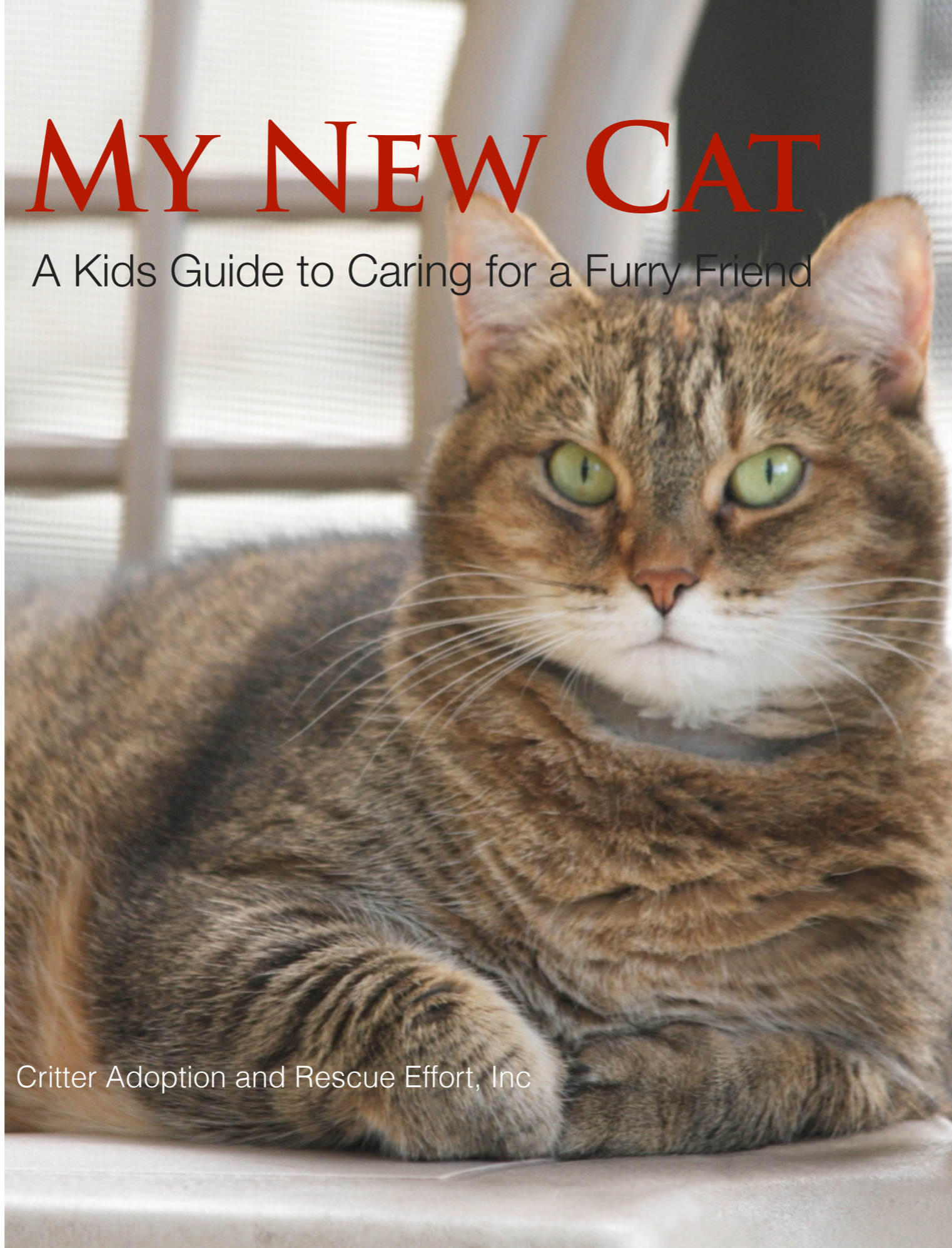


MY NEW CAT

A Kids Guide to Caring for a Furry Friend

Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort, Inc





SO YOU HAVE A NEW CAT!

You must be very excited to have a new, special member of your family! You have adopted a homeless kitty who has been waiting for a forever home.

We are sure that they are excited to have you too!

YOUR FIRST DAYS TOGETHER

We are here to help you learn how to care for your new friend and companion. We wrote this book to explain some of the basics of how to help your new kitty adjust to their new home. We will tell you about sleeping, eating, playing and your cat's overall well-being. We will also show you photos of some of our other rescued cats and our volunteers. So take a few minutes to read this book, and then you can share what you've learned with your friends and family.

Remember, when you first bring your new friend home, they may not act the way they will once they get used to you and their forever home. So it is important for you to be very patient.

