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## Your Cat Does Need A Collar And Leash

By Niall Kennedy

A leash can help you keep control of your cat when you don't want her to stray too far away, but still get some exercise.

Even if you never plan to take your cat for a walk like you would a dog, you still need to insure that your cat can tolerate the collar and leash. You will need to take him to the vet and getting him used to it now can help considerably. There are specific collars, harnesses and leashes designed for the cat that you can use.

### Collars

Cat collars are not commonly made for leashes. Because the cat's head is shaped so, it can easily slide any collar off. Collars are used for other reasons such as accessories. For example, a jeweled collar offers a cute look for the cat. Others use cat collars to hold identification tags in case the animal gets lost. Also, you can use the collar to warn birds that he's in the area and approaching by using bells or a low tech alarm system.

### The Harness

The harness is another tool that the owner has. These stay on your cat securely so that the cat leash can be used. A simple nylon harness for your cat is a good choice or you can go with the deluxe models that look like padded vests. The only thing that is important is that they are completely adjustable.

### Cat Leashes

Leashes are designed in several ways from a standard form to a retractable one. No matter which you choose, make sure that it is lightweight enough to allow the cat the ability to move under its weight. Retractable will allow the cat to explore their surroundings in a park or other traffic safe areas. You'll want to keep the cats close when walking to and from their homes.

## Your Cat Does Need A Collar And Leash

Getting used to the leash takes training. Cats don't do well with negative correction so by tugging on the leash you will not get them to stay at your side. Instead of negative feedback, cats do better with praise and positive reinforcement. Ignore him when he does something wrong. You can teach the cat to tolerate the leash but more than likely he will not be consistently heeling or obeying commands.

If possible start training the cat when he is a kitten of eight to ten weeks old. Put the harness on him and allow him to walk around in it unrestrained. Then, add the leash a few times later. Don't apply any pressure to the leash though. Once he's used to the leash, you can pick it up and teach him that you can be on the other end of it. Use a little pressure on the leash and call your cat to you. When he does what you want him to, praise him and reward him. Eventually, he'll be okay with it.

The leash allows you to take your cat outside for a walk to just to explore the yard. You don't have to worry, then, that he'll escape or get into trouble.

Cat leashes and harnesses

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### **Finding The Ideal Cat Collar**

**By Mary Amos**

If your cat goes outside it's a really good idea to use a collar. It lets other people know that the cat has a home, and if your cat should stray or get lost then the contact details on the collar will have you re-united with your cat in no time.

Deciding what cat collar to buy can be a more difficult choice than you think. Do you go with a flea control collar, a reflective collar, an elasticated collar, a buckle on collar, or no collar at all.

Do flea collars really work? My experience has been that they, but they don't hurt either so we can look at form and fit. Fit is the most important consideration when buying a cat collar. If the collar is too tight it can cut off the cat's air and blood supply. Choking your cat is not a good thing!! If it's too loose the collar can get caught up on branches and fences while your cat is out playing. Cats have an uncanny knack of getting out of any collar that's too loose. For kittens and still growing cats you'll want an adjustable collar to allow for some growth, but make sure you check the fit on a regular basis.

Most collars have 2 methods of fastening around the cat's neck. You have the traditional buckle style which is easy to put on and take off but the buckle can break. Then there is the slide through adjustable kind. This is a more secure way of fastening but it's also more difficult to adjust, especially if you have a cat that doesn't like having a collar on.

## Your Cat Does Need A Collar And Leash

Most cat collars come with an elasticated or a breakaway section. This is a safety feature that allows your cat to escape the collar if it becomes stuck on bushes or fences. It helps avoid strangulation as well as being trapped. Even though a smart cat can figure out how to escape its collar, this is an important safety feature that you should seriously consider. Along these lines buy a collar made of a material that can be easily cut through in emergencies.

Another feature you may consider is a reflective strip in the cat collar. This can be helpful at night especially in areas that have a lot of traffic. The number one killer of cats is traffic so give the driver every chance to see your cat, especially if it's a dark colored cat.

Many collars come with bells or some other noise making device. This is designed to warn potential prey animals that your cat is out hunting. The idea behind these is to avoid your cat bringing home gifts and presents, especially ones that are still alive!! In the main these devices are ineffective and its usually best to remove them so there's less to get caught up in bushes and fences.

If you have an indoor cat that you'd like to introduce to the great outdoors, try buying a cat harness and attach a leash. You should first practice with this indoors until the cat becomes accustomed to it. The next step – take the cat for walks; to the park, to the beach, or to Aunty Jane's house! You can train your cat to use the leash but it will take some time, practice and a lot of patience.

Mary Amos is a cat love and long time cat owner. Find more articles and resources at

<http://www.catsuppliesweb.com>



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