HOW TO ASSESS SOCIABILTY

Studies have shown that cats typically fall into one of three personality types when they first encounter people: initiative/friendly, reserved/friendly and rebuffing/unfriendly. Some have even been found to have a "resistant temperament" to socialization.

Fortunately, many cats are outgoing and sociable. If you enjoy having a cat who will interact readily with family and visitors, look for one with that type of temperament. The cat who approaches without hesitation or rolls over to show you his abdomen will enjoy learning tricks and showing off for your guests.

If you are choosing from a litter of kittens, ask where and how they were raised. Kittens who grow up half-wild in the backyard aren't good candidates for the job of feline greeter and impresario. It's best to get one who has been in a home from Day One, with lots of handling by different people.