

REHOMING OUR CATS



HELP or DONATE at www.romneyhousecatrescue.org.uk/help-donate



ARRIVING HOME WITH YOUR NEW CAT

- Initially it is best to base your cat in one room. Your living room is best or a bedroom, so that even if they are shy about interacting with you at first, they will still see, hear and smell you.
- It is extremely important during the first few days that you and all members of your household know where your new cat is. Do NOT open windows or front and back doors unless you are certain that the cat cannot escape. Block cat flaps and any chimneys you may have. Your cat will almost certainly want to make a dash for freedom. Do not give your new cat access to the room with the cat flap as it is easy for them to break through a locked cat flap when they are frightened.
- Your cat's litter tray should be placed at one end of the room as far away as possible from their feeding area and bed.
- Do not let your cat outside for 4 to 6 weeks, depending on how nervous they are, as advised – they need time to bond with you and settle in their new home. Ignore their pleadings to go out.
- Do not allow too many friends and family to come and visit your new cat in the first few days – they need time to feel comfortable with you before meeting others.
- Do not introduce your cat to any other animals on the first night.

SETTLING DOWN YOUR NEW CAT

- When you visit the cat/kitten at the centre, they will often seem relaxed and settled as they have had time to get to know our staff and volunteers, and feel safe and secure in familiar surroundings. We make sure our cats feel no threat, and experience no fear. Even in this environment, depending on the background of the cats, it can take weeks or sometimes months before they will trust again. When they are moved to another environment with people they do not know, it can be very worrying and stressful. It is imperative that the cat's first experience of its new home is a positive one.
- It is important to have a quiet room set up for them initially, so that they can get used to new smells, noises and people. Put their food, litter, and water in the room and offer them a place where they can hide and feel safe, e.g. the carrier with the door open.
- Visit the cat often, talking to them in a quiet voice. Allow them to make the first move. Do not be tempted to pick them up or try to get them from under the bed, wardrobe or settee; this will frighten them and they will relate to you as something fearful. Their first experiences should be good ones, or they will take far longer to settle.
- If you have young children or other animals, please do not introduce them straight away! This can really set things back. Wait for the new cat to feel more comfortable and relaxed. Children must know that the cat is NOT a toy, and should be approached quietly and with sensitivity.
- Do not let the cat have access to the whole house to begin with; only when they are relaxed in their 'safe' room should they be allowed to explore the rest of the house a little at a time. Leave their 'safe' room open in case they want to dart back in if they are unsure about anything.
- Don't react to any hissing, spitting or growling by your existing cat – this is normal behaviour. Just let them get on with it, or they will pick up anxiety from you and be worse towards one another. Distraction is a good way using treat's.
- Sometimes your new cat will be disorientated! They can meow for the first few nights! Please reassure them as it is a big change for them!

- A new cat will instinctively want to escape, as they are not sure about their new surroundings at first. They will get out of any small windows (even if slightly open), an open door, or try to go up the chimney. It is important not to let this happen!! Please tell your children (or other people who visit the home) not to leave windows and doors open.
- Please make sure that all cat flaps are locked! Your existing cat/s will have to be let out by the door. A frightened cat will break a flap very easily if they want to escape!
- After four or five weeks, as long as your cat has settled, you can begin the letting out stage. Choose a time when you are going to be around most of the day. Make sure the cat is not fed. Open the chosen door and allow the cat to go out of its own accord or use a harness. Do not lift or carry them out. You may want to go out with them. Leave the door open so they can run back in if they are frightened at the beginning. Some cats will disappear for hours; try not to worry! As long as the cat has had ample time to have settled into its new home, it will be back!
- It is advisable to have an extra litter tray for the new cat, kept in the same place.
- We do NOT use wood pellet cat litter at the centre, so please buy a gravel type. If you buy a litter tray with a top and flap, please take the flap off.
- If your cat doesn't eat for a few days this is normal; consequently they may not use a litter tray. Their stools may be soft for a few days and may have some blood in them. This may be caused by stress/anxiety; they are very worried to begin with, just as we would be. If this continues for a week, then let us know.
- It is advisable to keep up the cat's inoculations yearly; this is to help prevent any serious illness.
- The cat/kittens will be microchipped and changed into your details after a few weeks; we will do this on your behalf, but remember that if you move you must update these details!
- It is MOST important to keep your cat in at night. Replace their need for going out with treats, playtime, cuddles and positive things (95% of road traffic accidents happen at night-time!). Plus the Cat Killer is still at large!

