



ROYAL CANIN®

STRAY RESCUE BOOKLET

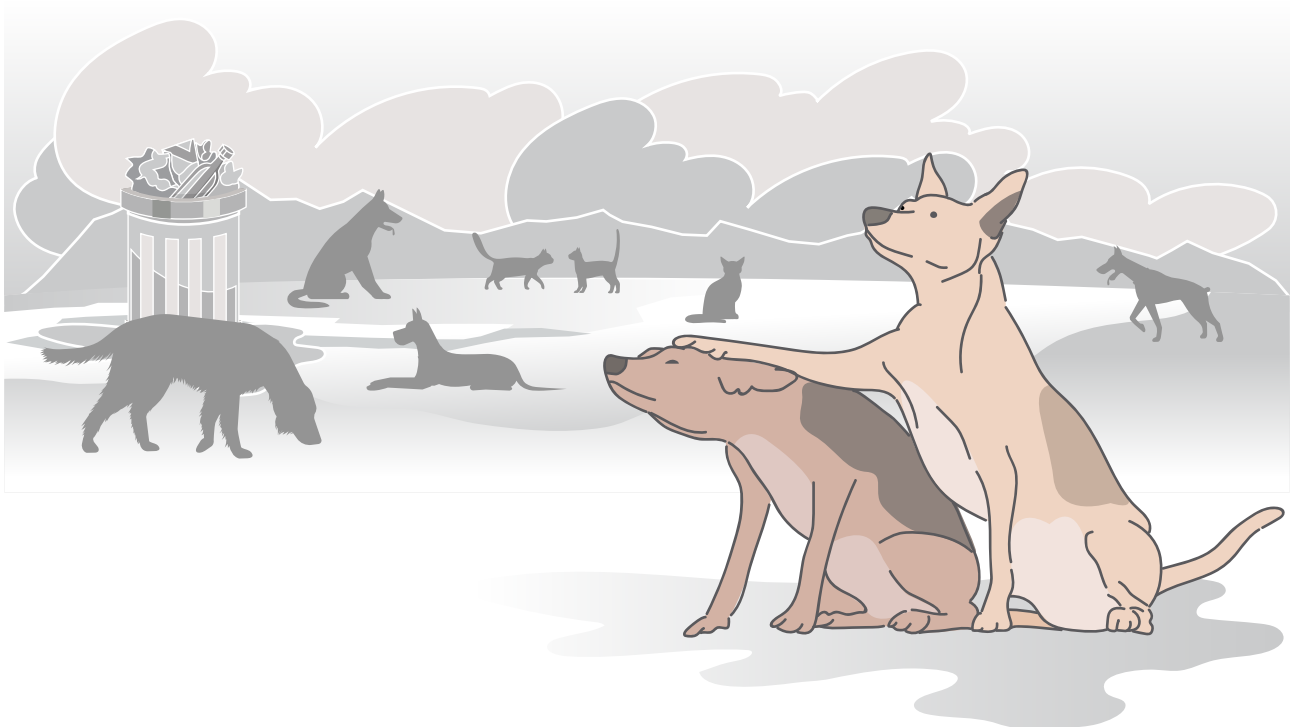


INCREDIBLE IN EVERY DETAIL

UNDERSTANDING STRAY DOGS AND CATS

Stray cats and dogs can be seen all around us, they may be along the roadside bush, underneath the car, nearby the trash bins... “Can I feed them?”, “Should I fetch them to a vet?”, “Should I adopt them?” ... Have you ever felt the calling in your heart to bring them home and care for them? But the act of taking charge of one's life makes you feel overwhelmed and you don't know where to begin?

Did you know? Globally, while the statistics changes dynamically, there are about **500 million stray cats and dogs**. Many of the strays used to live in a cozy home but they were abandoned and forced to wander in the slums. Making the matter worse, many of those were left unneutered, which contribute to more stray puppies and kittens to the growing stray population, it means that they will be reproducing actively. Unfortunately, this phenomenon significantly shortens their lifespan as well (stray dogs and cats only live 1-4 years, averagely, which is far lower when compared to their domesticated peers).



