

The Original Cat Action Trust



Lanarkshire Branch
Reg. Charity No. 1063947

Catline: 0871 890 3034
(Calls are charged at 10 per minute)

Please email your cat pictures and letters, for all to see on our website.

www.catactiontrust.co.uk

email: admin@catactiontrust.co.uk

New Owner Pack

Caring for your new Cat or Kitten

Cat Name(s)	Approx. Age:	D.O.B. (if known):
-------------	--------------	--------------------

Welcome

Welcome to being a cat owner and I do hope you enjoy the new addition to your family. Any problems, please contact us by e-mail or phone (noted above). Please remember, we are all volunteers and some are out working and looking after family, as well as their own cat's welfare, so be prepared to leave a message where we will get back to you, as soon as we possibly can.

Although your fosterer will have gone through some or most of these things listed below at the time of homing your cat, it is worthwhile having this list, in case you need to refer back to it. It also gives you some helpful hints for caring for your cat, especially if you have not had a cat before or it's been a while.

Transporting and settling your cat in at home

Most cats do not like moving, travelling in cars, nor being confined in anyway. However, when homing a cat, this is an inevitable situation and it is a must that the cat is kept in the cat carrier at all times when being transported, even if it is just a short trip to the vets for a routine check up.

Plastic or wire carriers are more practical than wicker ones, purely from a hygiene side of things. If your cat is travel sick, they can be very difficult to get clean. You can also get top loading cat carriers that are better for getting some cats into, rather than side or end loading ones. Cardboard carriers are not suitable at all, as they are not secure enough. In fact, many kittens have been known to escape quite easily from these, so a wire or plastic one is best. Your fosterer can show you the plastic and wire cat carriers we have in stock for selling, along with other equipment you may need for your cat. We carry many items that you can purchase at a reduced cost, which not only helps the charity; it means you have everything you need to get going.

Moving is a very stressful time for the cat and the cat may not readily know you or others yet and certainly will be put-out with its usual known environment.

Transporting and settling your cat in at home (Cont....)

When first transporting your cat, even if the cat meows constantly or does the toilet or is sick in the cat carrier, do not let the cat out of the carrier until it is securely in a room in your house with all the windows and doors shut. When in the house, make sure there is food and water in a relatively quiet environment initially. Try giving the cat attention from time to time and this will help the cat to settle in, become more comfortable and start to feel at home whilst getting to know you. Steadily, room by room, let your cat have access to the rest of the house. Keep calling the cat by its name so it gets used to you (this will make it more aware of your tone of voice and its name). Some cats come ready named and are used to them, others don't and will need to get used to their new name and your tone of voice.

Litter Tray use and re-enforcement

Make sure your cat knows where its litter tray is. Put the cat into the litter tray after its initial journey, so it knows where it is. Decide where you want the litter tray and keep it there. It may be best to have more than one litter tray, initially, especially with kittens or if you have a large house on different levels.

If the cat is not confident, or to make the cat confident, after every large main meal, put the cat into the litter tray to re-enforce its use. Another way to enforce the use of a litter tray is to use a kitten / puppy litter trainer spray in the litter tray. We do supply this and regularly use this in our cat shelters and some pet shops will supply it too.

Most cats and kittens are very clean and do not need this. However, it's better to be safe than sorry. It's so easy for accidents to happen when in a new, stressful, unknown, environment and it's very hard to re-direct a cat when it gets used to going elsewhere (out with the litter tray) for its toilet. If this does become a problem and the cat is going in certain places out with the litter tray, then try the following points:

- Initially, please make sure the litter tray is not too close to its food and water, but in the same general area of the room, especially for kittens (what seems a short distance to us, is miles for them).
- If the cat has an accident, pick the soiled area up with a poop scoop and put it in the litter tray for a while or until the cat goes back to use it, so it re-enforces its use (NEVER rub a cats nose in its own urine as this is needlessly cruel and does not teach the cat anything). Remember, if the cat does have an accident, the only way to get rid of the ammonia smell in the cat's urine, so it does not go to that spot again, is to use a liberal mix of surgical spirits (available from any chemist) and a little biological washing powder and water. Wash the area liberally with this (there will be a smell from the surgical spirits, but this is only temporary for a day or two). Make sure you test this on an inconspicuous area first. It really does work and will stop your cat getting used to toileting in that unwanted area.
- Be sure you use the same sort of litter that the cat has been used to as this will help. Your fosterer will let you know which type of litter the cat has been using whilst in our care.