FEEDING

- **WET FOOD.** We feed our cats twice a day for adults, and four times a day for kittens. The food we use is: Sheba, Gourmet and other natural brands such as Applaws and Encore which contain 70% meat. Supermarket brands are not recommended; please check their meat content.
- **DRY FOOD.** We urge you to leave down a good quality dry biscuit at all times, for the cat/kitten to graze. Please check the meat content of dried food – the higher the meat content, the better the quality! Pure meat, not derivatives! We feed our cats: Applaws, James Wellbeloved; Royal Canin; Science Plan; Purina One; Nature's Menu. We do NOT recommend: Whiskas, Go Cat, and supermarket brands as there are either very little or no nutrients, and they can cause bladder problems.
- It is advisable to allow the new cat to eat apart from the existing cat/s to begin with, then move their bowls closer as they get used to one another.
- Fresh water should always be available. Normal milk must not be given, as the lactose it contains is harmful to cats.





Good luck, and enjoy your new cat or kitten. Cats bring so much love and joy – this is unconditional!

CATS AND CHILDREN

Cats and children are best introduced gradually to one another, to avoid making the cat nervous of the children and the children fearful of the cat. We suggest a gradual introduction over a week or two. Start the introductions once your cat has settled into her new home. Ask the children to sit down quietly and calmly. When the cat is let into the room, ask the children to ignore her. To let the cat know that they aren't a threat, ask the children to blink very slowly at the cat.

Gradually build up the time they spend together. Get the children to stroke the cat gently twice, and then give her a treat. Gradually increase the time they spend stroking her. If the cat runs away, stop the introduction and try again later. Children should never pursue or pester a cat for attention.

WHAT TO DO FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS

The arrival of your new cat in your home will be quite exciting. But your cat will be very anxious. This is no reflection on you, so don't take it personally!

So, before you let the cat out of the carrier, choose a quiet room such as a bedroom or study (ideally not the kitchen or bathroom), where you can keep your cat for the first few days.

Shut all the doors and windows and block access to areas where they can hide or get stuck, such as chimneys or behind a washing machine. Your cat will almost certainly make a dash for freedom, so, for the first few days, make sure the whole family knows where your new cat is.

Many unconfident cats can take between one to three months to settle properly, so you'll need to be loving and patient. Other cats however, should feel more confident with you after just a few days, in which case you can start to introduce them to other members of your household and any other pets. If you don't have either, then you're ready to introduce your cat to the rest of the house.

Initially, your new cat will need to be kept indoors. They need time to settle and adjust to their new surroundings.

- Cats are homed by us with a clean bill of health, but sometimes stress brings out underlying symptoms, e.g. flu (sneezing, weepy eyes etc.) or runny tummy! Please let us know if this occurs shortly after collecting your cat.
- On occasions, cats in a new environment may lash out or hiss at you if they are scared, even though they may have sat on your lap at the centre. The centre is somewhere they know and a place where they feel safe, whereas a different environment is unknown and worrying for a new cat. **BE PATIENT AND GIVE THEM TIME.**
- Please read the settling in tips on our website: www.romneyhousecatrescue.org.uk. Other websites with useful information include: www.cat77.org.uk and www.catchat.org.



Remember Silvana is available any time to give you advice, so please contact her on her mobile 07958 273118 if you are worried or concerned.

PLEASE DO NOT LOSE OUR CAT(S)

Most of the cats in our care have been through a lot, and we have spent a lot of time and money on their rehabilitation and care. Please keep them safe. If you follow the rules set out below when you first take your cat home, prior to it going out for the first time, and after keeping it in for the recommended length of time, it will not escape.

