

INFORMATION FOR ADOPTERS



You are about to adopt a cat! We would like to share some information with you to make both your lives a little bit easier.

Cats are a long-term commitment and can live for up to 20 years. Before you adopt a cat you need to consider the nature of this commitment and understand that it is extremely difficult to re-home cats once they are adults. If there is a chance that you may move to another country, be aware that this can be an expensive and complicated process depending on the specific regulations of the target country. Do your research before adopting.

Finally, make sure that you can support the needs of the cat, including unexpected vet bills and cat sitters during holidays.

Cat Safety

- Make sure that that your house is cat-safe - **fence/mesh windows/balconies/doors**, we can recommend providers for this
- If your kitten is kept solely indoors (recommended), **do not put a collar** on as it presents a safety hazard. Even quick-release collars may not snap when needed and can cause serious injury if you kitty get a leg or jaw trapped or the collar gets snagged on furniture.
- **Microchip** your cat during sterilization and register the chip with AVS. This way, if it escapes from your home, during a trip to the vet or during a move, it can be traced back to you or you can more easily claim it.

Preparation

Prepare the basics before your cat's arrival.

- Food (start with what the fosterer fed and transition slowly)
- Bowls for water and food - preferably stainless steel or ceramic
- Litter box (**minimum 1 big litter box per cat/kitten in your household, avoid hooded versions**)
- Litter (paper, tofu or pine recommended, start with the same litter as the fosterer)
- Some toys (toy mice, ball tracks, feather wands)
- Scratching tools (poles and boards)
- Comfortable bed/sleeping place/pillow

Adoption is a big change so for the first few weeks, we strongly advise that you **use the same food and litter and a similar litter box as your cat/kitten is used to from their foster home**. Later you can slowly transition them to options of your choice.

A change of environment can be a scary so your cat may be anxious at first in their new home. Most cats will need a bit some time and space and are ideally assigned a **separate room** the first few days (especially if there is an existing cat or other animal in the household, you can ask us for integration tips).

Environment

Cats are territorial animals so it's important to have a least **one room per pet** in your house. They are also curious and, usually, active creatures, so give them enough space to roam around. If there is not much floor space you can expand their territory by going **vertical** (shelves, access to the top of cupboards, high climbing posts etc.). Get some scratching tools; it will help to protect your furniture.

We don't recommend the use of plastic bowls to feed your cats, as it is unhealthy for them and also not eco-friendly. Discount shops, like Daiso, or other household shops offer nice ranges of **stainless steel and ceramic bowls** at better prices than most pet shops.

Cats are clean animals, capable of grooming themselves, and usually hate water, so **don't shower them unless necessary** (i.e. if they had an accident and are covered in poo). We also think it's unnecessary to dress up cats in clothes, aside from being uncomfortable for them. Let them be as natural as possible.

Most behavioral problems we hear come from incorrect litterbox setups. Make sure that you have at least **one large litter box per cat** – the idea formula is “number of cats + 1”, but one per cat is the minimum. In a large house, we recommend a litter box per floor. Too few or too small litter boxes can result in elimination in other spots, territorial fits, boxes that get dirty very quickly – and generally unhappy cats. Clean the litter box several times a day. Unless used in the foster home, we **advise against hooded boxes** – the hood traps the smell, which is very unpleasant for the cat. Also, it cannot see outside and may be startled when someone approaches, making it feel very uncomfortable and insecure. Offer at least another option without a hood. **NOTE:** We highly recommend to use the same litter as the fosterer, you can later transition gradually to another one of your choice.

If you already have **another existing cat**: be aware that it rarely works to just “throw them in” together. There are some **steps to introduce cats** to each other to ensure a peaceful introduction and within a few days or weeks, they will be accepting each other and hopefully become best buddies. Do let us know if you need help with this process and we'll be happy to advise.