Ensure that the large soiled areas of the litter tray are removed daily, if not twice daily. Also, please ensure that the litter tray is completely cleaned at least once or twice a week, unless litter tray liners are used, as cats are clean and do not like dirty areas. Please note that litter tray liners are good and help to keep the litter trays cleaner for longer and can help keep the litter enclosed more as well. Also, hooded litter trays are great to keep the smell and litter enclosed.

Any problem with the cat using the litter tray when in care?		Yes	No
If yes, what was it?			
What did you do to help this?			
Can they use a hooded litter tray?		Yes	No
Type of litter preferred to use?	Gravel	Wood based	Paper based

Grooming your cat

It is a good idea to get any cat used to being brushed regularly. This is especially important if your cat is semi-long haired or long-haired, otherwise they may become matted and have to be shaved by the vets. Zoom Groom brushes are recommended, as they are rubber and flexible and most cats like them. If required, these can be purchased from ourselves. For really thick coats, slicker type brushes can be purchased from most pet shops.

Feeding your cat

Please note, surprisingly enough, cats are lactose intolerant and giving them cow's milk can only serve to give them diarrhoea. Although you should not give your cat cow's milk, there are special cat milks on the market, which can be given, however, this is only a treat and not a must have for most cats. Most cats are happy with water. Give them fresh water daily and keep water out at all times, along with dried cat food if you wish, which can help clean their teeth. Cats tend not to over-eat, unless they have been deprived of food for a while. If you wish to give your cat wet food as well, do so morning and evening. We use a combination of wet and dried foods when in shelter care. However, some people prefer not to give cats wet food, as it can dry up if not consumed at once, therefore causing flies to lay their eggs in it in the summertime. There is the option of using the fresher, smaller portions of pouches and trays of wet food as opposed to tinned foods for this reason and the food seems fresher to the cat too. Please try to keep the cat on the same food that it has been used to. If you do change their food, do it gradually so it does not give the cat diarrhoea. On both dried and wet foods, there will be instructions and guidelines on what to feed your cat. Remember, these are only guidelines and every cat is different. You will get used to what they eat and what they like and dislike, whether it is gravy or super meat types, fishy or meaty flavours and some cats just eat anything. Your fosterer should give you some help here when homing the cat to you. Some foods are richer than others, below is an idea of the type of food your cat has been used to.

Please note if this is a kitten, then they really should stay on kitten food until at least 3-6 months old.

Type of wet food used?				None
Type of dried food used?				None
Flavour Preferences?		Meat	Fish	Any
And/Or	Tuna	Ham	Chicken	Any
Any type of food they did not like?				
This cat is a picky eater			This cat is a good eater	

Introducing your cat to your garden, local surroundings and what to do if your cat goes missing

This section is not applicable to an indoor cat that is content being indoors only.

Most cats like to go outside from time to time, as well as having all the comforts of a loving home. When an adult cat is in a new environment, when moving house and/or having a change of ownership, they should be kept indoors for at least 4 weeks or until the cat is comfortable in your company, its new home and knows its name or your voice. The time depends on the cat itself and some cats are desperate to get access to the outside within a week, whilst others are not bothered at all and are quite content to stay in for a month or longer. If this is a kitten, we would strongly recommend that you keep it in until it is 5-6 months old and neutered.

It is a very worrying time for the new owner the first time your cat ventures outside. Ensure you are going to be in for a while (maybe a weekend) when you let your cat out and it's quiet. Also, ensure that the door you let the cat out from will be their usual access point. Keep it open until the cat is definitely coming and going many times. If the cat knows their name, start calling it from the access point so it gets used to coming back and forth from the door or cat flap.

Some people like introducing a cat into their garden by using a cat harness. These are available from ourselves and most pet shops. They are a good idea and can get the cat used to the immediate outside area and coming back in again with you. Keep doing this until the cat seems to know where they are going and then one day do it without the harness and stay at the access door until the cat is coming and going well. Cat flaps are great if you can put one in your door or window and gives your cat the freedom to come and go and are good for working households, where the cat can be in or out. If you cannot put a cat flap in and your cat is out all day while you are working, make sure they have some sort of shelter outside where they can go if it rains or they feel like an afternoon nap.

Cats generally get used to a cat flap quite easily and some cats we have will be used to one either by being in our cat shelters or by their previous owners having one. Your fosterer will let you know if they are used to a cat flap. However, the cat can easily get used to one, if they aren't already, by putting them through it many times and/or having food either side of it.

Can this cat use a cat flap?	Yes	No	Not Sure
------------------------------	-----	----	----------

If you are thinking of fitting a cat flap, make sure it is a weatherproof one. We know from personal past experience, the Cat Mate ones are and we replaced ours years ago for Cat Mate ones. For this exact reason, they can be draughty. We can supply the Cat Mate cat flaps if required or they can be purchased from a good pet shop.