THESE RULES ARE BASED ON WAYS OUR CATS HAVE BEEN LOST BY NEW OWNERS IN THE PAST:

- 1 DO NOT put the cat in the same room as the cat flap unless it is boarded over with plywood screwed to the door. A determined cat can unlock a locked cat flap. It will even demolish a cat flap. Putting obstacles in front of it will not work as the cat will move them.
- 2 DO NOT put the cat in the same room as a door which opens on to the garden, and which you use. The cat will be faster than you.
- 3 DO NOT open the front door unless you know the cat is safely shut/locked in a room.
- 4 DO NOT open windows, even a little bit. Cats can push windows open. They can certainly jump high enough to get through a top window, so keep them shut!
- 5 DO NOT ever carry the cat out in your arms. They need to go through the door or cat flap so they can follow their scent back. They may jump out of your arms and get lost – it has happened!
- 6 WARN any visitors that you have a new cat which is not allowed to go out yet. Consider placing a card/poster on the front door.
- 7 COVER UP any fireplaces with open chimneys. A nervous cat will look for anywhere to hide.
- 8 Please ensure your children are clear about the ways a cat can escape.

These are all ways in which new owners have lost our cats in the past, and by drawing them to your attention we hope this will not happen in the future. However, if your cat should get lost within this time, you must let us know by ringing us.

FLIGHT RISKS

You will see that their body is pressed low to the ground, their pupils will be dilated and they may be licking their lips or gulping. They will be looking up and around trying to see if there is a way out.

They will be intent on escaping rather than making friends with you for the first 48 hours or so, and it is extremely important that they do not succeed.

COVERING ESCAPE ROUTES

Before allowing your cat out of the carrier and into their "Safe room", you must check again that all escape routes are blocked. These routes include:

- Cat flaps
- Windows
- Floorboards
- Behind washing machines/dishwashers/bath panels

DON'T FORGET: Your cat can squeeze through the tiniest of gaps, even gaps you thought were impossible to fit through and it is **particularly important to block, not just lock your cat flap**. Panicky cats can break through locked cat flaps quite easily, so it is important to cover over the cat flap completely. This serves the dual purpose of reinforcing the lock on the cat flap, and also concealing the presence of the cat flap from the cat.





LETTING YOUR CAT SETTLE

Cats' natural instincts may be to get up to a higher level as insecure cats feel more vulnerable on the ground; be aware of any valuables or burners/candles on shelves or wardrobes. If they want to hide behind or under the sofa, resist the temptation to keep looking at them; this will only make them feel more insecure and the settling-in process may take longer.

- You should provide your cat with a few secure hiding spots in the room; when a cat panics they may damage themselves trying to escape, but you can minimise this risk by ensuring they have easily accessible and safe places to hide.
- A secure hiding spot can be a cardboard box, cat igloo or a cat carrier. If there is a bed in the room it is highly likely that they will attempt to hide underneath it, so you may need to clear out any objects that could be a danger to them.



Remember that all cats will want to get back to what they know, and are therefore likely to run away from what they don't know.

Other noises which might spook or startle them could include:

- Busy high street sounds
- Hairdryers
- Vacuum cleaners
- Televisions/radios
- Post coming through the letter box
- Loud voices
- Children running

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CAT TO A RESIDENT CAT

DON'T RUSH THE PROCESS! THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Introducing the cats to each other too quickly could cause a lasting bad first impression that may never be overcome. Even if your current cat has lived with another cat in the past, it doesn't mean that everything will be fine – especially if you have recently lost one of a very close pair of cats.

During the initial settling-in period, give the new cat anything that the resident cat has slept or laid on, and vice versa. This will make sure that each cat is getting used to the other's scent.

Your resident cat may lurk outside the room where the new cat is staying and sniff under the door; natural curiosity! After a day or so, when the new cat has settled, try wedging the door open an inch so they can glimpse each other. If that seems to go well, then you can move on to the next step.

Once settled (could take a few days), allow your new cat time out of the room so that they can familiarise themselves with their new surroundings. Ensure that your old cat cannot meet them during this time.

You should open the door to the new cat's room whilst you are with your existing cat in another room, or some distance away. Watch the cats to see how they interact and if all is calm, reward them with a tasty treat. Do not raise your voice if hissing happens, it's natural behaviour. As time goes on, each cat will begin to adjust to the other. Any forcing or rushing on your part will only make the situation more stressful and the settling in process will be prolonged. Some cats become the best of friends, and others will learn to tolerate each other.

TAKE ALL INTRODUCTIONS SLOWLY!



NEUTERING

Romney House supports the neutering of all cats. If you give a home to one of our cats it will always be neutered, and it is part of our Homing Agreement that kittens may only go to people who undertake to neuter at the correct age.

WHAT IS NEUTERING?

Neutering is a surgical procedure which prevents female cats becoming pregnant, and male cats making females pregnant.