If you have children: it's great for children to grow up with a furry companion and to learn to be compassionate to animals. You will know your children best, but ensure to spend time to teach them how to gently interact with the cat and learn appropriate play techniques. A cat is not a toy and a well meant but boisterous grab for the cat can end up in scratches and tears, however, with some supervision and guidance they can live together peacefully and happily! We ask for all families to meet the cats in person to see how they react to children and how children interact with them.

Two are better than one

All our kittens need to be adopted in pairs or into a household with an existing cat (or dog). To develop into well balanced adult cats, kittens below the age of 6 months need a buddy to play, fight, snuggle and groom each other. Those behaviors simply cannot be replaced by humans, even if you are at home all day. Cats missing out on this important socialization between kitten mates may develop unwanted behaviors such as attention seeking biting or excessive meowing.

If you already have a cat, we are happy to give you advice how to integrate the new arrival. Should you wish to adopt only a single cat (maybe due to your apartment size or cost, we will find you a great older kitten (6 months+) or adult cat that is used to living alone.

Food

Nutrition is one of the most important aspects of your cat's health. They are **obligate carnivores**, meaning that they rely on nutrients found only in prey animals. Their diet is based on high amounts of protein, moderate amounts of fat and minimal amounts of carbohydrates. They also require other nutrients such as vitamins, minerals and fatty acids.

As their nutritional requirements are complex, it is essential to give them a complete and balanced diet.

NOTE: As a start, please use the same brand as the foster to minimize the change your cat/kitten has to go through upon adoption. After a few weeks you can transition gradually to the food of your choice (mix in small amounts of new food and increase the amount day by day).

When choosing your cat food is also important to keep in mind the following:

- Most cat food brands (especially dry foods) contain added grain and sugar, making it cheaper but also unhealthier
- Not all canned/wet foods are nutritionally complete; many of them are designed as supplements to other diets.
- If feeding your cat raw food, don't base their diet on meat designed for human consumption, as these cuts don't contain all of their required nutrients but choose a product especially for cats (Fidelis Meats or equal)
- Try to avoid too many FISH based foods, fish should not be the main part of a cat's diet

Avoid buying products with these ingredients:

- Artificial colourants and flavours, including Blue 2, Red 40, Yellow 5, or caramel colouring
- Artificial or synthetic preservatives, including BHA, BHT, and ethoxyquin
- Grains such as corn, wheat, soya or rice
- Sugar
- Non-descriptive labels
- Rendered fat
- Carrageenan
- Vitamin 3K
- Sodium Nitrate

Once you have ensured that a food is complete, balanced and grain free, choosing between brands may be a matter of what your cat prefers. Choose the ones that work best for your cat. Keep in mind that your cat also needs access to fresh clean water at all times.

Here are some brands we recommend:

Raw	Freeze dried	Wet - complete	Wet - Supplementary	Kibble (dry food)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fidelis Meats - Raw Instinct - Big Dog BARF - Claws & Effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northwest - Naturals - Stella and - Chewy's - Primal - K9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ZiwiPeak - Addiction - Little Big Paw - Wellness (kitten) - Instinct - Zealandia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schesir - Applaws - Kit Cat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ZiwiPeak (air dried) - Arcana - Orijen - Pro Nature - Wellness

We encourage our adopters to buy their cat products in shops where stray animals are supported rather than the breeding industry.

Most of those brands, as well as other items like toys, litter, etc. are found with [Polypet](#) - a very reliable and friendly online shop.

[Fidelis Meats](#) is a very good option for raw food. It's a local Singaporean company, with a very friendly team, always willing to help. Their frozen pre-packed patties contain everything a cat needs and are very easy to serve.

General treatment

Cats often have very different personalities. Some like to cuddle and be picked up; others don't. While it is good to get any cat to the stage where they are comfortable being handled, never force a cat to be held or petted if they are uncomfortable or don't like it. Also, never strike a cat or punish it (hitting/yelling) for 'bad' behaviour (scratching, meowing). This could cause the cat to lose trust in you and damage your relationship. Use positive reinforcement instead and offer alternatives.

As for feeding times, you set the rules so don't let your cat 'convince' you that it needs to eat whenever it asks for it.

