

Kitty, Will You Be My Valentine?

CatChannel expert Jeanne Adlon, professional cat sitter, discusses celebrating Valentine's Day with your cat.

By Jeanne Adlon

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Q: Should I give my cat something special for Valentine's Day?

A: I am a firm believer in celebrating the holidays with your kitties and Valentine's Day is no exception.

A friend of mine has a big tuxedo cat named Sasha who likes to be part of family activities, including making holiday decorations. The family has three young children who enjoy creating elaborate paper hearts for themselves, their friends and a large extended family. However, the minute the craft box comes down and rustle of paper is heard, Sasha is right there in the middle of it all. I am sure he feels his help is a critical part of the process. All cat owners know that kitties like to plop down on something we are trying to read or work on — and Sasha can be pretty insistent. They finally decided to give him his own Valentine's box full of hearts and papers to rummage around in while they worked. I understand Sasha is very satisfied with this arrangement.

I think it's fun to send Valentine's Day cards to my friend's cats. Also, children in particular get a kick out of writing a card to their own kitty and it is a reminder of the special place they have in our lives. However, please do not give your cats any people food, especially chocolate, but check the specialty pet stores in your area to see if they sell "cat-approved" Valentine's Day treats and toys.

Providing TLC to your cats is welcome anytime, but what better day than Feb. 14 to give them a luxurious brushing, extra cat treats, quality playtime and hugs. As always I welcome your stories and comments.