

The Art of Spoiling Your Cat

By Kay Brickley

1 Congratulations! You have just gotten
your first cat. In my opinion, you could not have
made a better choice in pets. I should know – I
am a cat myself. Who better to tell you how to
make your cat feel special every day of its life?

2 First of all, you must know that cats
have been spoiled for centuries. In ancient
Egypt, cats were considered sacred animals.
They were a part of the family. There were laws
to protect them. If a human killed a cat, the
human was sentenced to death. If a cat was
smuggled to another country, an army was sent
to retrieve it. The Egyptian people loved cats so
much that they had statues made of cats to
protect their homes and to ward off evil spirits.
When a cat died, the owners were very sad.
They wrapped it as a mummy and placed it in a
tomb with bowls of milk, mice, and rats. You
might say that ancient cats were spoiled to
death!



This statue represents Bastet, the beloved Egyptian cat goddess. The people of ancient Egypt turned to Bastet for blessing.

3 As you begin your new life with your
cat, you will soon discover modern ways to
pamper it. One valuable lesson to learn is that
cats love to eat. If we go near our food dish and
make a noise, we want to be fed. If we go near
our food dish and stand there in silence, we
want to be fed. If you are eating something that
smells like meat, we will try to talk you into
giving us a small bite. Many experts say that we
do not need to eat that often. They may be
right, but if you want to spoil your cat, you will
give in occasionally.

4 Because cats love to eat, make sure we
get plenty of exercise. You may have to
experiment to find out what exercise makes
your cat happy. We like to run, jump, scamper,
and chase toys. You can buy cat toys or use
everyday things in your house. A small ball, a
paper bag, a box, or long ribbons are all things
that can be turned into toys. Make sure that the
toy is bigger than our mouths so that we do not
choke on it. That would be the wrong way to
spoil your cat.

5 Cats have a special likeness for sleeping
in warm places. If you want to treat us well, you
will help us find cozy spots. It could be an area
of the floor that has been toasted by sunlight. A
basket of freshly dried laundry can also work
quite well. Some cats prefer to sleep next to
their humans for heat. Be prepared. We spend
much of our day sleeping, and if you do not
provide us with a special spot, we will claim one
on our own—maybe even your favorite shirt.

6 Cats like to be fussed over, too. We like
to be told “You are such a good cat!” over and
over again. We like to be petted. We like our
chins scratched. Some of us like to be held like a
baby. Some cats like to crawl onto a lap. Do not
worry if you are reading, or trying to write, or
having a conversation with another human; we

M. E. (1998). The role of cats in ancient Egypt. Accessed March 30, 2011.
Retrieved from <http://www.richeast.org/htwm/cats/Cats.html>

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will make **room** for ourselves. We expect you to stop whatever you are doing and focus on us. We can never get enough attention.

7

For all the **pampering** that you **lavish** on your cat, you can expect a lot of love and attention in return. Treat us like kings and queens, and we will bring you many years of happiness. Unlike a spoiled child, a spoiled cat is a work of art.



Photograph courtesy of Tim Brickley

Lying on a windowsill provides two pleasures for your cat—the warmth of the sun and a chance to be entertained. A cat can spy on birds, squirrels, and other outdoor animals from its comfortable post.

Glossary

Smuggled—to move something without anyone knowing

Retrieve—to move something back to its original place

Ward—to turn off evil spirits

Tomb—a place for the dead

Ribbons—pieces of cloth used to tie things together

Likeness—to be the same

Fussed—to spoil

Petted—to rub gently

Room—to make space

Pampering—to give a lot of special attention

Lavish—to give or use large amounts of something