- A female cat is spayed. Her ovaries and uterus are removed.
- A male cat is castrated. His testes are removed.

Cats may normally be neutered from four months of age.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOUR CAT NEUTERED?

Neutering has many health benefits, as well as helping to reduce the number of unwanted cats.

Neutered male cats are:

- Less likely to roam, reducing the risk of them being run over
- Less likely to fight, reducing the risk of them getting injured
- Less likely to contract serious diseases such as feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) or feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) through fighting
- Less likely to display territorial behaviour such as spraying
- Unable to develop tumours of the testicles

Neutered female cats are:

- Unable to get pregnant and have unwanted litters of kittens
- Not going to call or wail, as un-neutered queens do when in season
- Less likely to contract diseases such as FIV and FeLV spread by bites
- Unable to develop cancer of the ovaries or uterus
- Less likely to develop mammary cancer – especially if neutered under the age of six months

NEUTERING FACTS

- There are around 2.5 million stray cats living in the UK
- If cats are left to breed, one adult pair can give rise to over 80,000 cats in ten years!
- Cats can become sexually active from just four months old
- It is NOT beneficial for a cat to have 'just one litter' before being spayed
- Gestation in cats (the length of pregnancy) is only nine weeks, and a female cat can come into season again just six weeks after giving birth
- Pregnancy and motherhood are physically very demanding for a cat – repeated pregnancies take their toll
- Cats will breed with their brothers and sisters
- A cat can have up to three litters a year with five or six kittens in each litter which adds up to 18 caring homes for Romney House to find each year, just for one cat's kittens!





TRANSITION FROM INDOORS TO OUTDOORS

Once your confident, relaxed cat has settled in and bonded with you, it is time to introduce them to the great outdoors. This can be quite scary if they have always lived indoors but the benefits of an active and stimulating environment will give them an optimum quality of life. You must make this experience as pleasurable as possible and you must not force your cat out if they are not ready to go. Some cats prefer to stay indoors but it is still important to give them the option of going outside if they wish to do so. The longer you keep your cat inside the more likely they will be to have settled and see your home as their new territory and be less likely to run off. However, the reality is that cats like to roam and there is no perfect way of avoiding your cat from running off but by following these guidelines you can reduce the chances of them getting lost.



Remember: never force your cat to go outside or deny them access to the safety of their home for any reason.

- Ideally you should wait at least four weeks before letting your cat out for the first time so that they have had time to bond with you and settle into their new home. This is only a guide; some cats may need more or less time to settle in.
- You can teach your cat a recall so that they come back to you when called. Most cats learn to come back when they hear you rustling their food bag or opening the cupboard where the tins are kept. To teach your cat a recall simply say a particular word or make a particular sound each time you feed your cat. They will soon learn that the word or sound means food and come running up to you. This can be handy once you let them out.
- Every cat is different. Some will bolt out the door as soon as you open it and others may take a while to get used to the outdoors. It is important that you choose the timing of your cat's first outing. Ideally you should pick a day when you haven't got any plans to go out so that you don't need to worry about rushing your cat back inside before you leave. It is advisable to let your cat out before you have fed them so that you can tempt them back inside with food if necessary or use food to reward for being brave. The choice to go outside must be theirs.
- You could start by going out in the garden, leaving the door open, sitting by the doorway and seeing if they follow you. If they do follow you and look confident, gradually increase the distance and encourage them to walk with you. Your presence will make them feel safe. You may reward them with a treat and tell them how brave they are.
- You must be sure that they feel comfortable to go out, as the idea of the whole process is to build up positive connotations with being outdoors, so playing outside can be another good way of creating good associations, encouraging exploration and relaxing your cat.
- Practise calling them back when out in the garden and reward them with some food in their food bowl and then let them out again.
- If your cat is nervous, scared or shy you will need to introduce them to the outdoors more slowly. You can do this by starting to feed by the doorway and gradually increase the distance until they feel

comfortable to eat in the garden. Food is certainly a good tool to use but if your cat is particularly nervous, they might not feel safe to eat outside in the open air, even if you are sitting close to them. They might still feel wary, for example, of neighbourhood or stray cats prowling in the garden next door, as they might see them as a threat to their food. If this happens you will need to find out what else your cat really enjoys, and practise these activities in the garden. For example, if they like to be petted, you could start by stroking and grooming by the doorway and gradually increasing the distance until they feel comfortable to be petted in the garden. You can follow the same guidelines if your cat likes sitting on your lap, playing with toys on string, chasing little balls, sniffing catnip or any other activity that takes their fancy.

