

# WHY CATS NEED COMPANIONSHIP

*by Annamarie Taylor*

Anyone who has ever owned a cat or a dog is familiar with their human-like traits. Cats, although commonly known for their individualistic personalities, show near human sensitivity and a great sense of perception.

Because of their sensitivity, most cats are very social animals and are happier if (in most cases) they have companions of their own. Although they appreciate human companionship, they also need to interact with other animals (cats or dogs or sometimes even more exotic animals) to play with, to groom and to give and receive comfort.

If you add a companion to your cat's life, you will prolong its physical and mental health. A cat who is left alone at home all day (because its owners are at work) is more destructive on the furniture, carpets, curtains etc. as it will use all its energy on them. Frequently, it can become depressed and anxious and tend to overeat. When a cat has a companion, it will be playing with the new animal more frequently thus getting more exercise and distraction. Cats also enjoy grooming each other as a display of love towards the other individual. Grooming is often done just before both animals fall asleep totally relaxed, next to each other.

Compatible animals bond after living with each other for many years. We have heard from many people about their cats grieving for weeks after the loss of another companion animal. Sometimes the grieving was so intense that the animal gave up and died.

Animals need each other for comfort, love and company just as much as human beings do. Seldom, an animal will be so antisocial that it will not bond with another animal. In most cases however, cats if properly introduced to another pet and if treated with the same TLC of before, will adjust to the new comer and thrive with the new relationship.

If you have a single cat please consider adopting another one. You will prolong its life and give a loving home to another needy abandoned animal.



## LISA AND PRISSY

***Lisa and Prissy,  
two shelter residents  
exchange love and  
companionship.***