

LAP CATS

Besides selecting a cat with affectionate traits, there are ways you can train your cats to sit in your lap. Here are some pointers:

1. **Identify what your cat likes:** Some cats really like to play and some cats like to be brushed. Find out what your cat likes and have a session with him. This will get him relaxed, happy and ready for more quality time with you. Including positive reinforcement through high-value treats (Greenies) helps associate your together time as a wonderful experience.
2. **Don't force your cat onto your lap:** Many cats don't like to be picked up, and no cat likes to be forced into anything, especially close and confining contact, many guardians with good intentions try to 'show' a cat that their lap is safe by placing them in it, but forcing contact can scare your cat and make him less amenable to interactions with you in the future.
3. **Ask permission:** Don't grab your cat while he's sleeping in the sun, pay attention to what your cat is doing, and respect his boundaries. The best path to a lap cat is to have the cat come to you — again, by making it a rewarding and positive experience.
4. **Every session ends when your cat says it does:** Your cat's behavior is being modified by experiences, so you've got to end it on a positive note. He'll let you know when he's done.

Many guardians see cat cuddling as the surest way to tell that their cats love them, but there are other signs. Jones offers these surefire indicators that your cat is into you: side swiping, licking, lying against you, running to see you when you arrive and being "all over" you when you've been away.

A few additional steadfast ways that your cat is expressing his love: The cat slow blink is one way. Head bunting is another. Wrapping his tail around your legs and leaning into you is a sign of affection, too. These may not be obvious ways that we would say 'I love you,' but we've got to respect how our cats show us their affection.

While not every cat will be a lap cat, you can pave the way to a more affectionate relationship with any cat. And...never say never-many a kitty has embraced the lap cat lifestyle because of a guardian willing to approach his persnickety personality with patience and positivity.