If your cat does go missing or gets lost and if you do get it back, start the process of letting your cat out again and maybe use a cat harness to introduce it to the outside next time.

If your cat does not come back, say within a day, please have a look at our document under the Help and Advice Section on our website www.catactiontrust.co.uk

Cats and Collars

If you really have to put a collar on your cat, ensure it is not too tight and it is the elasticated type. Collars are not recommended at all on cats, especially if you live near a lot of trees, for obvious reasons. You are better getting your cat I.D. chipped than putting a collar on them (see the I.D. Chipping section below for this).

De-Fleaing your cat

All of our cats and kittens have had a course of flea treatment, whether they were infected or not, when taken into our care. Please note this is a routine treatment for cats, whether indoor or outdoor cats. Both need routinely de-flead all year round and not just in the summertime.

Use only products that the vets recommend and/or dispense as purchasing flea treatments from your local supermarket or pet shop can be a waste of money as they don't work as effectively. We recommend using products such as Frontline combo spot-on and Advocate spot-on (kills ear mites, etc too). Also recommended is the Frontline spot-on and the Frontline spray (you will need to use a household flea spray with these two, such as Zodiac and others, as they do not kill the flea larvae like the previous 2 spot-ons mentioned).

There are various ages when you can start to use these products on your cat / kitten:

Frontline spray from 2 days old
Frontline spot-on from 8 weeks old
Frontline combo spot-on from 8 weeks old
Advocate spot-on from 9 weeks old (helps to kill ear mites, roundworms, etc too)

Your vet can advise you on this also.

The advantage with the spot-on preparations mentioned here, is that they are easier to administer to a cat, causing less stress and are required on a monthly basis. The frontline cat spray can also stress your cat out more, by spraying them instead of just using a simpler spot-on preparation on the back/nape of the neck. However, it does only need done every other month, instead of monthly once your cat is fully grown and above 6 months old. There are also longer term products available from your local vets such as injections. Please ask for details from your vet as it depends what suits you and your cat.

Frequency your cat is due to be de-flea'd:

Every 4 weeks if a monthly frontline/advocate spot-on is used.
Every 8 weeks if the Frontline spray is used and the cat was older than 6 months old.
Every 4 weeks if the Frontline spray is used and the kitten is less than 6 months old, as it is still growing.

You can purchase the majority of these flea treatments from our affiliate website VETUK – Please use our sponsored link found at the bottom of our main page on our website <http://www.catactiontrust.co.uk/main.htm> as anything purchased from this website returns 5% back to CAT and helps us save the many abandoned and stray cats like the one you have now adopted and given a loving home to.

De-Fleaing Product Used	Frontline (Spot-On)	Frontline Combo (Spot-On)	Advocate (Spot-On)	Frontline Spray
Date(s) Applied:		Date Next Due:		
And every month thereafter, if using a monthly veterinary spot-on de-flea.				

You're fosterer will give you a leaflet on the de-fleaing product used and others available (if available). Please read it carefully, then you can decide which suits you and your cat best.

Worming your cat

All of the cats and kittens we re-home have had at least one full course of wormer. Please note this is a routine treatment for cats whether indoor or outdoor cats. Both need routinely wormed at least 4 times a year. Sometimes, even every month, if they are good hunters. Many kittens are born with round and tape worms, which are passed from their mother and the products mentioned below can kill both effectively, if routinely administered.

Use only products that the vets recommend and/or dispense as purchasing worm treatments from your local supermarket or pet shop can be a waste of money as they don't work as effectively. We recommend using products such as Panacur liquid, Panacur favourite tablets, Drontal tablets, Milbemax tablets, Profender spot- on etc. There are also other products available from your local vets as well. Please ask for details, as it depends what suits you and your cat.

Profender is a fairly new monthly spot on worming product. This is good for cats you cannot give tablets to or they are aware of them in their food. It is a spot-on preparation and therefore due monthly not quarterly like the other edible ones. However, it also depends on whether your cats are good hunters or not. If they are, they will need wormed regularly.

Type of Wormer Used					
Panacur Liquid (for 3 consecutive days)	Panacur Granules	Panacur Favourite Tablet	Drontal tablet (or part of it, depending on weight of cat)	Milbemax tablet	Profender spot-on
Date(s) Applied:			Date Next Due:		

All our adult cats (6 months old +) are due to be wormed in 3 months time (see date above that they were last wormed) then 3 monthly thereafter.

If this is a kitten, it is advisable to worm 1 month after they have been wormed (when in care here, see above). Then at 3 monthly intervals thereafter, using a veterinary recommended wormer, that works effectively.