You must remember that a nervous, scared or shy cat will take longer to feel comfortable in an outdoor environment whether it's a garden, a roof terrace or a balcony.

It is therefore important to allow them all the time they will need to become confident and enjoy the outdoor life.

CAT FLAPS

Most cats will instinctively learn how to use a cat flap, and some of them will have learnt by the time they leave Romney House, but some may need help.

- Start by propping the cat flap open and allowing daylight to shine through it. You can then tempt your cat to come through the cat flap using food and treats. Your cat may learn best when they are particularly hungry, around meal times for example.
- After your cat has begun to use the cat flap effectively when it is left propped open, you can gradually begin to reduce how far open you leave it over a series of days. Your cat should learn that they could still go through the flap if they push it gently. If they do not seem to understand, then go a few steps back and leave it open again.
- If you have other cats, your new cat might feel intimidated to use the cat flap because of the strong scent markings on it. Therefore you will have to allow them a bit more time to scent mark it with their own scent to make it more familiar. You can aid this by gently rubbing a tissue around the side of their face and then rubbing the tissue around the cat flap; this will help transfer their scent over to the cat flap.

Remember: to be patient and reward your cat for every attempt they make to open the cat flap and eventually they should learn to push the flap open when it is completely closed.



Our advice on Cat foods

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT: this is as true for kittens and cats as it is for humans!

WE RECOMMEND - the best quality food with the highest meat or fish content that you can afford.

RECOMMENDED WET & DRY FOODS

WET FOOD:

- Almo Nature
- Applaws. • Encore
- Gourmet. • Hi Life
- Nature's Menu
- Rosies Farm
- Royal Canin
- Sheba. • Thrive
- Whiskas good as it looks

HIGHER END DRY FOOD:

- Purizon
- Acana
- Science plan

STANDARD DRY FOOD:

- James Wellbeloved
- Royal Canin
- IAMS
- Meowing Heads
- Purina One
- Arden Grange
- Burns
- Burgess
- Eukanuba
- Thrive

Please check meat content of dry foods

We do **NOT** recommend the following DRY foods:

- Whiskas. • Go Cat. • Any supermarket own brand as these have either very little or no nutrients in them.

KITTEN FEEDING GUIDE

2 – 3 months: 4 meals a day

3 – 6 months: 3 meals a day

+6 months: 2 meals a day

FRESH WATER AND DRY FOOD SHOULD ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE





HOMING A KITTEN

WELCOMING YOUR NEW ARRIVAL INTO YOUR HOME CAN BE VERY EXCITING!

It can also be a frantic time for you and your family as you expectantly await your new kitten. There are beds, bowls, litter tray and food to buy, and perhaps a new name to decide on. Read on to find out what preparations to make, what you'll need and how to make your kitten's arrival stress free. Careful planning and preparation will make for a calm and relaxed kitten come move-in day, as well as the template for life together.

SETTLING IN

When you visit kittens at the centre, they will often seem relaxed and settled as they have had time to get to know our staff and volunteers and feel safe and secure in familiar surroundings. Kittens will be used to having their mother and siblings around, so the first few days may be quite unnerving for them.

Try to bring your new kitten home when there's going to be someone there for a few days. It's important for your new kitten to arrive to a calm house and not to be pulled around.

Your home will seem like a very big scary place and depending on the kitten's nature they may want to explore every corner of their new home or may hide away and sleep. Don't forget it's a new environment for them and they will feel quite scared, so wait until they come to you then talk and stroke them gently. Don't be alarmed if they run and hide; just let your kitten discover their new space for themselves.

Sit quietly in the room but try to engage yourself in another activity, like reading a book. Offer a little food, but don't worry if they are not interested.

Kittens need lots of sleep so you may find they just flop out and snooze. Try not to disturb them! Leave the room quietly and return when they're awake.

It's best to avoid introducing your kitten to lots of people on its first day home, but if your children just can't resist a peek, encourage them to sit quietly and wait for kitten to come to them. The more your kitten associates people with pleasant sensations, the more responsive they will be in the future.

