



**CAT HAVEN**  
every cat matters

# Cat Adoption

Giving a Cat a Second Chance



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# Your New Cat's Details

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## Congratulations On Your New Family Member!

Cat Haven would like to wish you and your new friend many happy times and a joyful life together. This booklet will help you to provide the best care for your new pet. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Cat's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID number: \_\_\_\_\_

Kennel Hand: \_\_\_\_\_ Receptionist: \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.B: \_\_\_\_\_

**AAR Microchip Password:** CATHAVEN

Cat Haven, 23 Lemnos Street, Shenton Park, WA, 6008 (08) 9442 3600

### Flea and Worming Dates

Revolution: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Tapewormer: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Vaccination: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring your cat to Cat Haven for vaccination/surgery on:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sterilisation

Cats and kittens must come to Cat Haven between \_\_\_\_\_ on the morning of the surgery. If you are running late please phone **9442 3622** ASAP.

Any cats later than \_\_\_\_\_ will not be admitted.

It is essential that your cat has access to water but **NO FOOD after 10pm and no breakfast on the morning of surgery.**

If your cat has eaten please make our vet nurse aware of this as it can have serious consequences during surgery or the surgery may not be performed on that day. Discharge times will be advised at time of admission.



# Adoption Packages

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## Cat Adoption Packages

1st bag of food can be purchased at 20% off

- Cat Package
- 2 Cats Package
- Golden Oldie Package
- 2 Golden Oldies Package
- Golden Oldie & Cat Package
- Golden Oldies for Seniors Package
- FIV Package
- Ringworm Package

All cat packages include:

- Sterilisation
- Microchipping
- 1st F3 Vaccination
- Initial Worm / Flea treatment
- Urine Test (Golden Oldies only)

## Kitten Adoption Packages

1st bag of food can be purchased at 20% off

- Kitten Package
- Mum & Kitten Package
- Kitten & Unrelated Cat Package
- Kitten & Golden Oldie Package

All kitten packages include:

- Sterilisation
- Microchipping
- 1st F3+L Vaccination
- Initial Worm / Flea Treatment

# 60 Minute Home Makeover

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The top 3 things to do when bringing your new cat home.

## Purchase supplies

- A secure cat carrier.
- A scratching post.
- A large, shallow uncovered litter box and a fine-grained litter or one that the cat has been using at Cat Haven.
- Separate food and water bowls (stainless steel is best).
- Resting spots (a bed).
- Hiding spots (boxes are preferable to the underside of beds or chairs).
- Safe, stimulating toys.
- Use the bedding/toys that the cat already had at Cat Haven.

## Set up a newcomer's sanctuary

- Allowing a cat the run of the house straight away can be overwhelming and stressful. Prepare a separate room.
- Choose a quiet, warm room with a door to prevent access for other pets.
- Place the cat's supplies in this room.

## Cat-proof your home – Provide a safe home for your cat

- Get rid of or secure items the cat can chew on or ingest including pencils/pens, hair bands, rubber bands, electrical cords, cleaning products, medications, toxic and non-toxic house plants, eg. lilies.
- Secure unstable shelving and breakable display items.
- Limit the use of air-fresheners and incense.

## CAT FACTS



A cat will often facially rub an object to deposit her facial pheromones on it.

Pheromones are scent chemicals that contain information about the cat.

Facial pheromones are known as the 'friendly' pheromones. A cat tends to facially rub in areas where she feels comfortable. There is a product called

Feliway that contains a synthetic version of feline facial pheromones. It can be

used on objects in the home to help a cat feel comfortable.



– Johnson-Bennett, P. (2007). Starting from Scratch. London: Penguin Books.

# When You Get Your Cat Home

Thank you for giving one of our beautiful adult cats a second chance at life. When you first get your new family member home, please understand that he or she is likely to be extremely stressed and may seem unhappy to begin with. This is perfectly normal. Cats are creatures of habit and when their routine is disrupted, even slightly, they can be quite distressed by this. Imagine how they feel when they are removed from the home they have always known and shut in a kennel surrounded by many other cats then, just when they become settled there, they are moved to a new home!

Make sure your new friend has some hiding places that are enclosed. Hiding will make them feel more secure and assist with their assimilation into the new environment. Hiding spots should be off limits and inaccessible to other pets and people, and should ideally be elevated. Be patient – it can take your new friend at least 3 weeks to adjust to life in a new home.

Before you get your new family member home, try to have one room set up ready for them to go into. See page 3 for more information on setting up your newcomer's sanctuary. Treat this as the cat's own space where they can feel safe and secure. They should be confined to this room for at least a week. As they become more settled you can very slowly introduce them to the rest of the house, one room at a time. The slower the introduction to the new environment, the more comfortable your cat will be.

