

*Full of advice
for caring for
your pet*

Your guide to **Cats**



*Jollyes, only the
best for you and your pets*



www.jollyes.co.uk

Are you ready?



Committing to a cat is exciting but also a huge responsibility. The life span of a cat can range from 14 to 20 years, although the oldest known cat lived to the ripe old age of 36.

Owning a cat can be a very rewarding experience. With their unique and independent personality, a cat really will make a fantastic pet and will soon become an important member of the family and a lifelong friend. However,

it is important to remember all the responsibilities that come with owning a cat and the amount of care they will require throughout their life.

All cats like to have their own space

Once you are certain that you and your family can provide a loving, long lasting home for your cat, you must consider the following.

Are you really ready for a Cat?

Is your home suitable for a Cat? You must ensure that your house will be able to provide your cat with plenty of space to move about combined with secure play areas.

Can you afford a cat? The cost of keeping a cat will soon add up. Consider the cost of food each month, toys, accessories and bedding as well as vet and cattery fees.

Do you have the time to spend with your cat? If you are continually out of the house for long periods of time everyday then your cat may become lonely and mischievous. Remember that your cat will need attention, so if you don't have the time, don't commit to owning a cat.



Selecting your Cat

Pedigree - Around 90% of cats in the UK are known as mixed breed cats. There are over 60 different recognised breeds and colours of pedigree domestic cats, which fall into seven categories: Persians, British, Semi-longhair, Burmese, Oriental, Siamese and Foreign. The advantage of buying a pedigree is that you will be aware of their temperament, personality traits and size.

Cross breeds or mixed Breeds? Cross breeds have pedigree parents of different breeds. Mixed breeds account for around 90% of the cats in the UK. They do not come from a pedigree background and they are mostly categorised as domestic shorthairs or domestic longhairs. Mixed breeds are usually healthier than pedigrees as they tend to inherit less genetic problems, but you will not be aware of their characteristics such as size and temperament.

Male or Female? Un-neutered males can be prone to wandering and fighting. Un-neutered females can become pregnant from a very early age and become vocal and difficult to keep indoors when they come into season.

Cat & Dog - In the right conditions, cats and dogs can get along well. It is down to the owner to introduce the two sensibly and ensure that no favouritism is shown.

Indoor or outdoors? Consider the type of house you have and whether you have a garden or live near a main road. You should also consider the risk of boredom. If you keep an indoor cat, do ensure that you can provide them with enough space and things to occupy them. Many people allow their cats out at night only or construct a playpen where they can roam in the garden.



Spray or neuter? From as young as 6 months, sterilisation helps reduce problems such as messing inside the house and unwanted pregnancies. It does not change your cats temperament or result in weight gain if healthy diets and exercise are adhered to.

**Remember
adult cats need
to play too**

Pet Insurance? Insurance is important and can end up saving you hundreds of pounds.

Vaccinations? Vaccinate from 8-9 weeks and then again at 12 weeks, depending on the vaccinations used and then throughout regular intervals of their life.

The most common diseases that cats are vaccinated against are Feline Infectious Enteritis, Cat Flu, Feline Chlamydia and Feline Leukaemia.



Diet

What should I feed my Cat? Your cat should be fed a complete cat food to provide all the nutrients that it needs. Jollyes will be more than happy to advise you on appropriate food for your cat.

How often should I feed my cat? Feed your cat twice a day. Remember that fresh drinking water should be available for your cat at all times.

Health

Fleas - If your cat has fleas it will scratch and bite itself and may also have a skin reaction. Jollyes provides effective flea control for cats, so just ask a member of staff for advice. We will be happy to help.



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Worms - Roundworms will cause your cat to have symptoms such as a swollen belly, vomiting and diarrhoea. Jollyes provides effective worming treatments for cats. Please ask a member of staff for more details.

Cats are clean and easy to own

Your cats nose - Your cats' nose can be a good indicator of their state of health. Their nose should be cool and moist. If the nose is encrusted or is sneezing a lot then they may have cat flu - in which case, contact your local vet immediately.

Signs of illness - These may include vomiting, lack of appetite, excessive thirst, depression, constipation, abnormal urination, hair loss, skin problems, sneezing, coughing, diarrhea, eye discharge and ear discharge.

Microchipping - This will increase the chance of your beloved cat being reunited with you if lost.

Cleanliness & Grooming

Cleanliness - Clean your cat's litter daily and the tray weekly.

Grooming - Your cat's tongue is like a mini-brush, which removes dead hair and cleans the coat. However, it is important to brush your cat to reduce fur balls. The frequency of this will depend on the coat length of your cat.

General checks - Check your cat's ears, eyes, nose and nails on a weekly basis. Whilst grooming your cat, check for any scratches, lumps, irritations or fleas on their skin.

Bathing - It is advisable to bathe your cat approximately once a month. For further information, check your breed's requirement.



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Shopping Checklist

We recommend the following items for your new cat.

Cat Checklist

- Bed/basket
- Food and water bowls
- Suitable cat food
- Grooming brush, comb and nail clippers
- Worm treatments
- Flea sprays or powders
- Toys and treats
- Cat scratching post
- Litter tray and litter
- Toilet training aids and petsafe disinfectants
- Collar, identification tag / disc
- Cat Carrier
- Cat harness and lead
- Catflap
- Cat care book

It is now time to enjoy your cat and watch him grow into an important member of the family.

For further information contact:

Jollyes Petfood Superstores
1 Lea Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1AS

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