

NEW HAVEN PET SITTING COMPANY...



Where Pets Are Friends!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CAT OWNERS:

My cat is used to being alone. Can I schedule visits every other day?

I see a lot of cats. In fact, about 75% of my clients are cats. Based on my experience, I believe that all cats directly benefit from daily visits, and subsequently are less stressed out, while their owners are away. For this reason, I do not book every other day visits.

What does a visit look like? 30 minutes is a long time to just feed a cat.

I run a cat led practice and strive to make cats feel safe while I'm in their home. What I mean by this is that your cat will ultimately determine the level of interaction with me, not the other way around. Cats are interesting creatures. Some are super friendly from the first time I meet them. Others are super shy and take time to get to know, sometimes a lot of time. Most fall somewhere in between. I never reach out to pet a cat until I've gotten what I call the "Universal Headbutt of Approval." This means that they have granted me permission to make physical contact with them. I never force any kind of interaction. I use a cat's behavioral cues to help me determine what his wants and needs are. I have found this method highly effective when building bonds of trust. All cats learn that he or she is in control of all interactions with me, not the other way around.

I also believe in play. As soon as I believe a cat is receptive and open to play, usually by Day 3, I break out the string. I can engage most cats, even the shyier kitties, with a simple piece of string. If your cat is ready for more intensive level of play, I'll break out the laser pointer or a more flashy swat toy. Play is one of the best ways to build, strengthen and maintain trust bonds. Play also provides much needed exercise while you're away. I have found that cats who play are significantly less stressed while their people are away.

Yeah, my cat doesn't play. She's a meatloaf.

I love meatloafs! About half of my kitty clients fit that bill, and if your cat is more of a snugglebug, that's what we'll do, and that's fine with me! Because I have a cat led practice, I will trust your cat to let me know what he or she needs. I believe there is just as much value in snuggling as there is in play. Just like humans, we all have different needs. My goal is to do my best to listen to what your cat needs. Snugglebug kitties who get snuggled are also significantly less stressed while their people are away.

My cat doesn't like new people and sometimes freaks out the pet sitters.

Yep! I get it. It can be really tough for some cats to accept new people into their space. About 2% of my kitty clients are on the end of the spectrum and what I call "fear aggressive." They have no desire for me to be there, and I'll probably never win them over with food or play. Some even go out of their way to attack my feet. Hey! It happens. Fortunately, not often. But when it does, I go into "Maintenance Mode" and do my best to meet their basic needs of food, water, and a clean litter box. For these cats, I will usually put a broom or an expandable gate between my body and the cat to create a safe space for both of us. My goal is to interact calmly, safely and minimally with these cats in order to meet their needs.

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