It is strongly recommended that you **do not let any new cat outside the house for a minimum of 4 weeks**. Even if they seem very much at home after a short period, they may get very disoriented if let outside, and could easily become lost. When first letting a new cat out, spend a lot of time with it to help it feel more secure and at home.



# When You Get Your Kitten Home

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By adopting one of our beautiful kittens you are giving it a chance at a wonderful long life. Kittens have very special needs; they require as much as 18 to 20 hours of sleep each day to ensure they grow and develop properly, so it is very important that you don't disturb them while they are sleeping. As with adult cats, it is strongly advised that you have one room set up ready for your new kitten to go into. See page 3 for more information on setting up your newcomer's sanctuary.

It can be extremely stressful for a young kitten to be introduced into a busy, noisy household and it may seem unhappy or unsettled to begin with. Allowing your kitten to hide will make it feel more secure and help it to adjust. Hiding spots should be enclosed, off limits and inaccessible to other pets and people. Be patient - it can take your new friend at least 3 weeks to adjust to life in a new home.

If you want to adopt more than one kitten, please speak to our staff about any special offers.

If you have only one kitten, you may find that it can 'play rough' with you. This is not a sign of being vicious or aggressive, it is simply normal behaviour that is important in the kitten's development and would normally involve play fighting with siblings. If you find your kitten is playing too roughly, try holding a stuffed toy of some kind and allowing the kitten to attack that rather than your hand.

Kittens should remain fully inside until they are at least 6 months of age. Before this age they are too small and vulnerable to defend themselves should they need to, and their sense of direction will mean they will find it very hard to get home should they become lost. When first letting a new cat out, spend a lot of time with it to help it feel more secure and at home.

## CAT FACTS

“ Play is an important part of learning the skills of adult life. Through play kittens learn how to recognise body language in other cats and respond appropriately. They develop their natural hunting skills and learn about their environment. Play is essential to provide exercise, to relieve boredom and to prevent the development of behaviour problems. Play is also an important way to build the bond between pet and owner that gives pleasure to both. ”

— Report of the Cat Personality Survey. (2004, January).

# Feeding Guidelines

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Cat Haven exclusively feeds and recommends Hill's Science Diet® foods. Hill's is a nutritionally complete and balanced, veterinary recommended diet, available in Science Diet, Ideal Balance and Prescription Diet ranges. As a nutritionally complete food, Hill's is designed to be fed as a dry food-only diet, with no supplementation needed however, tinned varieties are also available. All Hill's foods have feeding guidelines on the packaging and recommended daily amounts.

It is recommended that you provide a free-choice diet for your cat which means you should always provide access to food in its bowl. Unlike dogs, cats are generally able to regulate their caloric intake to match their requirements. A free-choice diet allows for better balanced rations and helps to reduce the incidence of urinary tract disorders.

It is strongly recommended that you keep your cat on a familiar diet when it goes to a new home, as this will provide a much needed sense of stability.

Most cats at Cat Haven are fed on either Hill's Kitten Original or Adult Original biscuits, but staff will advise you of any special diet required. Keeping your cat eating Hill's is suggested but if you do want to switch to a different brand of food do so gradually over 7 to 10 days, mixing gradually increasing amounts of new food with the old, as any sudden dietary changes can cause stomach upsets.

If your cat does not eat for the first couple of days in its new home, do not be alarmed, this is simply due to stress. However, if the fasting continues for more than 1.5 days, please contact Cat Haven vet immediately on 9442 3600.

Cats cannot drink cow's milk (they are lactose intolerant and can get diarrhoea) but fresh water must be available at all times.

## CAT FACTS

“ The cat's natural behavioural repertoire includes climbing and jumping, and it seeks comfort and security from being off the ground. The opportunity to utilise vertical space in the confined environment can therefore prove beneficial. By providing features such as shelves, ropes, cat trees and climbing poles, vertical space can be enhanced, offering cats vantage points, environmental complexity and the opportunity for active behaviour, as well as the chance to rest and retreat at different heights. ”

— Ellis, S. (2009). Environmental Enrichment: Practical strategies for improving feline welfare. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* 11, 901-912.



# Home Sweet Home

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## The first few days

Your new cat may become scared or overwhelmed if released into a large apartment or house on its own.

- To begin with, keep your cat confined to a sanctuary room (a quiet room).
- Leave your cat in the open carrier in the sanctuary room. Let the cat come out of the carrier in her own time.
- Spend as much quiet time as you can in the sanctuary room.
- Let your cat hide – do not disturb it.
- Provide your cat with a routine schedule.
- Your cat may stay in the sanctuary room up to a week.

