

Save A *Purrfect* Cat Rescue

adopt for life

Cat Proofing Your House



Kittens combine a two-year-old's sense of curiosity with a teenager's athletic ability. Thus, if there are rooms you do not want your cat to investigate, keep the doors to those rooms closed. If there are fragile objects in the rooms your cat is allowed to visit, put them out of reach. Make sure all the balconies are enclosed, all window screens are secured, and all electrical cords are intact. If your cat or kitten begins teething on electrical cords, wrap them in a heavy tape or cover them with plastic tubes, which you can buy in any auto supply shop or stereo shop. If necessary, unplug all appliances that are not in use until you are certain you cat has not developed a taste for electrical cords. To keep your cat from getting a charge out of electrical sockets, cover them with plastic plug-in socket guards, which you can buy at many stores.

Keep all kitchen and bathroom cleansers, chemicals, cleaners, and toilet articles in cabinet that can be closed or locked securely. Keep the lids on all trash cans tightly closed. Consider replacing trash cans that have swinging lids that can be dislodged if overturned. Another lid to keep closed is the toilet seat lid – small kittens can drown in the toilet. And you don't want them drinking the toilet water if you have a toilet bowl cleaner in it!

When closing any door in your house – the front door, back door, refrigerator door, closet door, the door on the clothes washer and dryer – be sure your kitten or cat is not on the wrong side! Keep the bathroom door closed when you are filling the tub. When cleaning, rinse all cleansers and chemicals thoroughly from any surfaces your kitten or cat could walk on. What gets on a kitten's or cat's paws usually winds up in its stomach.

Put sewing supplies, yarn, and ribbon away when you are finished using them. Do not leave rubber bands, hot irons, cigarettes, plastic bags, or pieces of string, yarn, or thread lying around. Learn to think like a cat. Look for any potential accidents – tinsel on a Christmas tree, a dangling tablecloth, a hot burner on the stove – waiting for a cat to make it happen.

Finally, keep poisonous plants out of reach. Poinsettia, philodendron, caladium, dieffenbachia, English Ivy, Hydrangea, Jerusalem cherry, mistletoe and holly are some of the plants poisonous to cats. Ask your veterinarian for a complete list.