

Cats and Wildlife

Looking after your cat responsibly and ensuring that they do not threaten wildlife is an important part of helping to preserve our natural heritage.

Here are some tips on how you can help:

- Ensure that your cat always has access to good quality food
- Keep your cat inside at night so that it is less likely to prey on wildlife and get into fights.
- Provide toys and regular playtime so that your cat is entertained and exercised and less likely to hunt.
- For those cats that do hunt wildlife, a bell may be placed on their collar to help warn native wildlife about the cats' presence. Another option is a "cat bib" that can help to prevent wildlife being caught.
- Never abandon unwanted cats. It is unfair to leave them to fend for themselves and it is a threat to our wildlife.
- Unless you are a responsible cat breeder, always have a new cat desexed.



Every day and in every way, ARRC Wildlife Trust aims to improve the well-being of our communities' wildlife, animals and natural environment.

Founded in 2003 by Dr. Liza Schneider, ARRC Wildlife Trust has been assisting the Department of Conservation, local vet clinics and public with the rescue and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife in the Bay of Plenty.

As part of our commitment to the preservation of our environment, ARRC is proactive with animal related projects such as our "Adopt a Pet Program".

Passionate about caring for our native wildlife, we work to educate and create public awareness in order to ensure the long-term health of our wildlife and their natural environment.

ARCC:

- Has a credible, reputable, qualified team with many years of experience, proven performance and results.
- is local and acts locally.
- is not for profit.
- collaborates with local agencies and organisations in our community.

Our Vision

A nation where our wildlife, animals and natural heritage are respected and cherished.

Our Mission

To provide specialised services, programmes and facilities for the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife and animals.

To demonstrate, educate and inform our community about the importance of respect and responsibility for the well being of our wildlife, animals and natural heritage.



ARCC (Animal Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre) Adopt a Pet program aims to provide caring homes for loving animals that are homeless.

As part of our commitment to the preservation of our natural environment our Adopt a Pet program aims to:

- Promote responsible pet ownership.
- Prevent unwanted litters of kittens.
- Reduce the numbers of stray cats.
- Reduce the numbers of homeless dogs.
- Find caring homes for homeless animals.

If you would like to support ARRC with its work, please contact us today. We always welcome volunteers and resources.

By adopting a cat or kitten from ARRC, you are helping to promote responsible pet ownership and are helping to protect our precious native wildlife



Introducing your cat to its new home

For the first 2 weeks, it's very important to keep your cat / kitten indoors so that it can become settled in its new environment, when let outside too early they are likely to wander and become lost. Place a bed or blanket in a special, quiet place in the house so your new pet can 'escape' when it feels threatened by other pets, children or visitors.

Nutrition

Feeding your cat healthy and wholesome food will help it to stay in good health.

- Cats are carnivores and depend on good quality protein and fat to keep them fit and strong.
- Feed your kitten / cat a food that is approved by your veterinarian and that is ideally free of chemicals, preservatives and high amounts of grain.
- With kittens always change their diet slowly as they are prone to getting tummy upsets from sudden diet changes.

Worm & Flea treatment

Fleas and worms can be extremely harmful parasites. Not only do they cause a tremendous amount of irritation but they are also responsible for health problems such as flea allergies, sore tummies, diarrhea and they are capable of infesting young animals so severely that they can cause them to be anemic and very sick.

Reduce the burden of worms and fleas:

- Supporting your pet's immune system with good nutrition. This will help make them less tasty to fleas and more able to defend against worm burdens.

- Regular treatment with worm and flea products help keep your pet healthy. Some products are of much better quality than others and some products can have toxic side effects. Be sure to check with your vet what the most user friendly option is for your pet.
- With fleas, environmental control is very important. Typically the number of fleas on any pet is only the tip of the ice berg reflecting a much greater flea population in the animal's environment. Immature fleas can be destroyed by regularly hanging pet bedding out in the sunshine, thoroughly vacuuming carpets on a regular basis and sprinkling them with borax or diatomaceous earth afterwards.

Vaccination and Regular Health Checks

Vaccinating your pet is an important way of helping to prevent life threatening diseases like panleukopenia and can help to reduce cat flu. Your kitten will have received its first vaccination with ARRC and its vaccination booklet will indicate when a booster vaccination is recommended. Many vaccines are effective for up to 3 years but an annual health check at your vet is recommended to help keep your pet in top health.

Desexing

When you adopt a kitten / cat from ARRC, it has already been desexed to stop it from breeding. Unfortunately pet overpopulation is a huge animal welfare issue and many animals are abandoned, aren't adequately cared for or can't be rehomed by animal shelters leading to millions being euthanized each year.

ARRC is proud that for the duration of our involvement in managing Tauranga's unowned cat population, no cats or kittens have been unnecessarily euthanased – if they have been tame and healthy enough to find homes for they have been or are in the process of being rehomed.

Desexed cats are less likely to have territorial behaviors and get into fights, which is important in helping to reduce their injuries and the need to see the vet.

Microchipping

A microchip:

- is approximately the size of a grain of rice.
- is usually inserted under the skin between the shoulder blades.
- can be inserted at any age.
- offers a reliable means of identifying an animal.
- when listed on the national database, it is relatively easy to reunite an animal with their owner.

Pet insurance

As part of the health maintenance of your pet, they should have an annual vet check. This can help to pick up any problems such as dental disease, arthritis and ear infections. Sometimes health problems can develop suddenly and unexpectedly and for occasions such as these, pet health insurance can be invaluable.

A good Pet Health Insurance Plan will cover basic health checks as well as major health issues which may crop up. Ideally choose a pet health insurance plan that covers complementary and natural therapies in addition to all the benefits of conventional veterinary medicine and surgery so that you can easily give your pet all the healthcare options that they may need.