MAKE HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE IN A NEW HOME A GOOD ONE

ONE ROOM START

We advise allowing your new kitten to become comfortable and secure in one room, before letting them have the run of the whole house. This should be a small room. If a kitten has access to a much larger area they may suffer intestinal disturbance as this will be the first time they have been able to run around to such an extent. Also, if they are bouncing around on the bed and suddenly realise they need the toilet, they may be confused and think the duvet is a suitable surface on which to urinate! Every time they feel the same change in surface they will think 'toilet'.

The room you choose should allow your kitten to run around and explore, although they should still be able to stand in one place and see everything they need. It's all about consolidating space so they don't feel intimidated, but also making sure all their resources are in different places.



Remember Silvana is available any time to give you advice, so please contact her on 07958 273 118 if you are worried or concerned about your new kitten.

Kittens should have constant exposure to things and as much variety as possible, so try to get them used to lots of different textures. The sensation of a cold floor and a warm rug will stimulate the kitten and encourage them to explore.

Make sure the room provides a stimulating environment and is somewhere the family spends a lot of time. You can move the kitten to another room after a couple of weeks, but it should always contain a litter tray, water bowl, cardboard boxes for hiding and playtime, some toys and a scratching post.

TIDY UP

Start your preparation by putting away anything that could cause harm or be swallowed. Tidy cables, and cover them with conduit. Kittens are inquisitive and will be into everything, so block up any tempting gaps. A fireguard will keep them from venturing up the chimney. Clear away fragile ornaments.

BE SAFE

Keep windows free from venetian blinds or net curtains that a kitten could get caught up in. Certain cut flowers and houseplants can be poisonous to cats, particularly lilies. Keep potentially harmful cleaning fluids out of the kitten's reach. Keep windows shut to stop your kitten escaping outside before they are ready. Take care using outside doors. Kittens can run quickly and they could easily escape.

EQUIPMENT YOU WILL NEED

CAT BED

Cats sleep for about two-thirds of their lives, so it's vital that they feel comfortable and safe. Make sure the bed is warm and cosy. Many cats like to retreat to an Igloo-style covered bed with a soft blanket for snuggling into. A cardboard box, to sleep or play in, is also a very good thing to have around.

LITTER TRAY

While they are small a standard plastic litter tray will suffice, though a larger one will stop them from kicking litter out. Some have lids for privacy, and will keep the mess in to the litter tray. We advise that you start with a smaller litter tray, and then move to a bigger one. The litter tray should be positioned where your kitten will always have access to it at all times, but still be where it is private. It should also be away from food and water bowls.

LITTER

You should stock up on cat litter. A good one should absorb liquid, mask smells and be fine enough to be raked by a small kitten. Encourage your kitten to maintain litter tray training by using the same or very similar litter that we do, as many kittens will not adapt to a different litter instantly. If you want to change litter, mix the new with the old, gradually replacing the amount of old litter with the new type. The better quality litter you use the less bad smells and mess to clean up you will have. We use Catsan.

NB: Your kitten may have some diarrhoea with a little blood in it caused by stress.

BOWLS

Plastic, stainless steel or ceramic bowls are best as they are easy to wash and fairly heavy, so your kitten won't have to chase them around when they feed. Shallow sides are best for kittens and there should be one for wet food, one for water and one for dry food. Two kittens can share one water and dry food bowl but need separate bowls for wet food. Be careful though when cleaning your cats' bowls as some washing liquids are toxic, so check first.

PET CARRIER.

You will need a secure cat carrier to bring your kitten home safely, and to transport him to the vet. It may well be easier to place your new kitten into one with a top opening as opposed to a front one.

SCRATCHING POST

If you want to protect your furniture and carpet from kitten claws, invest in a good quality scratching post. Make sure the scratching post or activity centre is sturdy, so kittens can't easily knock them over. Make sure the scratch pole is tall enough to allow them to stretch up. Scratching is vital to keep claws clean, healthy and short.

TOYS

Your kitten should never be bored. Make toys varied and interesting. Kittens enjoy playing with a variety of different textures. Dangly toys will stimulate the natural hunting instinct. A cardboard box with holes cut in it will provide hours of fun. Paper carriers (handles MUST be removed) will provide hours of entertainment. Try to have playtime at least twice a day so your kitten can burn off some energy. **Play helps a kitten develop mentally and physically.**





FEEDING

Your kitten will grow very quickly, so it's vital that their food intake meets their nutritional needs. Too much of the wrong type of food could lead to long term problems.

