

FINDING YOUR PERFECT CAT

Thinking about getting a
NEW kitten or rescue cat
but don't know where to
begin?

See inside for
ALL the **ADVICE**
and **HELP** you
need!



CATS AND YOUR LIFESTYLE

Getting a cat can mean different things to different people. Some are happy with a cat which spends all its time outside and is very independent whilst others prefer an indoor lap cat. Note your score for every question you answer yes to :-)

THERE ARE SOME KEY AREAS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE GETTING A CAT

ENVIRONMENT

Do you live:

Score 1	Near a busy road?
Score 2	Near a fairly busy road or in a flat/apartment?
Score 3	On a quiet street/cul-de-sac?

TIME

Score 1	Are you out of the house most of the day and evenings?
Score 2	Are you out most of the day but at home a lot outside of working hours?
Score 3	Do you have lots of free time?

HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO SPEND ON YOUR CAT?

(food, medications, insurance):

Score 1	£20-£80 per month	Score 2	£80-£120 per month	Score 3	£120+ per month
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DO YOU HAVE OTHER PETS?

Score 1	Lots of other pets including cats and dogs that don't get on
Score 2	No pets
Score 3	Friendly pets that socialise well with other animals

Please note this is a rough guide to give you an idea of the type of cat that will suit you, we understand there are varying factors and each owners circumstances will be different.



4 - 7 = Your lifestyle may not be suitable at this time based on your living situation and estimated expenses. We can discuss changes with you that would allow you to have a cat.

8 - 11 = An indoor cat may be more appropriate based on your living situation.

12 = Your lifestyle is appropriate for getting a cat!

GETTING A NEW KITTEN 'VS' A RESCUE CAT

There are many factors to consider when thinking of getting a new cat; such as the environment they will be living in, as well as budgeting for food, medications and insurance, amongst other things. It's also important to manage your own expectations as to what you want from a feline companion in order to get the right one for you and your lifestyle.

Being ready to accept any new cat into your home is vitally important. Having everything you need ready will help provide a stress free transition. Food and water bowls, litter trays, toys and a comfy place for them to sleep are all necessary items when it comes to settling in.



GETTING A NEW KITTEN

There are different places you can get a kitten from, either from a breeder, a rehoming centre or a friend/ neighbour. If possible it's best to see the kitten with their mother so you can get an idea if there are any health concerns right away. There are still some breeders that don't keep their animals in suitable conditions so don't be afraid to walk away if you don't like what you see.

COST OF A NEW KITTEN

Depending on the breed/breeder, getting a new kitten can be expensive, and people are then reluctant to spend more on necessary veterinary treatment, insurance etc. Make sure you have the funds available and take advantage of any free offerings that insurance companies often provide for all new pets.



BENEFITS TO GETTING A CAT FROM A REHOMING CENTRE

There are many charities out there which specialise in rehoming cats of all ages and breeds, which means finding the right cat for you may be easier than you think.

- ♥ The rescue centre will have ensured that the cat has had a full health check and you will be informed of any medical conditions upfront
- ♥ All cats will have been vaccinated, treated against fleas and worms and be spayed or neutered if appropriate before the adoption. Some may charge a nominal fee to cover these costs
- ♥ Most rehoming centres will be able to provide advice on how to best look after each cat that is up for adoption



GETTING A RESCUE CAT

People are often put off by the prospect of getting a rescue cat due to uncertain histories (an important consideration with young children) the challenge of re-socialising, or simply because they want to enjoy the 'kitten phase' of cat ownership. However, it is incredibly rewarding and there are many other benefits to rescuing a cat.

♥ You are giving them a second chance! They have ended up in a rescue centre through no fault of their own and with the right owner can become the loving, family cat that they deserve to be!

♥ Adult cats can require less maintenance than kittens as they are usually very independent and self-sufficient already, however most will definitely love attention!

♥ There are usually different breeds to choose from which means you are able to find one that will be most suitable for you

♥ The initial costs of rescuing are far lower than obtaining a new kitten from a breeder

THERE CAN BE CHALLENGES TO CONSIDER IN RESCUING A CAT

♥ You will not always know their history, which means you might experience difficulties in the new home. However, all reputable rescue centres will provide behavioural support to help you through any difficult periods

♥ Some cats will come with a nervous disposition and may not be suited to homes with small children or other pets and may prefer a quieter life

RE-HOMING AN
ADULT CAT CAN BE
INCREDIBLY
REWARDING!



BOOK A FREE NURSE APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS ANY OF THE BELOW POINTS WITH US IN MORE DEPTH:

ENVIRONMENT

- 🐾 Will your cat match your lifestyle & activity?
- 🐾 Allergies (i.e. they might make you sneeze)
- 🐾 Holidays
- 🐾 Kitten or rescue
- 🐾 Costs to consider: vet costs, preventative healthcare, food, petcare, grooming & insurance
- 🐾 Cat food usually contains meat, are you comfortable preparing this?



