

Camping With Your Cat

(September 2015)

Much of the time, when a family goes on a camping trip, their dogs get to go along too, but their cats get left behind. Most of us think that our felines are not interested in going on trips with us. However, a lot of cats would like to explore with us and many pet parents would love having their furry pals along for the trip. Now, with a lot of careful planning, you can take your cat along too.

Just like dogs, cats are able to climb, hike, and camp. If you take your cat along with you when doing these things, people might think you are odd. One woman, Laura Moss, wanted to bring her two cats and her dog with her on camping trips. However, when she went online to look for tips about how to help her cats walk on a harness and how to hike, she did not come across much. That is exactly why she began AdventureCats.org. It is a website that will go public soon, but Laura has an Instagram and Facebook page for AdventureCats.org as well. There you will find many pictures of people and their pets outside. You will spot cats resting in hammocks, drinking from fresh rivers, riding in backpacks, and hanging out in canoes and kayaks.

Moss hopes that AdventureCats will become a helpful site for pet parents who want to find out how to safely take their cats with them on trips. She wants them to be able to get tips about things such as fitting a cat to a harness or how to determine if a cat has what it takes for outside adventures. Plus, Moss hopes the site will help people stop thinking badly about cats and their human parents.

Moss has a few tips for people just starting to take their cats outside. First, they have to teach their feline pal some commands, such as how to come when they are called. Moss says this is important in case they take off their harness or panic. She also says that it is fine for cats to be timid, but they should not be upset. If they are, or if they do not show interest in being outside, then going on these kinds of trips might not be for them. Moss says a lot of cats are happy to just sit on a window perch and watch the world go by.

Whether your cat is the outdoor type or the type that likes to nap all day, your feline pal is likely the best kind of pal for you. Together, you might climb the side of a cliff or cuddle on a sofa. Whatever you both choose to do for fun, your furry buddy is sure to make it 100 percent better!

Teacher Resources

This text passage is archived under Animals.

Text Easability Scores

If you would like to measure the text easability scores of this passage, please follow the directions below.

1. Visit the Coh-Metrix Text Easability Assessor website at <http://tea.cohmetrix.com/>. If you do not already have a login and password, create one. It is free and easy to sign up for access to the website.
2. Once you have created an account and sign in, you will be taken to a page with an empty, white text box. Copy and paste the text from this passage into the empty, white text box. Make sure you are only copying and pasting the body of the passage. Do not include the title, date, or any of the resources present in the passage.
3. When you have pasted the passage into the text box, click on the red button beneath the text box that says "Analyze." There will be a short delay and after a few seconds, you will see a bar graph appear to the right of the screen.
4. The bar graph will give you the percentages for several text characteristics including: narrativity, syntactic simplicity, word concreteness, referential cohesion, and deep cohesion.
5. Below the bar graph, the Flesch Kincaid Grade Level is also included for your benefit.
6. Lastly, a paragraph is provided that explains the meaning of the measurements of the text characteristics for your particular passage.
7. Once you have completed measuring your passage, you can click on the "Clear" button below the text box and measure another passage, if you so wish.