

HOW THE CAT LEARNS RIGHT FROM WRONG

Armchair tigers are headstrong and hardly teachable, it's often said. But many are too quick to judge – cats are completely receptive to the rules which likewise apply to people. Ultimately even the mother cat teaches her young during the first weeks and prepares them for their lives as cats. The experts at the specialist retail chain Maxi Zoo have prepared a few tips on how cat lovers can successfully induct their young housemates into the world of humans.



special point of seeming pleased when your cat comes to you and reward it too, with a little treat or by stroking it a few times.

Some little tigers can drive their owners to downright desperation: when it uses the curtains as a ladder, for instance, or jumps up at trouser legs or lands in dangerous situations by scrambling around the cooker or a full shelf. So that your animal can learn that there are certain taboos, teach it the appropriate signals early on: a resounding clap of the hands or

Where keeping the living room clean is concerned, most kittens will already have gained an impression from their mother on how that works – the box with litter in it which soaks everything up. It's important that you place the cat loo in a peaceful location without any through traffic and away from the food bowl and sleeping area. There should be one toilet available per cat which you should clean out regularly.

Cats even react when their name is called – provided they associate it with something positive. So that your armchair tiger can sense the good in the sound of your voice, you should only say its name when you're being nice to your animal: when fondling, feeding or playing with it. Make a

sharp "No" at the right moment will help it to accept the limits and prohibitions.

If you don't want your cat scratching the walls, carpets or furniture, you must see that other options for claw sharpening are available - a roll of sisal, a scratching tree or a board. It's completely normal for a cat to (want to) sharpen its claws – important in terms of upbringing is that the animal is then made aware of the scratching options which are meant for just that.

If you don't want your cat constantly begging at the dining table, you must point the differences out clearly: people eat at a table, cats have their food bowl somewhere else. So never let a morsel from the table find its way into the cat's mouth.

GENTLE BUT FIRM

Always make sure when bringing up your cat that you are friendly and consistent, but patient. Don't punish it, as your cat cannot attribute this and will lose its trust in you. Instead, don't be short on praise when your tiger behaves as you want it to. If the cat should refuse to accept a "No" from you in a ticklish situation, blow briefly into its face. That has a similar effect to a mother cat's hiss to which the young always react with respect.



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