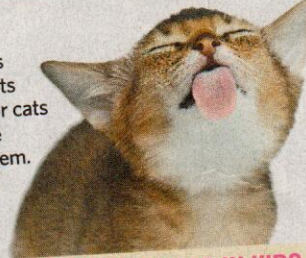


YOUR CAT MIMICS YOU

A study published in the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior* says that it's not just dogs which imitate human behaviour - cats do the same. The research further states it's mostly indoor cats that display this behaviour while stray cats mostly imitate behaviour of other - older mostly - feral cats around them. However, since cats are independent creatures, how the cat owner behaves at home is what decides how the pet cat will mostly behave. Basically, your cat mimics you.



HAVING PETS BOOSTS IMMUNITY

James E Gern, MD, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* that having a pet at home reduces chances of kids developing allergies later in life - contrary to the popular belief that kids develop allergies if there are pets at home. The study compared sample results of newborn babies - with pets at home - with the same participants a year later, which showed less probabilities of allergies, as compared to kids who didn't have pets at home.

ENHANCE SOCIAL SKILLS IN KIDS WITH AUTISM

A study says that youngsters with ASD (also known as autism spectrum disorder) talk and laugh more, complained and cried less and were more social with peers when guinea pigs were present. A multitude of ASD animal-assisted therapy programmes have sprung up in recent years all over the world, featuring everything from dogs and dolphins to alpacas, horses and even chickens.

