

"A dog is man's best friend." That common saying may contain some truth, but dogs are not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. Despite what dog lovers may believe, cats make excellent house pets as they are good companions and are civilized members of the household.

People enjoy the companionship of cats. Many cats are affectionate. If they're not feeling affectionate, cats are generally quite playful. They love to chase balls and feathers, or just about anything dangling from a string. They especially enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. Contrary to popular opinion, cats can be trained. Using rewards and punishments, just like with a dog, a cat can be trained to avoid unwanted behavior or perform tricks.

Cats are civilized members of the household. Unlike dogs, cats do not bark or make other loud noises. They generally lead a quiet existence. While cats have claws, a tall scratching post in a favorite area of the house will often keep the cat content to leave the furniture alone.

Cats are low maintenance, civilized companions. People who have small living quarters or less time should appreciate these characteristics of cats. However, many people who have plenty of space and time still opt to have a cat because they love the cat personality. In many ways, cats are the ideal house pet.

## WRITE AN ESSAY

Think of an opinion that you feel strongly about and write a four paragraph essay using the guidelines provided at the top of this paper. It should be no more than 230 words. Please provide a word count at the bottom of your paper.

## THE FOUR PARAGRAPH ESSAY

Divide your essay into four paragraphs:

A well rounded essay should consist of four-paragraphs. The *four paragraph essay* contains the following parts:

1. **INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH:** This paragraph states the main idea in the first one or two sentences, proceeds to supporting sentences, and then reinstates the main idea with a conclusion sentence.
2. **TWO SUPPORTING PARAGRAPHS:** These paragraphs back up the main idea by providing details for the topic stated in the introduction paragraph. Each supporting statement provides a new piece of information. Supporting sentences can also provide specific examples.
3. **CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH:** This paragraph sums up the essay by reinforcing the ideas given in the introduction and supporting paragraphs in a more general and concise language than supporting paragraphs. A well-written conclusion provides the essence of the essay.

