done to see if Walter was still around by leaving a rice cracker on the ground, and when the cracker disappeared, it was known he was not dead. Other traps that have been set up, but not touched even after weeks of trying, were four mouse traps, as well as four or five glue traps. Again, nothing came of having traps around. Walter has been a mystery. The only evidence that he is around is the poop that is found on and in the couch. Compost is left on

the counter and that never has any evidence of being tampered with, neither with any of the garbage's.

Research shows that cats produce a smell that terrifies mice (BBC News, 2010). United States scientists have discovered a protein called Mups, found in cat saliva and urine that triggers fear in a sensory organ called the vomeronasal organ of the mice (BBC News, 2010). Knowing this, a cat would be extremely beneficial to have around the house, keeping Walter at bay, and possibly scaring him off the premises completely.

School is a stressful time for many people. Add moving away from home and having to make new friends to the mix, and some just cannot make it. Animal therapy on post-secondary campuses is becoming a popular form of stress-relief during exam time. It is shown that playing with animals can release endorphins that help calm a person, as well as reduce anxiety and loneliness (PAWS for People, n.d.). Sometimes, all it takes is a cuddle to make someone feel better, and cats can act as that other person. Everyone needs a companion, and not everyone has a partner to help them through tough times. Pets, especially cats, are the next best thing.

There are always detriments to having pets. Cats are known to shed hair wherever they go, but so do people. Human hair is everywhere, in your socks, in your food, in your shower drain and everywhere else. Cat hair, like human hair, can be cleaned with different tools that are very easy to find, like dusters, brooms and vacuums. All it takes is a bit of upkeep, but if cleaning is required for human hair anyways, and general cleaning is done on a timely basis (such as once a week), there is no need to worry about cat hair.

Another problem cat owners often run into is scratched up furniture. Though it is impossible to prevent scratching, there are many ways to mitigate scratching of furniture. Scratching post or pads are very popular among cat owners. It allows the cats to do what they need while still keeping your sofas looking brand new. Spraying the cat with water when they do something bad is a good way to train them. There are other products like double-sided sticky tape and herbal spray which can also keep cats from scratching. As for cat vomit, it is bound to happen. Thankfully, the carpets at the suite have stains on them already and are an ugly colour, and the pattern hides stains. The rest of the flooring is tile and vomit can be easily cleaned off that with a paper towel and some water. Febreze works wonders when it is sprayed on the problem spot, covering the smell until it goes away naturally.

One smell that is hard to hide is the smell of cat litter. Again, there are steps one can take to decrease the smell significantly. Many people craft "hidden" litterboxes, in re-vamped cupboards or sitting stools (SOURCE). In them, the odor will be more contained, and with the help of baking soda and other deodorizers can be placed in the cabinet to eliminate the odor. Another benefit to having a hidden litter box is that it is out of sight. In small apartments and houses, there often isn't room to have the litter box in a discreet location, and this allows the place to stay looking nice. The owner would be responsible for making, and maintaining the hidden litter box.

Living in a small apartment or house can be tricky with pets. Big dogs need lots of room to move around and get in the exercise they need. The wonderful things about cats is that they are low maintenance. Cats do not need to be walked twice a day and played with.

They enjoy lounging around the house, and occasionally playing with toys. If someone were to foster a cat with *Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue* (SOURCE), the cats in this case are not allowed outside. This would mean the foster parent would not need to be home all the time to let the cat in and out, because the cats are not allowed to be outside.

Fostering a cat is a wonderful idea for many reasons. There are people who would love to have a cat, but are not always home enough to own one, or might not be living in one place long enough to adopt one for themselves. Fostering is beneficial to both the foster parent and the cat. Many cats are bought as kittens, and once they grow older, aren't wanted anymore. Or perhaps a family never spayed their cat, and it had kittens the family did not want. Foster parents are saving a life, and giving the unwanted cats the love that they so dearly need. You are able to give back. The fostering agency also covers expenses for the cat, so for students on a budget who might be lonely and need company, it is a great idea since they will be spending so little money on a little bundle of joy.

Often, houses and apartments have rules about pets, their maximum size, and whether or not they are allowed. If the owner of a house decided to rent out their suite, they are allowed to draft up their own rules about pets. It happens that owners who live in the house, and also rent out the suite have pets of their own, but do not allow the tenants to have pets. Being a tenant, one might not care enough about the house they are renting to keep it looking nice, and they might not care too much about what their pets do. But as an owner, they will make sure to keep the house clean and looking fresh, cleaning up all messes that might happen, because it is their house.

In conclusion, though nothing is perfect and there will always be problems when owning a car, the benefits outweigh the positives. They are wonderful companions, and having something to be able to cuddle and love does wonders on one's mental health. A cat is beneficial to students living alone who want to be able to care for someone else. Fostering means not only saving one life, but two lives.

References

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