## The next few days

Take the time to ensure a positive and gradual introduction to your cat's new environment.

- When your cat feels at home in its sanctuary and has explored it thoroughly, allow it to explore the rest of the house, one room at a time.
- Leave the door to the sanctuary room open so that it can continue to take refuge in this familiar environment.
- Continue to confine your cat to the sanctuary room at night and when you are absent.

## Reality check

While some cats are by nature bold and adventurous others are more timid and careful, and may be less confident in unknown situations. Your new cat may ignore or even appear to shun you. Do not take this personally. Its new environment, and this includes you, may simply be overwhelming. Be patient and tolerant. For multi-cat households, relevant useful information leaflets are available at Cat Haven.



# About Your Feline Friend

Cats use 3 forms of communication:

## Scent

Cats have scent glands from head to toe. If you draw an imaginary line that divides your cat in half, the scent glands on the front half are the 'friendly' pheromones. These are used when a cat is marking familiar territory that it considers the heart of the nest. By rubbing against inanimate objects, other cats, humans and other pets, cats deposit their own scent as well as collect and combine scents. The scent glands on the back half are related to stress and excitement. They may be used to mark territory, to threaten, to announce their presence, to engage in non-confrontational disputes and to exchange information.

## Body language

The tail and ears are particularly important social signals in cats. A raised tail acts as a friendly greeting while a tightly tucked tail says leave me be! The tail can also be fearfully fluffed, indecisively twitched or aggressively wagged.

Ears can also provide 'mood' clues. Twitching ears may signal frustration while direct and forward ears indicate interest. The T-position signals fear, but when the ears are rotated back the cat is issuing a serious warning to disengage!

## Cool Kids and Happy Cats

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Kids and cats can have wonderful relationships but they require teaching from you. Pay attention to the type of personality and temperament your cat has so you can teach your child to respect how much interaction your cat wants and will tolerate.

A cat will generally choose escape over confrontation. If your cat scratches or bites, it may be because it is cornered and has no opportunity for escape. A child should be taught to leave the cat alone if the ears are in a T position or flattened.

A cat needs easy access to certain areas that are strictly off limits to children including cat trees and perches, the litter box, sleeping areas and feeding stations.

Tasks related to your cat's health and well-being are too important to assign to a child. Children may be given age-appropriate cat duties that are supervised.

Help your child to understand that a cat feels pain, fear, sadness and so forth, and that a cat's body is delicate and sensitive.

Kittens in particular should always be treated gently and quietly.

The cardinal rule is never to leave young children alone with any pet.

## Vocalisation

Cats have an amazing vocabulary. Murmur patterns are produced with a closed mouth and are used to seek out or initiate contact and in greeting. Vowel patterns are produced when the mouth is open and then gradually closed, and are used in greeting and in sexual and aggressive contexts. Strained-intensity patterns are produced with a wide open mouth and are used in defence and to signal aggression or fear and pain.

## Introducing Your Cat To Other Pets

If you already have a pet in the house, there are a number of useful tips on how to introduce the newcomer to your pet, with the least amount of stress! Separate information leaflets are available from Cat Haven.

Cat's ears rotated back indicates a warning.





## CAT FACTS

“ You can slowly introduce your cat to wearing a collar from about 4 months old. Always use a collar with either an elastic insert or breakaway mechanism for safety. ”



# Your Cat's Health

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## Two Weeks Free Veterinary Consultation

Any cat or kitten adopted from Cat Haven has 2 weeks of free veterinary consultation with the Cat Haven Veterinary Team available from the date of adoption. If you are concerned that your new family member may have symptoms of the flu or is simply behaving oddly or seems unwell, please call reception on 9442 3600 to make an appointment.

### Exclusions:

- Dietary related illnesses will only be included provided Hill's food is purchased on the day of adoption.
- This does not include injuries sustained due to negligence on the part of the owner.
- Consultation is free but there will be a small cost for any medications required.
- **Please be advised that Cat Haven will not be responsible for costs incurred due to external veterinary visits.**

## Sterilisation

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It is law in WA for all cats over 6 months old to be sterilised.

As part of Cat Haven's commitment to reducing cat over population in WA and in a bid to maximise the health and well-being of all the cats and kittens that come through our doors, we ensure that all animals are sterilised, microchipped and vaccinated.

Sterilisation surgery is performed to prevent animals reproducing. There are a number of benefits to having a sterilised cat. The primary one is that it will prevent unwanted litters of kittens, but also:

- Male cats sterilised as kittens are considerably less likely to develop unwanted habits such as territorial spraying and fighting.
- Females will not have to endure being in season (and you won't have to deal with it either).
- It can reduce the chances of developing certain cancers.
- Both male and female cats are usually much friendlier and more placid when sterilisation is performed as kittens.
- Sterilised cats are much less likely to want to roam the neighbourhood.