Unless you prefer to use the new monthly profender product, maybe because your cats are good hunters and require worming more frequently or your cat is not good at taking tablets easily.

Please check with your vet for details at what age these products can be given.

Neutering your cat

All the cats that we home are already neutered (spaying of a female cat or castration of a male cat) if over the age of about 5 months old. If they are kittens of under 5 months old when homed, you can apply for our subsidised neutering scheme, which allows you to get your kitten neutered at a reduced rate. Information about this will be given by your fosterer or is available on-line on our web site under the Help and Advice Section. Please note that our subsidised neutering scheme can only be accepted at selected vets listed.

Kittens must be neutered about 5 to 6 months old to save the female cat going into season, becoming pregnant and adding to the already huge and unwanted cat population. The male cats, if left un-neutered, will eventually start to spray and smell, so this is essential for all kittens about the age of 5 to 6 months old.

Neutering your cat (Cont...)

If you live in an area out with the vets that we have accounts with and wish to use your own local vets instead, this is acceptable, as long as you ensure you neuter your cat and understand that you will be paying the vets bill by yourself. Your vet may be able to give you a good deal especially if you are neutering, I.D. chipping and vaccinating your new kitten with that same vet.

Also, if you do live in an area out with the vets listed and if you and your local vet are both genuinely interested in our Subsidised Neutering Scheme, please get in contact with us first, preferably via our e-mail or helpline number, at least a month before you will need to use them. If you don't allow enough time for us to set-up an account with your vet, then you will be liable for any costs incurred.

Whatever vet you choose and whether you take us up on our offer of subsidised neutering or not, what is important here is that you do get your cat neutered and you may wish to let your fosterer know when this happens.

Is this cat already neutered?	Yes	No
If the answer is No, it will be a kitten.		
The approximate date you should start thinking of Neutering your kitten is:		

Dentals

If we think the cat is over 5 years old, they may have had their teeth checked by the vet and a dental done. Your fosterer will let you know if they have had this done recently and when it was. By feeding your cat dried food on a daily basis, this will help keep their teeth nice and clean and remove any plaque from their teeth.

Has this cat had a dental whilst in the fosterer's care?	Yes	No
If yes, when was this done?		

Vaccinating your cat

If your cat is vaccinated, you will receive a vaccination certificate from your fosterer and it will be summarised below. Cats and kittens can receive their first vaccination whilst in our care, as long as you are willing to pay the additional vets cost for this. Your fosterer will tell you their local vets rates for this, if applicable. If your cat is vaccinated, it requires you to get your cat a booster vaccination annually from your local vets so they are still vaccinated. The vaccination certificate will tell you when the booster is due next and whether it is for cat flu or the 3 in 1 (covering cat flu, enteritis and leukaemia). We would highly recommend that if you are letting your cat out, that the 3 in 1 vaccine be administered annually. If the cat is not vaccinated, but you wish this done, then there will be an initial vaccination required and then 3 weeks after that you will need to go to the vets again for the 1st booster. After that, there is an annual booster required e.g. kittens have to be 9 weeks old before they can have their first vaccination then their 1st booster vaccination will be due at 12 weeks old and then a vaccination every year, thereafter. To keep your cat vaccinated against these diseases, please note that this will be at your own cost. Please also note that cats must have their vaccination certificates up-to-date so that catteries will take them if you are thinking of doing this whilst you are on holiday.

Is the cat vaccinated?	Yes	No	Not Sure
<i>If this has been a stray cat, we will not know, so you should assume the cat is not vaccinated.</i>			
We recommend all cats should be vaccinated.			

I.D. Chipping your cat

If your cat is I.D. chipped, your fosterer will tell you and write the I.D. Chipping No. in the space below for you. Also, the fosterer will change the ownership of the cat over for you at the time of homing A.S.A.P. so you will be the new owner as far as Petlog is concerned. You should receive information from Petlog confirming the new ownership within 2 to 3 weeks time. If this does not happen, either get back in touch with your fosterer or phone Petlog on Tel: 0870 606 6751 with the I.D. chip no. listed below and you can then re-iterate the change in ownership details. After 2-3 weeks, you should receive notification in the post from Petlog confirming this.

If there is no I.D. chipping no. listed below, your cat is not chipped. If you wish this, please contact your local vet for more details. Please note that this will be at your own cost. Cats can also be I.D. chipped at our local vets while in our care, if you wish, as long as you are willing to pay the additional vet cost for this. Your fosterer can let you know the vet rates. It really does help re-unite cats with their owners if they are I.D. chipped.