IMPACT OF STRAY REPRODUCING



Impact to population

Cats and dogs can reproduce at a very fast rate. A pair of unneutered cats can get pregnant 2 times per year and each of the pregnancies could give birth to as many as 6 kittens. In 2 to 3 years, they can accumulatively reproduce about 300 offspring. And in their 8 years of adulthood, **they are able to reproduce close to 2 million offspring**. On the other hand, unneutered dogs are capable of reproducing at 7 to 8 months old. They can get pregnant 2 times per year too, they **can reproduce more than 60 thousand offspring in their 6 years of fertile phase**, despite only 2.8 newborn puppies will survive averagely.

Risk of acquiring diseases

Unneutered strays are extremely vulnerable to diseases. Male strays could, for example, suffer from prostate problems and testicular tumors; the females could suffer from uterine infection (pyometra), ovarian dysfunction, and mammary gland tumor. Therefore, neutering based on these scientific evidences helps strays to live a healthier life.



- Prostate problems
- Testicular tumors



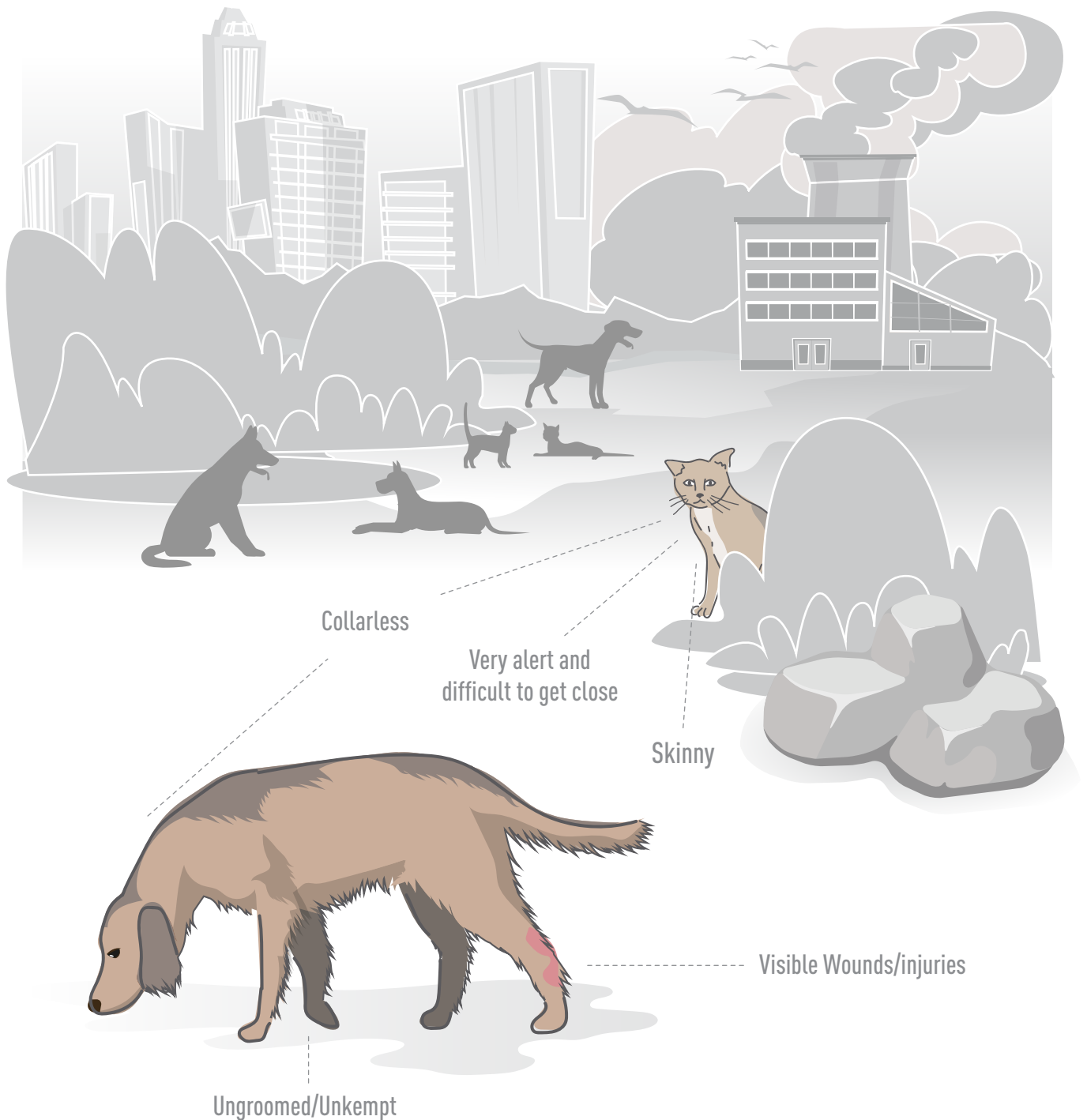
- Uterine infection
- Ovarian dysfunction
- Mammary gland tumors