## Vaccinations

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All Cat Haven cats and kittens are vaccinated. In the vast majority of cases we are unaware of the vaccination history of the animals in our care, so adults and kittens will each require two vaccinations three weeks apart initially, then need annual top ups to retain full immunity.

The standard vaccine given for kittens under 6 months is the F3+L, covering several strains of upper respiratory infection (cat flu), Feline Enteritis and Feline Leukemia virus (FeLV). For cats over 6 months a standard F3 vaccine is given.



# Microchipping

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It is law in WA for all cats to be microchipped.

Microchipping is a form of permanent identification which involves the implantation of a small computer chip between the cats' shoulder blades. Each chip carries a unique code that is linked to the owner's details on a national database. Animal welfare facilities, vet clinics and local council rangers all have microchip scanners, meaning that should your cat become lost and finds its way to one of these places, he or she will be re-united with you quickly and easily.

It is extremely important that the owner's details linked to the chip remain up to date, therefore if your phone number, address or other details change, please contact the animal registry directly. You will find your microchip registry information in your Adoption Pack.

# Flea and Worm Treatment

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All cats and kittens adopted from Cat Haven will have been treated for fleas and worms. This is covered in the adoption costs but all further treatments will be at your expense.

Cat Haven uses a topical treatment that is applied to the skin on the back of the cat's neck. This is effective against fleas, ear mites, intestinal worms and heartworm. In addition, a tapeworm tablet is also given.

Adult cats that are spending time outside every day need to be treated with a topical treatment once per month. Cats that remain fully inside can be treated less frequently, every 3 to 4 months. A tapeworm tablet should be given every 3 months. The dates when your cat is next due for treatment can be found on the inside front cover of this booklet.

There are a wide variety of other flea and worm treatments available. Topical treatments are a much better alternative when compared to flea collars and flea powders. Please speak to Reception staff to determine which treatment plan will be most effective for your cat.



# Practice Preventative Health Care!



## **Annual veterinary exam**

A routine exam should be done yearly.

## **Dental health**

Ask your vet to recommend a dental cleaning and maintenance plan.

## **Feed a premium food**

Your cat is what it eats. Ask your vet to recommend a healthy diet.

## **Maintaining a healthy weight**

Make sure your cat gets plenty of exercise and does not overeat.

## **Vaccinations**

Consult with your vet about vaccinations and schedules.

## **Pet insurance**

There are a number of companies now providing pet insurance policies – ask your vet for their details.

## **Grooming**

Brush your cat on a regular basis. This is a great way to bond with your cat and will help to increase the health of the hair, reduce hairballs, and reduce the development of skin problems.

## CAT FACTS

### “ Toxic Lilies

Lilies are extremely toxic to cats and can cause renal failure and death.

If you are concerned that your cat has been in contact with lilies you should seek veterinary advice immediately. ”



# Useful Links

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## Cat Friendly Home Makeover

- <http://www.icatcare.org/advice/helping-your-cat-kitten-settle>

## Diet

- <http://www.hillsvet.com/en/us/home>

# Our Sponsors

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Cat Haven Photography is kindly supplied by Alma Sarhan and Houndstooth.

## CAT FACTS

### “ Water Not Milk!

Cats cannot drink cow's milk (they are lactose intolerant and can get diarrhoea) but fresh water must be available at all times. ”

# How You Can Help

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**Membership** – Join as a Cat Haven member and receive a great range of discounts plus Cat Chat magazine sent to you quarterly by email

**Donations** – Please donate or become a regular donor

**Bequests** – Please consider us when preparing your will

**Volunteering and Foster Carers** – We are always looking for dedicated volunteers and cat foster carers

**Boarding** – Quality boarding facilities for when you are away plus all profits go back to Cat Haven

**Refer a Friend and like us on Facebook** – Send us updates on your new cat

**Sponsorship** – Become a cat pen sponsor to help keep a cat in a pen for one year

**Online Shop** – Order your cat products from our website







Please Donate, Adopt, Foster, Bequeath, Volunteer.



**Open 7 days a week**

(Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday)  
Please see our website for opening hours.

23 Lemnos Street,  
Shenton Park WA 6008

**Reception**

Ph (08) 9442 3600  
admin@cathaven.com.au

**Boarding**

Ph (08) 9442 3655  
boarding@cathaven.com.au



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Please recycle this brochure and  
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[www.cathaven.com.au](http://www.cathaven.com.au)