Sometimes it can take a few days, or even a few weeks, for your kitty to get used to all the people, sounds, sights and smells in his new surroundings.

In the shelter, every cat has special friends to care for them, so their new home will be strange at first. They also had favorite places to sleep and play, so they will need time to find new favorite places.





It's best to leave your new kitty in your room, or in a bathroom, for a few days with his food, toys and litter box. With the door closed, he'll feel safer. Keep the food and litter box as far away from each other as possible.

Be careful not to leave your front or back door open, because your kitty may be scared in their new home and try to run away.

Be gentle with your kitty. He may not want to be held and cuddled right away.

You are a stranger and your kitty needs to learn to feel safe with you and with the other people in their new home.

SLEEP, PLAY, LOVE

There are ways to tell how your kitty is feeling. If he swishes his tail back and forth fast, he may be saying that he needs to be left alone for awhile. If his tail is straight up, he's feeling friendly. If his tail is up and the end is bent over a bit, he's curious. When his tail is tucked between his legs, though, he's probably frightened or feeling insecure. He may let you know he wants to cuddle by jumping on your lap. Cats are not all the same. Every cat has a different personality. Which personality do you think your cat has? You can choose more than one.

- Shy
- Talkative
- Playful
- Loving
- Always needs attention
- Likes to be alone



Here's a question for you. How many hours do you think cats need to sleep?

Cats will sleep as many as 20 hours a day! That's a lot of snooze time. Some cats like to sleep up high on a cat tree or even on the refrigerator. Some cats will prefer a cat bed on the floor, on your bed, the couch, and may even want to sleep on your lap. Your cat will show you their favorite places to sleep.

If your kitty is asleep it's best to let them rest, and later they'll have energy for play.

How often do you think cats should play? Cats need exercise and play every day. They are natural hunters and need to practice running and chasing.

They love to chase the red dot from a laser pointer, but never point it at their eyes. Cats also like straws, catnip



A Kitten at Play



toy mice, feather wands and just about any other catnip toy. Cats love boxes especially. They can climb into any size box and nap or just play. Plain old boxes are the most fun for hiding.

Your new kitty can learn good behaviors from you. They need to keep their claws in shape, but you don't want them to do that on your parents' furniture. So have a scratching post or scratching pad available for them. Even a scratching pad in every room is not too much. You can buy them at the pet store.



Your vet can trim their nails when they go for their checkup, or your parents can help you do it at home.

Some kitties love to climb! So a cat tree is always a fun piece of furniture. Cats can climb it, rest on it, and since most cat furniture



includes a scratching post, they can even groom their nails on it. If your new kitty seems to ignore their cat tree or scratching post, you can sprinkle or rub on some catnip.

Most cats love catnip!



Cassie and Phoenix



KEEPING YOUR KITTY CLEAN & NOURISHED

Cats are very clean pets. You won't need to give them a bath because they bathe themselves. How much time do you think they spend giving themselves tongue baths every day? Probably more time than you can imagine. Many cats may not like water baths, but they sure like to be clean.

When you see them lick their fur, they are taking a kitty bath. If you have more than one kitty, they will give each other head and face washes.

Because cats love to be clean, they need their bathroom to be clean too! Scooping out the litter every day is the

best cleaning, and something your new pet will appreciate. Your parents might have you help clean their litter box. Don't let it get dirty because it can smell, and your cats might not want to use it. Also, some cats don't like covers on their litter box. Always be sure to wash your hands after scooping out litter. It's a good habit. Just like when you wash your hands after using your bathroom.



Cats need clean water every day!

When they eat they might get food on their whiskers and when they drink, with their whiskers in the water, their water might get dirty. Yuck!

During hot weather cats will need a lot of water so check their bowl often.

We had a cat at the shelter, Pixie, who drank water from her paw. She dipped her paw in the water dish and then licked the water off her paw!

Cats need the moisture in canned cat food too! When you feed your kitty good food, they will feel good and stay healthy too. Ask your parents to buy the best quality food they can afford, because good food means a happy, healthy cat.



When you are sad, your cat knows. When you are worried, your cat can feel worried too. When you are happy, and playing with your cat, they will be happy.

Be gentle and loving with your cat. He will rely on you to take good care of him. When you gave your kitty a new home, it was forever. Your new friend will rely on you for as long as they need a home.

Your cat will always love you, because all pets are family.

It's a big responsibility caring for a pet, isn't it?

SAFETY

Your cat will be happiest and safest inside in his forever home. There are many dangers your cat may face if let outside.

- 🐾 They can get injured or lost.
- 🐾 They may get into a fight with another animal, cat or dog.
- 🐾 They can pick up diseases.
- 🐾 They may get hit by a car.

