Are You a Cat’s Best Friend?

There is nothing better than owning a pet. The benefits of pet ownership are extraordinary. Do you do as much for your furry friend as he does for you?

Activity: To find out if you are a responsible pet owner, check off your answer to each statement below. Be honest. Then check your score below.

1. I have socialized my cat by helping her get used to people, noises, the veterinarian, and as many situations as possible. ____ yes ____ no

2. My cat lives indoors. ____ yes ____ no

3. My cat has a safety collar and I.D. tag with my name, address, and phone #. ____ yes ____ no

4. I keep all poisonous plants out of my cat’s reach. ____ yes ____ no

5. My cat goes to the veterinarian for a yearly check-up and vaccinations. ____ yes ____ no

6. My cat is groomed regularly. ____ yes ____ no

7. My cat’s litterbox is cleaned every day. ____ yes ____ no

8. I’ve trained my cat to travel in a pet taxi in the car. ____ yes ____ no

9. I provide a scratching post for my cat. ____ yes ____ no

10. My cat is fed a nutritionally complete name-brand cat food, and fresh water is always available. ____ yes ____ no

11. My cat is neutered if it’s a male or spayed if it’s a female to prevent unwanted kittens. ____ yes ____ no

12. I make sure my cat has a warm, quiet place to sleep. ____ yes ____ no

13. I don’t allow my friends to tease or be unkind to my pet. ____ yes ____ no

Less than 8 - You need to learn more about your pet.
8-10 “Yes” answers - Keep trying to improve as a pet owner.
11-13 “Yes” answers - You deserve a Responsible Pet Ownership medal!

Credit: APA of Missouri