Friendly reminder:

If you see that he or she has clipped ears, known as ear tipping, which is a small semi-circle notch at the tip of its ear, it means that it has been neutered and there is no need to do it again.

HOW TO DETERMINE WHETHER A DOG OR CAT IS A STRAY

If it fits the descriptions below, then it is highly probable that he/she is a stray:



NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF CATS AND DOGS

1. Nutritional requirement - Homemade food VS Complete pet food

Most nutritionists agree that it is best to feed your pet with complete pet food because homemade food do not provide all the vital nutrients for the animal's growth as compared to complete pet food which fulfills all nutritional needs for the pet by itself

According to a latest study, homemade foods made from recipes recommended by veterinarians for cats and dogs during their maintenance-and growth-phase have deficiency in protein and/or amino acids by 55%, are 65% lower in vitamins, 86% lower in minerals, as compared to the various benchmarks set by Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). Moreover, puppies and kittens often suffer from abnormal skeletal structure development and fractures due to the improper calcium to phosphorus ratio of the feed.



- Insufficient nutrients
- Improper calcium to phosphorus ratio
- Higher cost
- Storage difficulty to maintain freshness



- Holistically provides all the nutrients needed for the pet

Due to the difference in dietary requirements between human, dogs, and cats, it is very hard to ensure that our homemade food consists of the necessary nutrients for dogs and cats. For example, human's cooking methods affect the taurine content in the food which cats require to prevent dilated cardiomyopathy (heart disease); while both cats and dogs require significantly more proteins and fats compared to a typical human. Not to mention, a nutritionally fit homemade food often cost significantly more than complete pet food, more difficult to store, and take up more resources such as labor and time.

Source: Stockman J, Fascetti AJ, Kass PH, et al. Evaluation of recipes of home-prepared maintenance diets for dogs. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2013;242:1500–1505.

2. Did you know what challenges they face when they are roaming?



Requiring higher energy: Strays have higher energy expenditure as they are constantly roaming and moving about in the open scavenging for food.



Higher risk in contracting skin diseases: Living in the unsanitary outdoors makes them an easy target for parasites as their poor skin hygiene and matted fur can easily become breeding ground for parasites. Moreover, wounds from fights or overexposure to ultraviolet rays could also cause skin diseases.



Unstable food sources: It is common for stray cats to eat irregularly when hygienic food is scarce and competition is fierce. Moreover, such situations also exacerbate the sensitivities of their



Urinary tract problems: Cats naturally dislike drinking water and it is hard to secure stable and clean water sources while they are roaming, thus, they are more prone to urinary tract diseases.

3. We advocate feeding cats with the right food according to his/her current growth phase.

For example, most newborn kittens would suffer from diarrhea if they take fresh cow's milk. This should be avoided whenever possible, instead, we should feed them with formulated kitten food. Ensure they have access to fresh clean water at all times. We suggest providing them fresh clean water in a wide-open bowl made by either glass, porcelain or metal.



Source: Stockman J, Fascetti AJ, Kass PH, et al. Evaluation of recipes of home-prepared maintenance diets for dogs. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2013;242:1500–1505.