Kittens may play rough at times, this is totally normal, they are figuring out what is appropriate play behavior. You don't need to intervene. If you are worried, please contact us. Do not let your kittens play with your hand and feet – it is cute when they are small but not so much once they weight 5kg.

Cats need to scratch – and if plenty of scratch posts and boards around they should avoid your furniture. If not there are appropriate ways to teach is to use the posts using positive reinforcement techniques. Scratching helps to keep the cats nails short and sharp. If you notice the claws becoming too sharp and too

long despite this, you may want to trim them down a TINY bit with small cat nail trimming scissors. Not all cats tolerate this well. Make sure it is a positive experience (treats, pet the cat, praise) and the cat is in a calm state. Clip only a few (even as little as one nail) at a time and gradually increase as your cat tolerates the process. If this is stressful for you or the cat, get it done at the vet.

Vet and health care

It is crucial to see a vet if your cat is sick as well as for continuing vaccinations, etc. You will receive a **health record** from your kitten's/cat's fosterer, please go through any treatment they have received and what follow ups may be required.

- **Core vaccinations:** Kittens get their first shot when they are around 6-8 weeks old. As they are usually 8-10 weeks at adoption, you will need to **bring them for 2 more shots at monthly intervals**, as well as a booster shot after 1-3 years, subject to your vets recommendation.
- All of our **kittens are treated against worms** and, if necessary, fleas/mites. Please continue with all treatments as instructed by the fosterer. Usually they will get dewormed again during their vaccinations.
- **Sterilization:** It is **mandatory to sterilize your cats** once they reach the appropriate age of around 5-6 months old. If you have a male and a female and the girl is on heat before that age, please contact us or visit Oasis vet or Vets for Life as they may be able to sterilize the cat before she is 6 months old.
- **Microchipping:** As regulations are becoming stricter in Singapore, it is very important to microchip and register your cat. Microchipping is usually performed in conjunction with sterilization and then afterwards you should register it with AVS.

Holidays and Moving

Cats are territorial animals and do not like change. When you travel, the ideal solution is getting a **pet or house sitter who can take care of your cats in your home**. This can be a neighbor, a pet sitter via sites like PawShake (comes once or twice a day) or a house sitter (stays in your home). Many of our adopters and volunteers have had good experiences with www.trustedhousesitters.com and you can contact us for a discount code.

Pet hotels may be stressful for cats, but if you decide to opt for a pet hotel, make sure that you understand their terms, visit them before boarding your cat and ensure your cat is not confined into a box or cage for most of the day, but on the other hand is safe from catching other cats' potential illnesses.

When adopting your cats, do **consider any future move**. Depending on the country a move/return can cost 100's or 1.000's of dollars to relocate your cat(s) and they may need to go through a quarantine period. Please, **consider your cats like family** and ensure, there is a plan to take them along. We are happy to recommend pet relocation services and can advise how to make a move less stressful.

Adoption fee

Project LUNI bears massive costs to keep and make countless street cats in Singapore happy and healthy. Not only do we foster, socialise and rehome lots and lots of kittens and cats, our team also **feeds 400+ sterilised street cats** daily in a responsible way, we organise **TNR** (trap-neuter-return) and provide medical care for street cats. **All our kittens and cats are vet checked, dewormed and vaccinated, if necessary we treat them against fleas, mites and every illness occurring.**

Therefore, we need to ask you for an **adoption donation**. This only covers parts of the cost but will enable our fosterers and us to continue to rescue kittens and cats. On average, fostering a kitten costs 150 - 200 SGD for food, litter, toys, vet checks, vaccination, deworming, treatments etc, if you can spare more to help us we'd be forever grateful!

You can **give your donation in cash to the fosterer on the adoption day** or transfer to them (as they keep part of the donation to cover medical bills).

Any additional donations can be transferred to Project LUNI directly: DBS Paynow: 201829202G (UEN No.), DBS current account: 033-905516-6

Thank you very much for your kind support!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

