



4 Feline Fables & the Real Facts

We all know cats don't have nine lives and black cats aren't bad luck. Cats are naturally independent and a bit mysterious which often leads to misinformation about them. These myths have led to some seriously wrong notions about cats. Here are often heard cat tales and the reality behind them.

Myth 1: Cats are aloof and antisocial creatures.

Reality: Contrary to popular belief, cats are very social creatures and need daily interaction. Dogs wag their tails and bark to greet you when you come home. Cats show affection by bumping or nuzzling your leg or meowing for attention. Even if cats aren't boisterous, they still want and need attention. Some cats may not enjoy human affection, but these introverts don't represent the whole feline species. In fact, lack of interaction can be an early sign of illness. Each cat has a unique personality and his or her own little quirks. Some cats even enjoy learning new tricks or commands and can be clicker trained!

Myth 2: Indoor cats don't need regular veterinary care.

Reality: A cat doesn't have to go outside to get sick, especially if kitty lives with other pets that do go outdoors. Every cat needs an annual examination by a veterinarian. Cats are experts at hiding illness so they need a trained professional to examine them regularly. During their exam, the doctor can determine what vaccinations your feline friend needs. All cats need and are required to have up-to-date rabies vaccinations.

Myth 3: Cats eliminate outside the litter box to be spiteful.

Reality: Instead, not using the box often signals an underlying health problem. Inappropriate eliminations can be due to medical or behavioral issues. Medical conditions, such as urinary tract

disease, kidney disease, or diabetes mellitus, are often indicated by inappropriate eliminations. It can also be a sign of arthritis, which makes getting into the litter box difficult and often times painful. Behavioral disorders and environmental stresses can lead to litter box avoidance. When you notice your cat eliminating in the wrong place, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Myth 4: Cats don't need parasite control

Reality: All cats need parasite prevention. Indoor cats can easily be infected with fleas and ticks that hitch a ride inside on another pet (dog especially) or a person. Once inside, these parasites bite and feed off your kitty and can cause a full infestation! We see fleas and ticks year-round so your kitty should receive year-round protection. Cats that spend time outside are susceptible to fleas, ticks and internal parasites. For these cats, we recommend year-round flea and tick medications and annual deworming through your veterinarian.