We do NOT recommend Whiskas, Go Cat dry food and supermarket own brands as they contain very little nutrients and they can cause health issues.

Moving to a new home is bound to be unsettling for your new kitten, but keeping them on the same diet should help to avoid an upset tummy.

We feed our kittens aged eight to 12 weeks with four meals a day. Between three and six months your kitten's meal times can be reduced to three times a day, and twice daily from six months.

We always leave dry food out for our kittens to graze. Kittens and adult cats require a high quality food that contains the amount of protein, vitamins and minerals needed. A specific kitten food will meet their needs. Food needs to be energy dense, with a lot of calories packed in to a small volume of food, as a young kitten has such a tiny tummy.

Cooked white fish is useful if your kitten has an upset stomach, as is boiled chicken. Weaned kittens become increasingly lactose intolerant and giving milk can lead to diarrhoea. Milk is NOT essential to a kitten's diet, but specially formulated cat milk makes an occasional treat. Fresh water should always be available.

WET FOOD: We feed our kittens with: Hi Life, Almo Nature, Applaws and Royal Canin which contains 70% meat or over.

DRY FOOD: We start our kittens off with Royal Canin James Wellbeloved and Science Plan. Please check the meat content of dried food: the higher the meat content, the better the quality. **And remember... you are what you eat.**

Please initial here that you have read the FEEDING information above:

GROOMING

Grooming, or brushing your kitten's coat will help to keep it looking glossy, removing excess hair which could cause hairballs. The earlier you accustom your kitten to regular grooming, the easier he will be to handle later in life. The grooming process should be a pleasure, not a chore. As a general rule, shorthair cats require a thorough grooming once a week, semi-longhairs once or perhaps twice a week and longhairs every day. Without this, longhairs will develop knots and matts which can tug on the skin as the cat moves and be very painful.



Remember when choosing toys for your kitten, cats eyes identify movement and pattern rather than colour

NEUTERING

PLEASE DO NOT LET YOUR KITTEN OUT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN NEUTERED!

Un-neutered cats are also more likely to wander off in search of a mate. They can easily get lost, hit by a car or end up in a fight with another cat, which could put them at risk of catching FIV. Also foxes will take kittens.

Some people believe that a cat should be allowed to have one litter before being neutered. This is a myth! There is no medical reason for this, and pregnancy actually carries a number of health risks.

VETS AND INSURANCE

We always recommend you find a vet who understands animal welfare. Always follow your friends' or colleagues' recommendations if you can.

They may have 'nine lives' but cats can have accidents so taking out pet insurance is a very sensible idea.



Please read other settling tips on our website:
www.romneyhousecatrescue.org.uk

Silvana is available any time to give you advice, so please text her on 07958 273 118 if you have any worries or concerns about your new kitten or email silvana@romneyhousecatrescue.org.uk

Good luck, and enjoy your new kitten. Cats bring so much love and joy - this is unconditional!

KITTEN HOMING CHECKLIST

- ☐ Kittens are very cute and incredibly appealing – but they also need a lot of work to help them grow up into happy and loving adult companions.
- ☐ Healthy kittens need their vaccinations and flea treatments by 12 weeks old to grow into healthy adults. Neutering is also essential! Keep them in at least until this has been done (at approx. 5 months old).
- ☐ Keep the kitten in one room to help with litter training. Place a couple of litter trays around the room and surround them with newspaper.
- ☐ Praise the kitten for using the tray and don't tell them off if they have accidents.
- ☐ Let the kitten know where the litter tray is by placing them in the litter tray several times a day, especially after a meal or long sleep. Using your fingers to dig in the litter will encourage their burying instinct.
- ☐ Begin short handling and grooming sessions straight away. Be calm and gentle and reward them with treats during the session.
- ☐ Let your kitten socialise with other people, kittens and cats on a regular basis.
- ☐ Try not to let your kitten play with your fingers and feet, as this will cause you problems when they grow up. Instead, encourage the chase, stealth and pounce behaviour with bits of string. A ping pong ball is also no end of fun.

Thank You and Good Luck!

ROMNEY HOUSE Cat Hotel



**5-STAR HEATED
CAT BOARDING AND
HOME VISITING
SERVICES**

All our guests will
be cared for by people
who really understand cats.

