

# Before you acquire...a CAT

## You and a cat would be a perfect match if you...

- \* Think that caring for a cat for at least 15 years is not long enough,
- \* Look forward to sharing your house with someone who sheds, tracks kitty litter all over the house, and up-chucks hairballs,
- \* Want a warm, fuzzy, furball in your lap,
- \* Don't mind having a cat read the newspaper with you...by lying on it,
- \* Look forward to caring for someone every day,
- \* Think spaying and neutering is the right thing to do,
- \* Think that counters and kitchen tables belong to the cat,
- \* Want to spend money on veterinary care, cat food, cat toys, litter, and more litter,
- \* Would live in a cardboard box rather than move to no-pet housing,
- \* Believer that there is no better welcome than a cat's meow,
- \* Think that shredded furniture is the latest style in decorating,
- \* Agree with cats that they are a superior intelligence
- \* Desire unconditional love and constant companionship,
- \* Don't mind someone sleeping on your head,
- \* Think all cats should be indoor cats for their own well-being.

**"Dogs come when they're called,  
cats take a message  
and get back to you."  
--Warren Eckstein**

### Average costs for cat care

\$ 1 <sup>st</sup> year vaccinations	\$75
\$ Annual vaccinations	\$30 to \$40
\$ Leukemia/FIV test	up to \$30
\$ Toys	\$25 annually
\$ Boarding	\$6 / day
\$ Feeding	\$300 annually
\$ Spay/neuter	\$40 to \$55
\$ Flea/tick/heartworm	\$80 annually

(These estimates are averages of prices charged in  
Bloomington and Monroe County)

## Reasons for keeping your cat indoors

- ❦ An indoor cat's average lifespan is 12 to 15 years, while that of an outside cat is 2-3 years.
- ❦ Crossing a street is far more dangerous than crossing the kitchen.
- ❦ An indoor cat will not use your neighbor's garden as a litter box. Your neighbor will be more neighborly.
- ❦ With an indoor cat you will not have to feel guilty about all the songbirds and baby rabbits outdoor cats kill.
- ❦ An indoor cat is far less likely to be attacked by roaming dogs, hungry coyotes, or other cats.
- ❦ An indoor cats is a lot harder to steal.
- ❦ An indoor cat is less likely to catch life-threatening diseases like Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).
- ❦ An indoor cat won't be exposed to poisons such as rodent bait, antifreeze, and garden chemicals.



### Shopping list for a new cat

- ✓ Break-away collar, ID tag, and license
- ✓ Full-size litter pan
- ✓ Kitty litter
- ✓ Litter scoop
- ✓ Quality dry food
- ✓ Two bowls – one for water and the other for food
- ✓ Brush and comb
- ✓ Nail clipper
- ✓ Scratching post/mat (sisal or carpet)
- ✓ Kitty bed/blanket/rug
- ✓ Vinegar (mixed with water) for "accidents"
- ✓ Toys
- ✓ A video made for cats
- ✓ Catnip or catmint (grow a little of this and your cat will think you are a very fine human)

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Bloomington/Monroe County Animal Care & Control  
3410 S. Old S.R. 37  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
812-349-3492  
[www.city.bloomington.in.us](http://www.city.bloomington.in.us)