



RSPCA Manchester  
& Salford Branch

Registered Charity No. 232255

# TOP CAT CARE TIPS



Get ready for your new  
family member

# WHAT YOUR CAT COMES WITH:

- Electronic adoption pack which includes vet history and flea/worm treatment information.
- Adoption fee payment is by bank card at the centre or bank transfer (for animals in foster homes). Our bank details will be included in your adoption pack.
- 4 weeks free pet insurance from Petplan.
- Blanket, toys, cardboard scratcher and some litter from their tray with their scent on to help them settle in with you.
- Our help and guidance throughout the life of your new furry friend.

**WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?**



# PRIORITY TO DO LIST:

- Find and register with a local vet now, this can normally be done over the phone without taking your cat.
- Check you have all the items on our **Cat Shopping List**.
- Send us photos of your home including what you have bought and where you'll be locating the cat's items.
- Send us vaccination records of any cats, dogs, rabbits or ferrets in your home.
- Send us proof of ID e.g copy of Driver's license or passport.





# CAT SHOPPING

## LIST



### Food stuff

- Ceramic/pot bowl per cat for water
- 2 Ceramic/metal dishes (one for wet food, one dry biscuits).
- Wet food \_\_\_\_\_
- Dry food \_\_\_\_\_

### Entertainment

- Dangly sticks/wand toys
- Balls (soft or crinkly)
- Toy mice
- 1 metre tall scratching post
- Rest and perch activity centre.
- Cardboard boxes

### Out and about

- Pet carrier with top and front opening (avoid fabric designs).
- Soft bedding blankets to line carrier.

### Litter stuff

- 1 large hooded litter tray (min. length 60cms) and 1 flat bed tray.
- Wood pellet litter
- Poop scoop
- Poop bags

### Health stuff

- Slicker brush

# VET STUFF



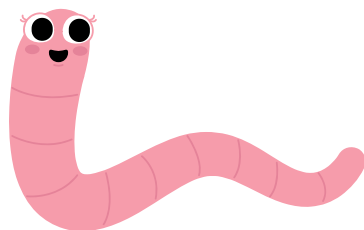
## Vaccinations

- All cats need vaccinations every 12 months. See your cat's vaccination card which shows when they are next due.
- Please note we only vaccinate against cat flu and enteritis. You can choose to vaccinate your cat against Feline Leukaemia too.



## Fleas

- Your cat has been treated once a month with **Advocate** (kittens vary, check your cat's record).



## Worms

- Your cat has been treated with **Droncit**. Check your cat's record and ask your vet for more info.
- We treat a kitten (9-16 weeks old) monthly with **Panacur**.

**Top tip:** Don't waste your pennies! Avoid cheap products; 'over the counter' products are not as effective. This includes flea collars too!



# WHERE TO PUT....



## Food & water bowls

- Put food and water bowls in separate locations.
- They should be placed in quiet, discrete areas where they won't be seen from any windows or doorways or patio glass doors.
- If you have multiple cats they need their own bowls and should be fed in separate locations.
- Bowls should be positioned away from a wall so the cat can choose which angle they wish to eat from.
- All bowls should be cleaned daily.



**Top tip:** Use ceramic bowls, plastic ones can harbour nasty germs and cause skin issues around the mouth.

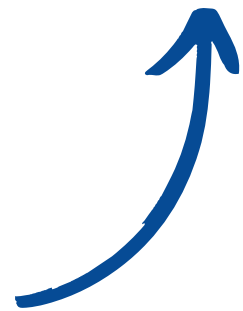
# WHERE TO PUT ....



## Litter trays

- Each cat should have 1 hooded litter tray and 1 flat bed tray placed in separate locations away from human 'traffic' and food & water bowls.
- They should be placed in discrete areas where they won't be seen from any window or doorway.
- Large, hooded trays are the best, min. size 60cm in length. Remove the flap to start with!
- We usually use wood pellet litter. We will tell you if your cat prefers a different type.

