



Finding a new home for a cat

www.yorkshirecatrescue.org

This information is produced to help you find a home for a cat you, or someone you know, may no longer be able to keep. Please read the suggestions carefully, and follow as many of the recommendations as possible. Not everything in this leaflet will apply to your circumstances as it has been written with various situations in mind. There should, however, be some useful information and advice. We suggest that you put the cat on as many rescue centre waiting lists as you can, but bear in mind that most have limited space, operate long waiting lists and may not be able to take the cat quickly, although some may prioritise certain cats.

Vet treatment You may find it easier to rehome the cat if it has had a recent vet check. Ask the vet to write a dated note indicating the cat's state of health. At the very least you should have the cat neutered, and treated for flea and worm prevention. If you cannot afford the cost of neutering the national charities have schemes which may be able to help. Please ask us for details.



Stray cats By a "stray" we mean a cat who doesn't have an owner or whose owner cannot be found. Legally a stray cat is treated in a similar manner to any other "found" item - i.e. reasonable attempts must be made to find the owner before it can be kept or given away. You should take the cat to a vet to be scanned for a microchip, register the cat on lost and found databases at rescue centres, vets and if possible online, put signs in local shops and other public places including vets and pet shops and advertise the cat in the local paper (this may be free). Please see our website for other suggestions.

Kittens If your cat has had kittens, we will try to take them at 10 weeks of age, however, a condition of this is that you have your cat spayed. **If you have unweaned orphan kittens please contact us urgently.** If you find a stray pregnant or nursing cat we will take her/them as soon as we have a suitable vacancy.



The Future of your pets If you are to continue to own a pet, or will own one in the future, please consider finding someone who will absolutely GUARANTEE to take responsibility should anything happen to you or should your circumstances change. We have a poster called "I Own A Cat" which you can download from our website or obtain from us, and it should be kept in a prominent place and a copy with your papers. Check every six months that it is up-to-date. That way the future of your pet is assured. And maybe you could offer to do the same for someone you know who owns a pet.

Feral cats Feral cats are cats which have never been domesticated. They are not a separate breed or part of the wild cat family. Feral cats rarely attack. They seek a safe place where they can sleep and eat as safely as possible. In time, many become semi-domesticated, and allow people they recognise to approach them. Many charities operate a Trap-Neuter-Return programme - the cats are neutered to stop the development of an out-of-control colony and returned to the area they have chosen to live safely. Some may be given semi-sheltered farm placements where they act as rodent control.



Can you help us? We hope you found the information in this leaflet to be helpful, and hope that you have managed to resolve the current situation with the cat. Although we do not make a charge for this advice, it does cost us to produce this leaflet and to maintain and run our charity. We receive no lottery, statutory or head office funding, and have to rely totally on donations and fundraising. Will you consider making a donation, or better still, setting up a standing order to help us help the many needy cats like yours? Thank you.

- I would like to make a donation today
- I would like to make a regular standing order, please send me details
- I want Yorkshire Cat Rescue to treat all donations which I make from

..... (date) as Gift Aid donations.

Name: _____ House number & Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Date: _____

Rehoming suggestions

If you have no option but to rehome the cat the following ideas may help:

- Ask local vets and pet shops to display posters. Give as much information about the cat as possible;
- Word of mouth is a great way. Tell everyone you know that you are looking for a home for a cat. Ask them to tell their friends. Put details on company noticeboards and intranets;
- Use social media - Facebook, Twitter to advertise the cat. Spread the word and ask people to share;
- If the cat is a pedigree cat, speak to the breeder. They may want the cat to be returned or they may keep lists of people wanting to adopt adults of that breed;
- Put the cat on as many rescue waiting lists as possible. There is a list of rescue centres at **www.catchat.org**



We suggest you use a mobile number or email address only, when advertising for a home. When you receive replies, chat to the person calling, ask them about previous cats they've owned and ask them why they feel they could offer a good home to yours. Don't be embarrassed to ask them for a reference from their vet, or to say that the cat is not suitable for them if that is the case. In this instance, why not direct them to us here at Yorkshire Cat Rescue - if they adopt a cat from us it will help by moving your cat further up the waiting list. You should always ask to visit the cat in his new home after a period of time, and ask for payment for the cat. This is to prevent people getting the cat for inappropriate reasons. Most people who respond to adverts seeking homes for cats are genuine, but there are some people who want a cat for the wrong reasons. If you feel uncomfortable taking money, why not donate it to a local cat rescue charity such as Yorkshire Cat Rescue.

If there is more than one cat and they don't need to be rehomed together advertise them separately, or on the headings of your advert imply that there is only one cat, and mention lower down that there are more. If you title your advert/poster with details of more than one cat, people who only want one won't read any further, even if you state further down that they can be separated.

If you can find the cat a new home yourself it will be less stressful for it.



Elderly and ill cats

We do not refuse to take elderly cats or those with chronic or terminal conditions, however, demand for such cats is low and in some cases non-existent. This means that we have to limit the number of places we offer at any one time to such cats and as such you may have a long wait until we have a place. If you have such a cat, please be aware that it is very likely that the cat will spend many months in a cat pen. Please consider very carefully if this is the outcome you would wish for the cat. Please ask us if you need further information about our cat accommodation.

Leaflets and information available

We have a number of guides which we have created in response to situations people encounter with their cats. In many cases, following guidelines and help-sheets may mean that the cat does not need to be rehomed, but can be managed in the current home. Some of the leaflets we have produced are:

- Care of senior cats
- Care of overweight cats
- Managing cats living with children
- Managing cats living with other cats
- Managing cats living with dogs
- Managing inappropriate toileting
- Stress in cats

We hope to add more guides - please keep an eye on our website.

Visit our website - http://yorkshirecatrescue.org/leaflets_and_posters/ to download our guides, or ask us and we will send you the ones you want.



Pregnancy/New baby

You shouldn't need to rehome the cat if you are pregnant or have a new baby. Keep the cat out of baby's room and use gloves to clean litter trays. You can buy a guard to put over baby's crib. You may find that sitting down each evening to give your cat a cuddle helps you relax after a day with your baby.

Neutering

If you need to rehome the cat because HE is fighting or wandering, or because SHE keeps having kittens, neutering will help. It is cheaper to neuter than to feed lots of kittens or to pay vets bills for fighting injuries. If you can't afford it, we can give you telephone numbers of national charities who may be able to help.