

## Basic understanding to keep the domestic cat

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**Abstract:** Domestic cat is very social; it is necessary to provide them with a suitable environment in human dwelling. A friendly attachment with this cat enhances to show all instinct and learning behaviors. Recommended handling of the cat does not allow any harm to the owner or other family members. Humans cooked food except for cows' milk, and the supplementary cat food of the market had a significant output on overall cats' health.

**Key Keywords:** Domestic cat, handling, zoonosis, pet food.

### Introduction:

There are 40,000 to 70,000 estimated deaths worldwide due to rabies yearly, and 10 million people receive prophylaxis (Jackson *et al.*, 2003). The domestic cat *Felis silvestris catus* is used in the laboratory as a companion animal. The smell is also used to select their food while a second olfactory system (vomeronasal organ) is used in social communication. Sebaceous glands are located throughout the body, especially on the head and peri-anal area, and between the digits. The earliest evidence for domestication came from Egypt in the third millennium BC (Linseele *et al.*, 2007). Cats have not been subject to intensive selective breeding with most breeds originating in single-gene mutations or a few combinations. Sibling pairs of cats have more amicable relationships than unrelated cats (Bradshaw & Hall, 1999). Cats spend a large portion of the day-time either resting or sleeping, so it is important that there are available rest areas with comfortable surfaces. Hiding is a copying behavior that cats often show in response to stimuli in their environment (Rochlitz, 2005).

Cat is a very popular pet animal in the world. It is a very cute, lovely, and playful animal as well. Since this is a carnivore, so possible to bite and scratch anytime. It carries rabies, needs to vaccinate at the age of six months. In addition, nail cutting and rubbing of the canine teeth are a must for the safety of the owner. In a home, it takes rice with fish curry. The roof of a home is enough for its exercise and playing. Human company is needed for its proper peace. Bathe with shampoo, soft cloths especially in the winter season, sunlight, proper rest, grooming, and protection from predator animals are a must. A vaccinated cat and very clean status will be helpful for its bedding or sleeping with the owner. It likes to play with toys and need to give them a lesson to use their specific washroom. In most cases, cats are affected by ectoparasites. Cleanliness is the only solution to this. Some zoonotic diseases can be transmitted from humans to the cat or vice versa but this does not happen in a drastic way. Children like cats and could play with them. The objective of this study is to ensure scientific management that promotes the sound health of the domestic cat.

### Cat in its habitat and recommended food

From Dhaka, Bangladesh, a female domestic cat was collected by bus for 6 hours journey. An aluminum cage (18×12×12 inches) is used for the primary shelter by the owner. In the winter season, the space is made up of jute bags for proper warmth at night. For many cats, the ambient temperature (15-24°C) and humidity (55% ±10%) need to adjust recommended by The UK Home Office 1989. Confined cats are generally given food *ad libitum* and eat small quantities at frequent intervals. Good-quality dry food made specifically for cats can use as a sole source of nutrition. For several months, dry food for the cats will be kept in a cool and dry place. National Research Council (2006) provided dietary guidelines for cats. Deciduous teeth appear about 14 days after birth. Very young kittens are not interested in taking solid food. At six months of age, most kittens got 75% of their final adult weight and recommended formulated food (McCune, 2010). Weaned kittens do not need milk and become less able to digest lactose as their gut matures. But in Bangladesh, most cat owners provide cows' milk for their cats. Most cats are actually 'lactose intolerant' as they do not have lactase enzymes in their intestines to digest. They can get vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pain from drinking it. On the other hand, cows' milk is full of fat; this is why they like the taste of this milk (PDSA, 2020).



**Plate 1.** Indigenous cat of Bangladesh on a roof of Kushtia (nickname 'Chini')

## Diseases and management

Careful handling and sufficient knowledge on animal biting as well as zoonotic diseases could overcome this situation (Kabir, 2018). Canine scabies is the most important zoonotic arthropod in Bangladesh (Huq *et al.*, 1985). Filariasis is caused by mosquitoes by mammals like dogs and cats. Toxocariasis is an infection of humans caused by the cat (*Toxocaracati*). Handling of infected animals and ingestion of contaminated food is the cause of zoonotic diseases (Hayes *et al.*, 2005; Peterson & Schriefer, 2005). Cats can be sexed at birth from the anogenital distance (13 mm in the case of males and about 6 mm in females) (McCune, 2010). Chlorhexidine appears to be a safe and very effective disinfectant for the cat habitat (Hawthorne *et al.*, 1995). Twice a year they should have a dental examination, hematology, and biochemistry screen. Travel of cats causes stress in many individuals and therefore should be kept to a minimum (McCune, 1994). Journeys over 10 hours duration appear to be stressful (Bradshaw & Holloran, 2005). Cats traveling by air will require containers approved by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and revise their regulations annually (Chapter 13 and Laboratory Animal Sciences Association (LASA) 2005).

## Conclusions

Pet cat in the home is not a hobby with a new one. From the very beginning, humans tamed it. It is a very social animal and the best friend for the children. Proper and scientific management are the matters for ensuring their sound health. Studies on its behavior and genetics could be interesting subjects for further investigation of keeping such cats.

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