

Thinking of buying a Cat or Kitten?

A cat is a commitment for the next 15-20 years

Did you know:

- A cat should have outdoor access and plenty of mental and physical stimulation
- The cost of care, vet bills and pet insurance could total more than £10,000 over a cat's life
- Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 a pet owner has a legal duty to ensure the welfare of his animal(s). A pet's welfare needs include:
 - A proper diet
 - Somewhere suitable to live
 - Any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
 - Allowing animals to express normal behaviour
 - Protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease
- If you live in Wales, please refer to the Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Cats by visiting:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalwelfare/pets/codesofpractice/?lang=en>

If you decide to buy a cat or kitten we would always recommend the following:

- Please consider contacting your local animal rescue/rehoming centre. There are thousands of healthy, loving animals all over the UK who are waiting for a home
- Avoid third-party sellers (who buy wholesale from breeders)
- Research before you buy. Different breeds have different needs and temperaments. Be sure the cat you are interested in is suitable for your lifestyle and environment
- When buying a kitten, ideally you should see the kitten with its mother and check that the facilities are clean and the litter appears alert and healthy. You should be able to handle the kittens freely under supervision. Make sure your kitten is old enough to leave its mother
- If your chosen cat does not originate from the place of purchase, ask where it came from and try to obtain its previous history
- Always ask for a copy of its medical records, including vaccination certificate and records of worming and flea treatment. Ensure that registration papers,

the parents' hereditary disease screening certificates and microchip documentation are in order

- If you require advice, your local veterinary practice should be able to advise you

Advice is also available from:

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home: 020 7622 3626

RSPCA: 0300 1234 999

Cats Protection: 08702 099099

The Mayhew Animal Home: 020 8968 2350

Wood Green Animal Shelters: 0871 904090