Staying indoors or inside a screened porch is the best way to protect your best friend.

Does your new furry friend have a microchip? Most shelters will put a small chip, about the size of a grain of rice, beneath their furry coat. It doesn't hurt the kitty, but it can help a lost kitty get returned to their forever human. If you find a lost cat, take it to the vet and they can find out who the owner is by scanning for the microchip.



KEEPING KITTY HEALTHY

We know that you want your kitty to stay healthy, so how often do you think kitties should be checked by their doctor?

A kitty doctor is called a veterinarian, or a vet. Your cat should visit a vet at least once a year, but every six months is even better. The vet will check them over to make sure they are healthy. Pets won't often let you know if they are not feeling well, but the vet will be able to tell.

If they start to hide it may be a sign they are sick or hurting. If your cat doesn't eat, or drink clean water, or give themselves a bath, then they should visit their vet right away.

Every pet should have a vet. If you adopted your furry friend from a shelter, then they should be up to date on their vaccinations. All good shelters will make sure that your girl cat has been spayed or your boy cat neutered before you bring them home. This is an operation to prevent unwanted kittens, that may also



become homeless. Your vet can let you know if your cat has had the operation, and if they haven't, then good pet families should have their vet protect the cat from the stresses of future parenthood. It's a safe and common operation, and your pet will be happier. Your vet will also be able to tell you when their shots are due, which will protect them from some very serious diseases. The best place to get medication to help prevent fleas on your cat is the vet's office, because they know which kinds are safest. Flea bites can cause infections and skin conditions, including lots of itchiness!

Fleas can get on your cat even if they never go outside. Fleas can get on your clothes or shoes and be brought inside your home. Fleas can be hard to get rid of, but a monthly dose of medicine will keep your cat flea free. If you keep your room clean, and the floors vacuumed weekly, that will help catch the fleas too.

Your special friend will be with you for many years. So caring for them properly is good for both of you. You can also help your cat stay safe by keeping small items off the floor and





anywhere else your kitty may play. Kittens, especially, may think it's a treat and try to eat it. It could make them choke, or get sick.

There are some house plants that can make cats sick. Lilies are one type of flower that aren't good to have around kittens or cats.

You can search on the internet for lists of cat safe plants. If your cats nibbles at plants, you can go to a pet store and buy, then grow, several types of grass that will be good for them.

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IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Keep all of this information in a safe place. Write down the answers on paper and stick it on the refrigerator. That way, anyone who cares for your pet will have the important information needed in an emergency.

The phone number for an emergency veterinarian for night and weekend emergencies

Your pet's name or names

Your full address

Your parents phone numbers

Your pet's microchip number

Your veterinarian name and phone number

A list of any medications that your pet takes



PHOTOGRAPHS

Cats come in all colors, shapes and sizes. Even the smallest kitten can grow into a big cat. Some cats have long fur and some have short fur. Some have blue eyes, or green eyes, or golden eyes.

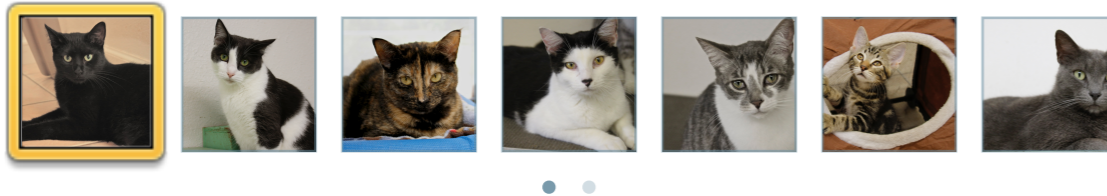
Every cat is beautiful, so we want to share photographs of some of our rescued cats and kittens. We hope that you enjoy them!

Are you interested in knowing more about cats?

There are some great resources on the internet, and you can find out just about anything you want to know. You can find Facebook Pages that have information on cats. There are books online, at the library and in the store to read.



Ebony





Also, the vet would be happy to answer any questions you may have when you take your kitty in for their regular visit and health check up.

We hope that you have enjoyed this book, and that you and your new furry friend have many happy years together.



The kitties at C.A.R.E. thank all of the volunteers
for helping them live healthy, happy lives
while waiting for their forever family.

A special thank you to our writers, reviewers, photographers and editors:

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C.A.R.E.

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C.A.R.E. is a no-kill animal shelter for neglected, abused and unwanted cats and dogs with a mission to reduce the number of homeless and abandoned animals through adoption, sterilization and education.

C.A.R.E. is a 501(c)(3) organization (59-3678003) registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Registration No. CH-14526.

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