Avoid understairs & hallway



**Top tip:** Avoid tray liners, they get caught in claws, ouch! Buy a cat nip mouse instead!

# PROVIDE SAFE SPACES



- What makes a cat feel safe is not people but their place!
- Don't try to coax your cat out of hiding, leave them to relax.
- Provide blankets on low and high hidey spots ie. boxes, carrier + activity centre, top of cupboard, window sill.
- Adult cats must stay indoors for 3 weeks. Kittens stay in until they are 6 months old.
- Consider creating a cat-friendly room so they can gradually settle before exploring the rest of the home.
- Remove strong scents (like plug-in air fresheners). The chemicals they contain can cause physical harm to your cat such as allergic reactions, stress and interfere with their sense of smell.

Cats love having vantage spots to feel safe



**Top tip:** Do not over clean at first, your cat needs to establish familiar scents to feel happier



# DINNER TIME!



- Feed small, regular meals.
- **Adult cats:** split 2 pouches over 3/4 meals per day. 2 shot glasses of dry food per day.\*
- **Kittens:** Split up to 3 pouches over 4 meals per day. Leave dry food down all day.\*
- Don't feed your cat anything containing dairy - cats are naturally lactose intolerant and things like milk can upset their stomachs.

\*Amend depending on age/size of your cat/kitten).



Dry food can be put in puzzle feeders or treat balls for extra fun!

**Top tip:** Keep wet and dry food separate, avoid mixing in the same bowl or adding water to dry food, yuck!

# PLAY TIME!



- Provide a variety of toys like dangly sticks, toy mice & balls so you can simulate hunting games with them!
- Create food puzzles to keep your cat happy and active (we can provide a cat puzzling guide, just ask!).
- Cats enjoy 10 to 15 minute bursts of play with you.
- Put wand toys away when you've finished playing to retain their novelty.
- There's nothing better (and cheaper) than an old cardboard box with holes cut in it!
- Reward-based training can be fun and enriching; try short but regular sessions.
- Rotate your cat's toys every couple of weeks to keep them interested. You can even spray them with a bit of cat nip spray to fool them into thinking you've bought something new for them!

**Top tip:** Scratching posts should be tall enough for your cat to fully stretch up (without ledges, platforms or toys in the way) otherwise they probably won't use it!



# CONSENT & CHOICE



- **Consent + choice** - learn about cat body language!  
[www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/cats/behaviour/understanding](http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/cats/behaviour/understanding)
- Always allow a cat to approach you.
- Interact on their level, position your body sideways to them and offer out your hand.
- When touching your cat focus on face, ears and chin.
- Cats don't like belly rubs, showing a belly isn't an invitation to touch!
- Never tell your cat off, shout or use punishment such as spraying water - it can make the problem worse!
- Learn to recognise the signs of stress in cats - it's not always obvious.  
To learn more: [icatcare.org/advice/stress-in-cats/](http://icatcare.org/advice/stress-in-cats/)

**Top tip:** Cats are very good at hiding stress, get to know what is normal behaviour for your cat.



# CAT FLAPS



- The best cat flaps are operated by your cat's microchip. This will prevent unwanted visitors from upsetting your cat!
- If you don't have a cat flap, make sure there is somewhere in your garden that your cat can shelter and get a drink. How about a flap in your shed?

# DANGER!



- Swot up on poisonous plants and flowers such as lilies.
- Cats don't like strong smells such as scented candles and air fresheners. Even garlic and spicy food is a turn off for some!
- Don't let kittens play outside until they are at least 6 months old.
- Your cat is chipped so doesn't need a collar. If you do put a collar on your cat only use quick-release designs. No buckles or elastic .

**Top tip:** Cats really don't like harnesses, they like to choose where they go and when. Avoid them and play with your cat instead!



# GOT A QUESTION



Our team are highly trained in cat welfare and behaviour, if you have a query they are here to help! It doesn't matter how long ago you adopted from us.

Contact us:

[adoptions@rspca-manchesterandsalford.org.uk](mailto:adoptions@rspca-manchesterandsalford.org.uk)

## SOCIALS

We love to hear about ex-residents in their new homes, share your pictures with us on Facebook and Insta:

[www.facebook.com/RSPCAManchesterandsalford](https://www.facebook.com/RSPCAManchesterandsalford)

[https://www.instagram.com/rspca\\_mcr\\_salford/](https://www.instagram.com/rspca_mcr_salford/)

