

- Water
- Food
- Hiding places
- Litter trays
- Scratching posts

You need to make sure there are plenty of each; at least one more resource than there are cats. For example, if you have four cats, you should ideally have five litter trays. Cats are sometimes known to prefer to pee and poop in separate trays so this is also a consideration.

Don't be afraid to ask for help!

Caring for cats can be hard work. They have complex needs and the more you own, the more difficult it can be to meet their welfare needs. If you are finding it difficult to care for all the cats in your home you can ask us for help.

Call and book your complimentary consultation with one of the team. We will ask you to complete a behaviour questionnaire and offer advice and guidance based on your own specific needs.



Photo by [sydney Rae](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Consulting Times

Hillock Lane Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 7pm

Saturday
8.30am to 1pm



Blackpool Surgery

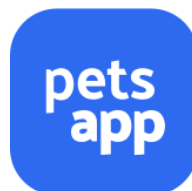
Monday to Friday
8.30am to 6pm

Why not download our new app, PetsApp. Order medication, book an appointment, ask for advice, sends pictures, pay for products and services and much, much more!

Hillock Lane



Blackpool



Multi-Cat Household

Rowan Veterinary Centre

"where pets come first"

**Hillock Lane
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Lancashire
PR4 1TP**

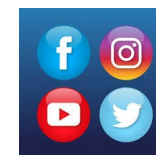
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Living with more than one cat?

Caring for a number of cats in the same household can sometimes be challenging. Cats have very specific welfare needs and the more you have living in your home, the more difficult it is to meet those needs.

All cats have the same needs whether they are the only cat in the household or not. However for cats who live with a number of others, you will need to consider the information in this leaflet to make sure they ALL stay happy and healthy.

Environment

Your cats should all have enough places to rest. The places will need to be warm and comfortable and draft-free and allow each cat to sleep on their own.

Cats can also make a lot of mess so it's really important that regular cleaning takes place to reduce harmful bacteria and the risk of nasty diseases.

There should be enough suitable places for your cats to toilet. You should provide:

- At least one litter tray per cat. They should be large and filled with enough litter to allow your cats to dig and bury (at least 3cm deep).
- Cats don't like to use a tray that's dirty so it's important that you regularly clean the tray to avoid any accidents. You should scoop out any clumped litter or poops as often as possible. At the very minimum, this should be once a day.



If any of your cats do toilet elsewhere in the house, clean the area thoroughly and apply a 10% solution of biological washing powder to remove the smell.

If you cat regularly toilets inside your home and outside of the their litter tray, it could be sign that your cat is either unwell or unhappy so it's important to seek veterinary advice.

Food and Water

Cats can sometimes find it very stressful to eat next to each other. Avoid this stress by locating enough ceramic, glass or metal bowls to allow your cats to feed away from each other.

To ensure that each cat receives enough food you may need to completely separate them during feeding times. This will also help to prevent any guarding or stealing of food. Any cats who are on a special diet should also be separated during feeding time to avoid cats eating something they shouldn't.

It's very important that your cats have access to fresh, clean drinking water. Locate a number of bowls around the house and garden. Avoid using plastic bowls as they can taint the water and locate food and water bowls away from each other.

To prevent flies and bacteria, keep food and water bowls clean. Wash them thoroughly at least once a week with hot water and washing up liquid.

Behaviour

It's important that you are able to identify and get to know the personality and usual behaviour of each cat. If their behaviour changes it could be sign that they are feeling stressed are injured or unwell.



Hiding is an important natural behaviour for a cat. It's a natural behaviour and one that can help them cope with stressful situations. Provide lots of places for your cat to hide; cardboard boxes with some bedding inside can make a fantastic hideaway!

Cats also like high places. They provide an opportunity to climb and rest up and help them to feel more secure.

Company

Some cats find it stressful or worrying living with other cats. To try to alleviate this somewhat, provide as much space as possible for your cats so they are able to spend time apart if they choose. Outdoor access can help to provide more space.

It's important to look out for signs of fighting amongst your cats. This includes hissing, spitting, swiping and biting. Mutual grooming and rubbing are behaviours displayed in bonded cats.

Cat's can also interact negatively in more subtle ways. Watch out for signs that your cats don't get along that might include avoiding each other, staring or blocking access to certain areas like beds, food and litter trays. It is worth noting that cats value resources so cats that DON'T get along may still share the same resting place.

Consider using a pheromone product such as Feliway. This can help reduce the overall tension between cats.

Resources

Cat's need plenty of resources and resources that are easily accessible. They need to be able to access resources without having to get too close to another cat that they are not friendly with. So what would these resources be? They are all the essential items your cat needs such as: