

Hiding Places

All cats need private, safe and quiet places to retreat to, this helps them feel secure and happy. Cats love hiding in places like cardboard boxes, shelves, cupboards, wardrobes, or underneath beds. Offer some elevated spots to encourage jumping and climbing to help keep your cat active and healthy.

Places to scratch

Cats like to scratch, it marks their territory which makes them feel at home and helps keep claws healthy. Provide a variety of horizontal and vertical scratching posts in different locations with different surfaces.

Desexing

Desexing prevents unwanted litters and reduces your cat's urge to roam, fight and spray urine.

Toilet areas

Place litter trays in a quiet area away from food and water bowls. The trays need to be large enough for your cat to comfortably dig, turn around and squat.

Food and Water

Cats are predominantly carnivores meaning they mostly eat meat. However, they do require a balanced diet including vitamins and minerals. Good quality, commercially available kibble and wet food can be a good choice as they provide a balanced diet. Use treats or food to engage in training and search games. Your cat should also have access to fresh water daily.

Children and cats

Under the guidance of an older family member, children can develop a sense of responsibility while learning to care for their companion. It's important to teach children how to handle cats to ensure the animal feels safe and relaxed. Very young children should be supervised around cats.

Lost & Found

If your cat goes missing contact the City of Darwin Pound on 8947 2099, your local vet clinics, rescue and rehoming groups and social media community pages. You may also wish to do a letterbox drop.

Need more information?

For more information or advice please contact the Pet Care Helpline on 8930 0606 or visit our website www.darwin.nt.gov.au.



Home Is The Purrfect Place For Your Cat!

Providing their basic needs are met, cats enjoy longer and healthier lives when safely contained.



Great pets
start with
YOU



Identification

Within the Darwin municipality, it is a legal requirement to microchip and register your cat. We recommend putting an ID tag with your cat's registration tag on your cat's collar so if a Council Officer or community member collects your cat, it can be quickly returned home. It is also a way for Council Officers or community member to identify whether or not a cat is owned from afar.



Cats are intelligent, affectionate & clean companion animals.

Cats, like all pets, need responsible ownership & care.

Caring for your companion:

Keeping your cat happy, safe and healthy is easy if you follow a few easy steps;

- Cats, like all animals require fresh water & food daily. An animal nutritionist or veterinarian can provide advice on the best diet for your cat.
- Keep your cat contained and provide your cat with enough mental and physical stimulation.
- Provide your cat with somewhere to escape, a safe hiding place that is stress free.
- Keep your cat's litter clean at all times.
- Learn about your cat's behaviour & body languages, and what it is telling you.
- Learn about the specific needs of your breed of cat, for example, they may require grooming often.

Your responsibilities as a cat owner:

- Register your cat.
- Have your cat microchipped.
- Ensure your cat is contained on your property.
- Desex your cat.
- Do not let your cat disrupt your neighbours.
- Report stray cats in your neighbourhood to your local Council.
- Have your cat on a lead or in a suitable container whenever you exit your property.



Home is the Purrfect Place for your cat!

A cat which is provided with sufficient stimulation can live a safe, healthy and happy life inside. Cats that roam the neighbourhood, are likely to get into fights, hunt wildlife, foul neighbours' properties or even be seriously injured or even killed by a car. Outdoor cats have a lower lifespan than cats that are contained to a property.

The below tips will assist in setting up a healthy indoor environment for cats:

Climbing frames

Buy a ready-made cat climbing frame or make your own. Cats generally like to gain height to view scenes, and they tend to feel safer that way.

Build a cat run

Provide a screened area for your cat to experience the outdoors safely via the use of netting. You can also purchase a free-standing enclosure or design your own.

Cat-proof your fence

Be sure to cat-proof your yard by checking that your fence has no escape routes. There are products available which attach to the top of existing fences to prevent escape.