This cat is ID chipped?	Yes	No
Their ID chip number is:		

Pet Insurance

There are various companies that will insure your cat in case they have an accident or illness which may save you large vet's bills. Some companies that do this are Direct Line and Tesco's, however, there are many more. Some people will take out pet insurance for their cat, whilst others prefer to take the chance that their cat will not have a major illness or accident throughout their lifetime.

Please note that this will be at your own cost.

Feedback

Please remember to let us know how the cat or kittens are doing. The best way to do this is to contact us by e-mail at admin@catactiontrust.co.uk or e-mail the fosterer that you went to direct (see below for their contacts). Please try and e-mail us a picture of the cats/kittens and a wee note of how they are doing and we will put them on our web site for all to see! Remember, if there is a problem, please give us a ring on Tel:-0871-890-3034 or better still contact the fosterer direct instead. You can also e-mail us at the above address.

Help and Donations

As you are probably already aware, we constantly need the public's time, support and financial help, to be able to help more cats. We are not a cash rich or well known cat rescue branch, but we simply "get by" somehow. Infact, we get no public funding at all, therefore we rely totally on the public's generosity to be able to fund our cat shelters and help more poor, starving, stray cats/kittens out there who are badly in need of our help. A little from everyone will help us enormously, in the end. Believe me.

We sometimes do run funding campaigns, featured on our web site as we need cash funding for our daily expenses. As I say, we simply "get by" somehow, but we also do need cash sums to move and refurbish our cat shelters and to have more of them. To help more cats in need, please help us to be able to help them.

Would like to make a much needed donation to ourselves? You can make a one-off donation online via Paypal or you can fill out a direct debit instruction, available either online/e-mail/telephone, for regular payments to our charity, helping cats every day throughout the year (a great idea, instead of a one-off payment). However, if you would prefer to write us a cheque or postal order, then send all donations only to:-The Original Cat Action Trust, "Mousemill", Lanark. ML11 9UG. Please make your cheque/postal order payable to C.A.T. or Original Cat Action Trust, as this cat rescue branch is run totally by cat loving volunteers.

Help and Donations (Cont...)

Or simply, when ordering your de-worming and de-fleaing products, why not use our affiliate website VETUK – Please use our sponsored link found at the bottom of our main page on our website <http://www.catactiontrust.co.uk/main.htm> as anything purchased from this website returns 5% back to CAT and helps us save the many abandoned and stray cats like the one you have now adopted and given a loving home to. Not only will our charity benefit slightly from this, but you may find you can get these sort of items cheaper here and there also may be some other special offers for you too. So if ordering anyway, why not give it a try, save some money and help our charity at the same time.

On the other hand, do you wish to volunteer to help us? We always need help with taking the phone, fostering, with transportation etc. We'd very much be pleased to hear from you. Every little helps the many abandoned and stray cats who are desperately looking for a loving home.

By signing the homing form, you have already agreed to our homing terms and conditions below.

Please keep a note of them for future reference

- That you will seek veterinary treatment for the cat(s), as required. At the time of homing, the cat(s)/kitten(s), as far as we know, were in a satisfactory/fit state to be homed, unless the fosterer knew and stated otherwise of any known ailment/illness.
- That you understand that full liability for the cat's welfare and any veterinary fees incurred, at any future date, remains totally your responsibility.
- You understand that this kitten is being homed as a pet and must not be used for breeding purposes and must be neutered at approx. 5-6 months old. We offer subsidised lower cost neutering to reduce the cost of neutering for you, at selected vets (see information above).
- You understand that although we tell you everything we know about the cat, we do not always have its complete history and therefore, cannot guarantee behaviour and future well being.
- We are here to advise on any aspect of caring for the cat. It may take several months for the cat to settle into your home environment, especially if it is a nervous/shy cat.
- Home checks may be made at any time with the cats best interests at heart.
- The Original Cat Action Trust will retain ownership of the cat and reserves the right to reclaim it, only in so far as they feel the cat is not being fed, housed or cared for to its satisfaction.
- Should you decide not to keep the cat for any reason, you may contact us (either by e-mail or phone), along with other local cat rescue organisations, with a view to re-homing it. We cannot guarantee to have readily available cat shelter space and you may have to go on our cat waiting list, awaiting shelter. Please note we cannot re-home a terminally ill cat.

If you have any detailed, specific questions relating to the cat, your fosterer today was either one of these:-

Karyn in Kirkfieldbank. Tel. No. 01555-660784, e-mail address:- bill@bulloch333.fsnet.co.uk
Mags in Airdrie, Tel:- 01236-621604, e-mail address:- mo009b6254@blueyonder.co.uk