

First Time Ownership At A Glance

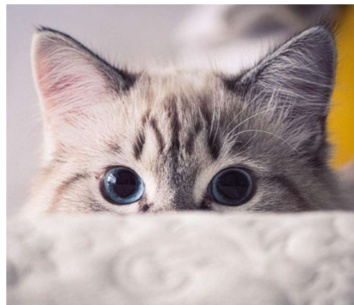
- Cats are a life-long commitment – sometimes 12-18 years
- The cost of owning a cat can be significant
- All cats require daily feeding and some amount of grooming, exercise and stimulation
- Choose the right breed of cat for your family and lifestyle
- Provide a lot of human companionship
- Provide treatment for fleas
- Take your cat to the vet when it looks sick or injured

**Town of Oyster Bay
Animal Shelter
150 Miller Place
Syosset, NY 11791
(516) 677-5784**

**Hours of Operation
Monday- Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

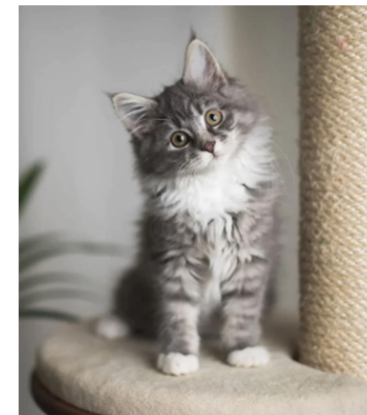
Closed Sundays & Holidays

After regular business hours, and on Sundays and holidays, residents experiencing animal problems should contact their local police precinct. In an emergency, call 911. They will contact us if they need assistance.



The Town Of Oyster Bay Animal Shelter

Tips for First Time Cat & Kitten Owners



Find a new Friend!

This brochure was provided by Girl Scouts of Suffolk County Troop 3091 as part of their Bronze Award.

Cat and Kitten Ownership Tips

What is the right breed for you

There are many different cat breeds. Some breeds are documented to be good with kids. The first feline on the list is the Maine coon cat. These gentle giants are also known for their size and can weigh up to 20 pounds but are very playful and have kitten-like dispositions. The next kid friendly breed is the Ragdoll cat which is known for its cuteness and is often referred to as a baby doll. These cats also have bright blue eyes and tend to be large cats. Another kid friendly breed is the Sphynx cat which is hairless and super sociable and active. They are great cats for families with children and cat friendly dogs. Sphynx cats can live up to 8 to 14 years and can grow from 6 to 12 pounds. These are only three of the amazing kid friendly cat breeds that may be good for your family.



Items you need for a new pet cat

When you are getting a new cat, there are some items you may need. You will need a litter box, cat litter and food and water bowls. You will also need a scratching post and a bed for your cat or kitten to sleep. You should also get food for the cat; the type of food will depend on the age of the cat. A cat carrier would also be useful.

Veterinary Care

It is very important to take your cat to the vet to keep it healthy throughout its life. Your cat should visit the veterinarian at least once a year. Vaccinations, parasite control, dental care, proper nutrition and grooming are all very important for your cat's health. Senior cats 10-15 years old should have checkups at least every 6 months. Cats over 15 years old should be seen every 4 months. Cats with ongoing health issues may need more frequent visits. Cats can develop a number of illnesses if they don't get their shots.

Feeding

Offering canned and dry food will be beneficial for your cat's health. If you have a kitten, they should be fed three times a day. If you have an older cat, you can feed them once or twice a day.

Training and Socialization

Did you know that you can train a cat just like you can train a dog? First, it's very important to never punish your cat. If you punish, then your cat will become stressed and that can lead to bad behavior. Next, make sure to keep your sessions short, that way they can focus and not lose interest in the lesson. Lastly, cats do like to socialize with other cats depending on their age and gender.

Come up with a Routine

A routine helps you with taking care of your cat, you should include having them groomed regularly, provide them fresh water 24/7, make sure your cat always has a place to go to the bathroom, keep the litter box clean, maintain a healthy diet and weight, and you should also have a consistent routine to feed your cat.