**ALL PROCEEDS HELP
TO FUND CAT RESCUE**

CALL 01959 572319 or 07958 273118
www.romneyhousecatrescue.org.uk

CHECK OUR AMAZON WISHLIST PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!

You can help support the cats at Romney House by buying
the carefully selected items from our Amazon Wishlist or contacting
Silvana at **silvana@romneyhousecatrescue.org.uk** or **07958 273 118**
for a list of items The Centre cats need most at the moment.

CAREFULLY COPY THE LINK BELOW TO GO TO THE RIGHT AMAZON WISHLIST PAGE

<https://amzn.to/2QafyEv>



Scan this QR code on your mobile device to go to
our ENTHUSE donations page.

All donations, no matter how big or small, will
make a huge difference to the lives of the cats and
kittens in our care.



**Thank
You!**



SHOP : 01689 830469
CENTRE : 01959 572319
REHOMING : 07958 273118

Registered charity No. 1122119

HOW YOU CAN HELP US LOOK AFTER THE CATS WE CARE FOR...

DIRECT DONATIONS

All donations, no matter how big or small, will **make a huge difference** to the lives of the cats and kittens in our care. **Simply click on the DONATE BUTTON on our website.** Or you can use our **COVID APPEAL PAGE** on the 'Enthuse' website <https://bit.ly/2lrF5WM>

Join our **100 Club** monthly raffle. Email **Sharon** for more details on ssfelinefine@googlemail.com.

VISIT US OR DONATE ITEMS TO OUR SHOP IN PETTS WOOD

Please donate good quality adult clothes and shoes, handbags, books, DVD's, CD's, bric-a-brac, furnishings, household goods, small electrical items and small furniture items. Unused gift bags and new gift sets are always welcome. **100% of the money from shop sales goes directly to support the centre and the cats in our care.** PLEASE, DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS OUTSIDE THE SHOP WHEN WE ARE CLOSED.



USEFUL INFORMATION

www.romneyhousecatrescue.org.uk

SPONSOR AN INDIVIDUAL CAT WITH REGULAR DONATIONS

Help to look after our **difficult to re-home resident cats**. See our website or ask at the centre or shop for a **Sponsorship Pack**.

If you prefer **DONATE BY CHEQUE**. Send a cheque payable to 'Romney House Cat Rescue' at Romney House, Luxted Road, Downe, BR6 7JX.

DONATE WHILE YOU SHOP ONLINE

If you use **Amazon**, please support us through **AmazonSmile** (see below) or buy items on our **Amazon Wish List** at <https://amzn.to/2QafyEv>

You can also sign up for the local **Pets At Home VIP Scheme** on their website. Select the Orpington store and choose us as your chosen charity. You will get money off vouchers too!

Finally, sign up to **Easy Fundraising** at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and choose us as your charity.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

We're always keen to hear from people interested in volunteering at the centre or the shop. **You could help us :**

- Look after and socialise the cats
- Keep the garden clean and tidy
- Clean or repair the cat houses
- Help in the shop

SUPPORT US ON SOCIAL as it is so important to spread the word about our work. Follow us and join the conversation!

 @romneycatrescue

 @romneyhousecatrescue

 @romneyhousecats

HOME VISITS

Going away? **We can look after your cats in your own home.** They will be happier and less stressed. From only £12 per visit within a five-mile radius of the shop or the centre, it's cheaper than boarding too. Contact **Sharon** on ssfelinefine@googlemail.com to arrange all your home visits.

If you shop on Amazon we would really appreciate it if you could use AmazonSmile and choose Romney House as your chosen charity from now on. It is an easy, simple way for you to support us every time you shop at no extra cost to yourself.

Get started by going to
smile.amazon.co.uk





OTHER WAYS TO HELP US RAISE FUNDS

Daniel and Tony Locke
(Silvana's sons)
have recently opened
AirJump Trampoline Park
based in **Orpington**
and
Ciao Pizza Restaurant
based in **Hayes, Bromley.**

They have worked hard
to transform these 'first-rate'
businesses into great
experiences whilst bringing
something to the whole
community in which they are
based that everybody
can enjoy.

Both business ventures
support their mum's work
at Romney House Cat Rescue,
so whenever someone who
supports us identifies
themselves to the team at
either venue they will
donate funds to us!.

Thank You!



For our latest
reviews, menus,
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