



Guidelines for creating happy indoor cats



Despite popular belief, cats don't need to go outdoors. The guidelines below help them live fulfilled and safe lives indoors.

- Play with and groom your cat to establish loving bonds.
- Cats scratch to loosen old nail layers and mark territory, so provide a scratching post. Entice the cat to use it by rubbing it with catnip and placing it near a window.
- Provide a pot of cat grass or catnip.
- Provide fresh water and quality cat food that meets your cat's needs.
- Brush your cat and have its claws trimmed regularly.
- Brush its teeth with special toothpaste or feed hard, crunchy food to help remove tartar.
- Cats need yearly vaccinations, so check with your veterinarian.
- Consider the companionship of a second cat.
- If you want your cat to go outdoors, consider teaching him/her to walk with a harness and lightweight leash. Another option is to build a cat run or an outdoor cage which will allow your cat to climb and run in a non-threatened area.

Adopting cats from Animal Services



Cats that are impounded can be adopted. Unclaimed cats are available for adoption 10 days from when the owner is notified, or after four days if the owner is unknown.

Our website, www.calgary.ca/animalservices, is updated every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week with photos of cats along with adoption procedures. You may also visit our facility at 2201 Portland St. S.E. to view cats available for adoption.

Adoption fee for a cat includes an examination by a veterinarian, initial vaccinations, FeLuke testing, spay/neuter surgery, a microchip implant, and a six month City of Calgary licence.

Reporting a lost cat



If you lose your cat, Animal Services can help. Begin by having a thorough look around your house and yard and then extend your search out into the neighbourhood.

If you still have not found your pet, call 3-1-1 to file a lost cat report. Visit our website at www.calgary.ca/animalservices to view pictures of the cats in our facility. It can be difficult to recognize a cat from a photo so we strongly suggest you visit our shelter to view the cats. Don't give up. Continue to visit Animal Services and the Humane Society weekly to see if your cat has been surrendered and ensure your lost cat report remains on file.



For more information on cats and the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw go to:

www.calgary.ca/animalservices or call 3-1-1.



Responsible Cat Ownership

www.calgary.ca/animalservices
call 3-1-1





The City of Calgary Animal & Bylaw Services strives to ensure that cats, their owners, and neighbours live in safety and harmony. This goal is achieved by educating citizens regarding responsible cat ownership. Responsible cat owners ensure cats have a City of Calgary licence, permanent identification, are kept indoors, and are spayed or neutered. This brochure provides information on how to be a responsible cat owner.



Cats and the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw



Calgary's municipal bylaw states that all cats must be confined to their owner's property. The owner of the cat must ensure that such cat is not on public property or other's private property. The fine for cats found on public or private property is \$100.

Nuisance cats

The owner of a cat must ensure it does not knock over any garbage cans or scatter garbage anywhere on public or private property.

If a cat is being a nuisance in your yard, and you know where he lives, we suggest considering discussing the situation with the owner.

If this is unsuccessful, or you are not comfortable doing this, you can register a complaint with Animal Services, or reserve a cat trap, by calling 3-1-1. After paying a refundable deposit for the cat trap, you can safely trap the cat and bring it to Animal Services. We make every attempt to contact owners to pick up their cats or to adopt out any unclaimed cats.

Cat licensing



All cats three months of age and older living in the city of Calgary must be licensed. The City of Calgary enforces a zero tolerance policy on all unlicensed pets. The fine for having an unlicensed cat is \$250.

There is a reduced fee for licensing a spayed or neutered cat. However, under the Bylaw, there is a \$500 fine for falsifying information.

All cat owners receive a licence tag for their cat. To be properly licensed, a cat will either be wearing The City of Calgary tag or have a legible tattoo or identifiable microchip. We suggest using a breakaway collar with the licence tag.

The importance of permanent identification



When you apply for your cat licence, you will receive a tag. However, we suggest that your cat also have some form of permanent identification that will ensure your cat can be returned to you if it's lost or picked up and not wearing its tag.

A tattoo, while permanent, can smear or fade with time, and become difficult or even impossible to read.

The preferred method of permanent identification is a microchip, which is inserted under the skin by a veterinarian. Owner information is read by a scanner. Please note: it is important to update your address or other personal information with the microchip company when you move. Information that is out-of-date can make it difficult for us to return your lost cat to you.



The importance of spaying and neutering



Every year, thousands of unwanted cats and kittens are brought to city shelters. Cats that are not spayed or neutered can escape outdoors and contribute to over-population of unwanted animals.

Spaying and neutering your cat is the best way to be sure your cat is not adding to the over-population problem. We suggest that spaying be done before a female cat's first heat cycle. Females as young as five months old can have kittens. These are some of the benefits of spaying and neutering:

- Reduces the incidence of disease, infection and cancer of cats' reproductive systems.
- Female heat cycles are eliminated.
- Male cats no longer spray.
- Cat's crying, howling, and frantic efforts to get out and mate stop.
- Neutered pets are more sociable and affectionate.
- You pay a reduced licence fee.

The importance of keeping cats indoors



Although the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw states that cats must be confined to their owner's property, Animal Services strongly recommends keeping cats indoors because they live longer, healthier and safer lives. The average life span of an indoor cat is 12 to 15 years compared to two to five years for an outdoor cat. The difference is due to dangers cats face outdoors such as traffic, unfriendly animals, poisons, diseases, frostbite, dehydration and abuse from humans.

Keeping cats indoors eliminates annoying cat behaviours (e.g. digging, meowing, mating or spraying) that often cause disputes with neighbours.