

READING

3 For questions 1–6, read the article and complete the notes below.

Cats' 'parents':

- ⁰ owners

Age range of 'teenage' cats:

- ¹ _____ to 18 months

Difficult teenage cat behaviour:

Males:

- They ² _____ a lot and can ³ _____ furniture.

Females:

- They ⁴ _____ other cats

Best way of helping teenage cats:

- ⁵ _____ good behaviour

Another good thing to do:

- ⁶ _____ your cat

Who Would Want a Teenage Cat?

- (0) The teenage years are not an easy time for the teenagers themselves or for the parents. The same is true in the cat world, although of course they don't have 'parents' when they're teenagers, but have 'owners' instead.
- (1) Instead of the difficulties happening between the ages of 10 and 18 in humans, cats' troublesome times are usually between 6 to 18 months old. As with people, behaviour between the sexes can be quite different.
- (2/3) Teenage boys take lots of risks, for example, and can be aggressive. 'Teenage boy' cats bite a lot and can damage furniture.
- (4) Typical behaviour for 'teenage girl' cats is that they attack other cats even if they lived happily together in the same house beforehand.
A lot of owners don't realise how short the period that their cat stays a kitten is, or that cats have these 'teenage' behaviours. So unfortunately some owners sell their cats or give them away when this happens.
- (5) But if you know what to do, it will help a lot. The number one thing to do is to reward good behaviour by feeding and giving love and attention.
- (6) You need to continue to train your cat too. It can be useful as some 'teenage' cats suddenly forget the things you worked on together when they were kittens, like using their litter tray correctly, for example.
As with humans, the difficult phase passes (much quicker in cats!) and what comes after, sharing your home with a beautiful adult cat, is one of life's true pleasures.

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