

Answer-Question #2

Cats are very clean animals. You'll notice that they bathe themselves often. They are animals that naturally shed hair. You can help get rid of hair your cat has shed by brushing her on a regular basis.

Then provide her with a hairball remedy.

Hairball remedies come in several forms now: a toothpaste-like tube of gel they eat, treats, and dry food. If your cat doesn't like one form, try another.

Answer-Question #1

You need to treat the pet for fleas as soon as possible. Not only will they make your pet itchy and uncomfortable, but fleas can carry tapeworm that make your pet sick. Take your pet to the veterinarian where you can buy a monthly flea preventative. Prescription spot-on treatments like Frontline or Advantage are very effective at killing fleas within 24 hours. Have your vet examine your pet for signs of tapeworm. You may also need to comb your pet with a special flea comb to get rid of flea "dirt" and dead fleas. The best way to prevent fleas is to keep your cat inside!

Answer-Question #4

Cats need to scratch in order to remove the dead nail sheaths from around their claws. They also claw to stretch and mark their scent on objects. First, trim the cat's nails every two weeks to keep them blunt and minimize any damage done by scratching. Distract the cat from furniture by providing a scratching post. You can buy these in a pet store. Sprinkle catnip on the post to make it more likeable to your cat. If your cat uses the post, praise her. Make furniture undesirable to scratch by covering it with foil, double-stick tape, or balloons. Be patient!

Answer-Question #3

Start looking for him as soon as you discover he is missing. Search the neighborhood and ask people if they've seen him. If you don't find him, post signs around your neighborhood and offer a reward for his return. Visit the local animal shelters to file a "lost" report and to see if someone has taken him there. Continue to check back with the shelters if you don't find him on your first visit. Don't give up. When he's safely back home, learn to be in control when the door opens. If he's unsuccessful, he'll stop trying to escape. Be sure your cat wears a collar and ID tag at all times. He can't talk to tell anyone where he lives. Back that up with a microchip.

Answer-Question #6

House soiling, or going outside the litter box, is a common feline problem. NEVER yell at your cat or rub her nose in it. This will make the problem worse. Your very first step should be to take your cat to the vet. Infections and other diseases can cause cats to quit using their boxes. *Your cat may need immediate medical attention.* If your cat is healthy, start looking at how and where she is choosing to go. Clean those areas with an enzymatic pet deodorizer. More than likely the problem is with the box or its surroundings. She may no longer like where it is located, how it feels, or she may have been scared while using it. Is it clean enough? Also ask yourself if there has been a change in the home that she could be upset about. Cats can become stressed, too. Be patient.

Answer-Question #5

Bitting may be “cute” when your cat is still a kitten, but it can be painful when he’s full grown. Discourage it from the beginning. When your cat bites, let out a sharp yowl that imitates the sound of a hurt cat. Pull your hand back, turn your back on your cat, and ignore him for a few minutes. Offer a toy to play with instead. You may also try hissing at a cat that is persistent about attacking you. NEVER hit your cat! Even if your cat’s attacks are all in good fun, he needs to learn that is not acceptable behavior.