

# Cat 911

By Pamela Merritt

Solving the worst cat problems  
by providing, and understanding,  
basic care.

Thank you for caring so much about your cat.

This book is dedicated to my little Smokepuff,  
aka Puffernickle, Puffy, and The Wumpit.

For thirteen years he was  
never a bit of trouble to take care of.

He only offered a challenge in  
understanding his special nature.

His sweet marshmallow heart  
was always open to ours.

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There's more on my site, [The Way of Cats](#).

**Find the Problem!**  
**Selecting the problem will explain how to stop it *right now*.**

## Why Basic Problems are so Difficult to Solve

### Litter Box Problems

[How To: Discipline With Litter Box Mistakes](#)

[Biggest Mistake #1: Has the cat been neutered or spayed?](#)

[Biggest Reason #2: Is the cat sick?](#)

[Once the Cat is Well](#)

[Biggest Reason #3: Is the litter box clean?](#)

[Ask the Cat – Litter Box Signals](#)

[How To: Create An Inviting Litter Box](#)

[How to: Have an Invisible Litter Box](#)

[How To: Retrain a Cat with their Litter Box](#)

[How To: Calm the Cat](#)

[How To: Find Out Which Cat](#)

[How To: Train the Cat to Use the Toilet](#)

[Considering an Automatic Litter Box](#)

[How To: Clean Up After the Cat](#)

[How To: Medicate a Cat](#)

### Food & Water Problems

[Biggest Mistake #1: Are we feeding the wrong food?](#)

[Biggest Mistake #2: Are we making the cat thirsty?](#)

[Biggest Mistake #3: Are we not putting on a show?](#)

[How To: Grow Kitty Grass](#)

[Ask the Cat – Food and Water distress signs](#)

[How To: Heal a Hungry Cat](#)

[How To: Slim Down the Fat Cat](#)

[How To: Convince the Fussy Cat](#)

[How To: Reassure a Recovering Cat](#)

[How To: Feed the Right Treats](#)

[How To: Take Care of Their Teeth](#)

### Sleep Problems

*Biggest Mistake #1: Not creating expectations.*

*Biggest Mistake #2: Not being consistent about our signals.*

*Biggest Mistake #3: Not ignoring the cat.*

How To: Deal with the 3 AM Problem

*Ask the Cat: Their Sleep-Time Signals*

How To: Put the Cat to Bed

## **Scratching Problems**

How To: Discipline the Scratching Cat

*Biggest Mistake #1: It's not the right scratching post.*

*Biggest Mistake #2: It's not the right place.*

*Biggest Mistake #3: It's not the right reinforcement.*

How To: Retrain the Stubborn Cat

How To: Create a Crazy Cat

How To: Create Grooming Times

## **Enjoy the Cat!**

## Why Basic Problems are so Difficult to Solve

When the cat is happy, we are happy. But if we don't know what we are doing to make the cat unhappy, it can be very difficult for everyone to get along.

Litter box problems, food and water problems, and sleep and scratching problems are all signs that some basic care is missing, as far as the cat is concerned. We have been trying our best to take care of the cat, but we might not know what they are asking for, or how to provide it.

Since part of the problem might be as simple as not knowing some aspect of vital cat care, I will also cover what we *should* be doing for the cat. This will make it simpler to tell what might be missing.

Cats are not causing trouble on purpose, or because they don't like us, or because they are bad cats.

- When cats express the kinds of bad behavior addressed in this e-book, *Cat 911*, it is because **an important part of their needs are not being met**.
- Since they must react to disruptions in their basic care as a **survival issue**, it is no wonder they are stubborn and desperate about performing the bad behavior.

Remember, the cat doesn't understand *why* they feel compelled to keep on with their bad behavior. All they know is that their instincts are setting up an alarm about what they must do to survive. Even though they are no longer living in a wild environment, but in our homes.

But, like any instinct, it cannot be reasoned with, or shut off.

- It's about giving the cat what they *have to have*.

Any living creature must have food, water, a place to sleep, and a place to use the bathroom. Cats also need good ways to meet their scratching, grooming, and territory imperatives.

These are all drives that are deeply embedded in the cat, for the purpose of keeping the cat alive.

So these drives are both strong and non-negotiable.

Before cats were domesticated as pets, they roamed wild in the deserts of the Middle East, where people began early agriculture. It turns out, when people store a lot of grain, people get a lot of rodents wanting to eat it. This drew the wild cats into the picture. When people saw how well cats took care of their rodent problems, their gratefulness drew the cat into a partnership that continues to this day.

Even if we no longer need a cat to be our ratcatcher, we can enjoy the companionship of these lovely, graceful, and affectionate pets. We need to take care of them as Mother Nature intended, so that our caretaking matches what they need.

Just as important, to **take care of them in a way they understand and recognize.**

- Cats have not changed very much from their wild ancestors.

The dog has had many of their natural instincts rearranged to suit us better. Cats have not. Despite the variety of coat colors and body shape variations, inside each cat there still beats the heart of the Independent Hunter which is their nature.

By working with the cat's natural instincts, we create a system the cat *wants* to use. Our training will be minimized, and we will have a cat routine that we can handle without fail.

- This is how we **solve** cat problems.
- By **removing the cause** of the cat problems.

*This sample of Cat 911, the cat care/problem solving guide  
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Find out more about cats at the

[The Way of Cats](#)

What is **The Way**?

A cat training philosophy that stresses communication.

A concept built on understanding the cat's unique needs.

A method to create a loving pet through mutual respect.

That is when we know we are a Cat Perfect Master.