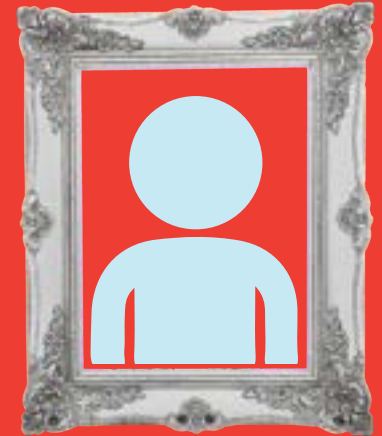
CAT

- 🐾 Grooming needs
- 🐾 Nutrition and diet
- 🐾 Life span
- 🐾 Preventative healthcare
- 🐾 Whether they will be an indoor or outdoor cat



YOU

- 🐾 Do you have other pets/children?
- 🐾 How much space do you have (interior and exterior) for your cat?
- 🐾 The fact that furniture/floors may get scratched as cats sharpen their claws?
- 🐾 Are you OK about scooping up poo and the fact that your cat will not be as house proud as you are?



ESSENTIALS FOR YOUR NEW CAT

Here are just some examples of items you may need to consider buying for your new cat. Our team are more than happy to chat through any of the items with you!



LITTER & LITTER TRAYS

To avoid little accidents all over the house when trained

COMFORTABLE BEDDING

Somewhere for them to feel relaxed and safe. Washable and hard wearing.



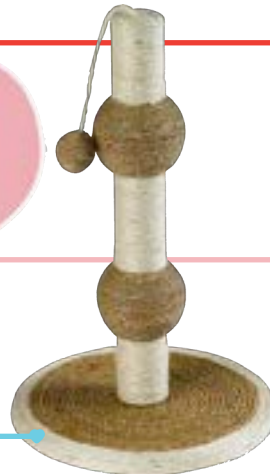
FOOD & WATER BOWLS

For hydration & dinner time!



SCRATCHING POST

If trained to use a scratching post to sharpen claws it can save sofas and carpets!



A SMALL SELECTION OF TOYS

To help relieve boredom. They can help with bonding as well



SAFETY COLLAR

If they will be going outside, a collar is a great way to keep them identified and most will also be reflective if they wander a little too far



FELIWAY PHEROMONE DIFFUSER

Can help cats feel safe and secure in new environments. Especially helpful for re-homed cats and multi cat houses.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

There are many different decisions you will have to make when it comes to getting a new kitten. Researching what type of food to feed them and comparing insurance prices are just two of them. Book a pre-pet consultation with your practice and they will happily run through everything you need to know to get you ready.



PLAN AHEAD

Setting your home up in advance of your new arrival will help provide a less stressful transition. This includes setting up a safe place for them to settle into and providing clean and comfy bedding with free access to water close by. It's also recommended to move anything breakable from the immediate area as a new kitten will be keen to explore their new surrounding when they feel more comfortable. Keeping them away from any other pets in the house for the first few weeks is also advisable to avoid any unnecessary stresses, gradually exposing them to each other over time.

USEFUL INFORMATION

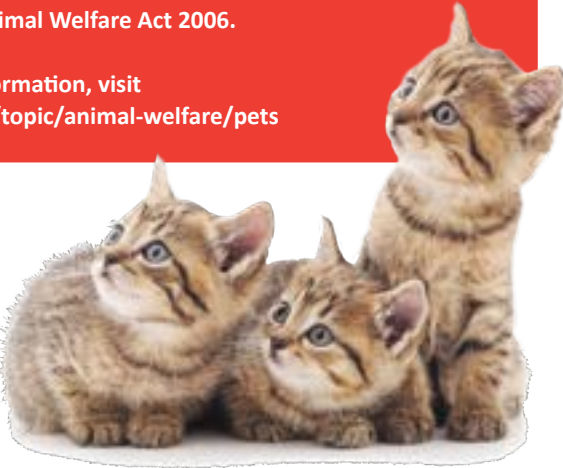
INSURANCE

We will always recommend getting pet insurance, it acts as a bit of a 'safety net' for unexpected veterinary fees. Providing your new cat/kitten doesn't have any pre-existing conditions, they should receive an adequate level of cover, and we do also recommend getting '**COVER FOR LIFE**', which means your pet's condition will always be covered, should they suffer from a condition that requires life-long medication (some policies are only per year).

ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2006

All cats whether owned or feral are covered under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

For more information, visit www.gov.uk/topic/animal-welfare/pets



REGISTERED CHARITIES

INTERNATIONAL CAT CARE (ICC) is a charity passionate about improving the care of all cats. They work with the veterinary profession across the world to provide cutting edge information for the veterinary care of cats and is recognised and respected for the standards it aspires to. For more information, visit <https://icatcare.org/>

CATS PROTECTION help around 200,000 cats and kittens every year thanks to their network of over 250 volunteer-run branches and 32 adoption centres. For more information, visit www.cats.org.uk

RSPCA specialise in animal rescue & furthering the welfare cause for all animals. For more information, visit www.rspca.org.uk

MICROCHIPPING

Whilst this isn't required by law as for dogs, we would still recommend having all cats microchipped so they can be reunited with their owners if they get lost on their travels.