EVALUATING THE STRAY'S HEALTH

1. Transporting strays safely

2. Visiting the vet

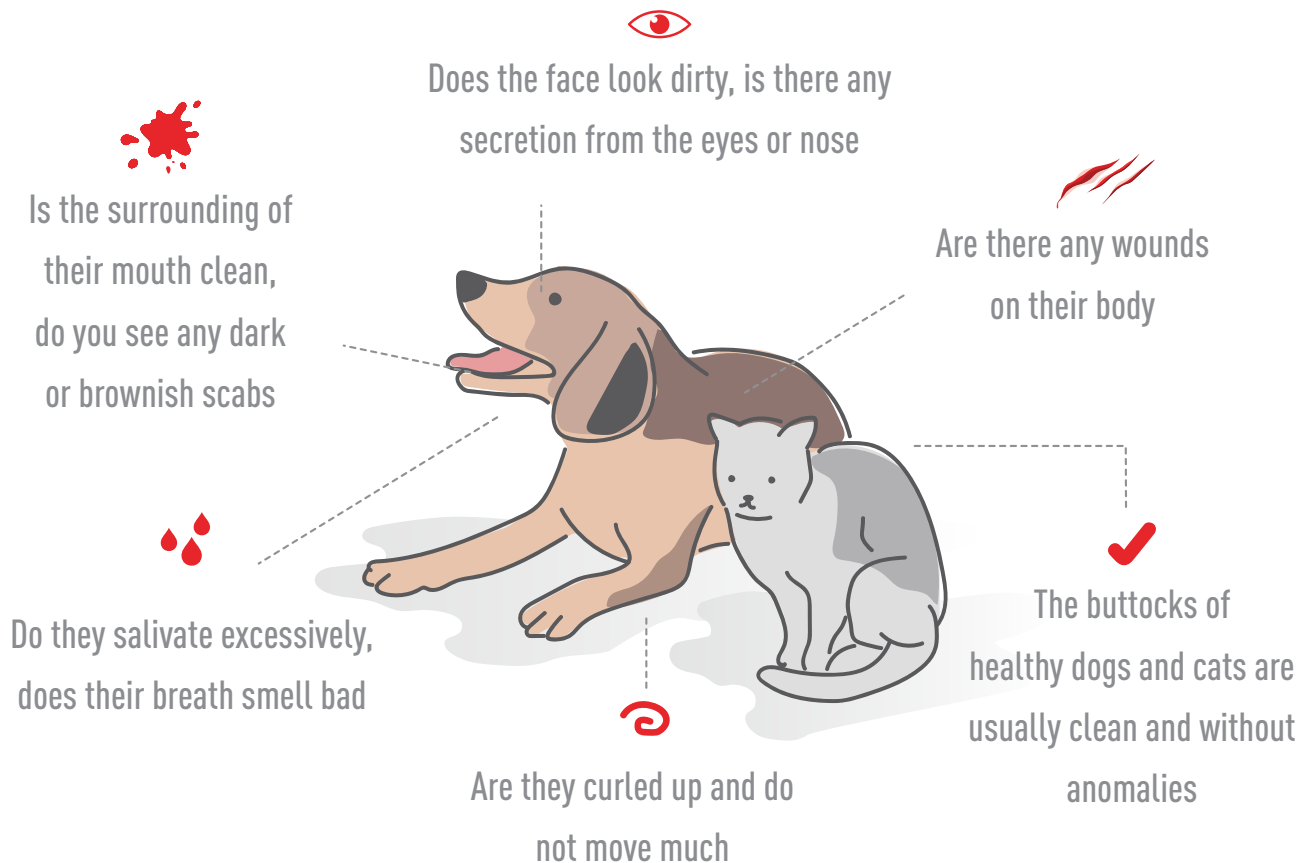
Conditions requiring immediate veterinary visits

- Obviously ill or injured
- Low alertness and very clingy
- A nursing kitten without a mother cat



EVALUATING THE STRAY'S HEALTH

Conditions to observe to consider for veterinary visit



Transporting

1. Ensure they are transported in a cage/pet carrier. Use a piece of newspaper or cloth to cover the cage/box to keep the cat in the dark so that it would not be distressed by the external stimuli.
2. Send the stray to veterinary clinic immediately for checkup or any further medical procedures.

BRINGING THEM TO THE VET

The four-step walkthrough of the vet visitation

Once you have decided to bring the stray to the hospital/clinic, you must follow these steps:

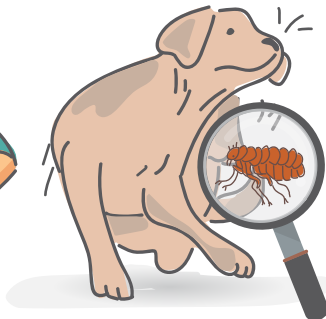
1st CHECKUP

Once you have arrived, request the vet to perform a thorough checkup.



2nd DEWORM

Discuss with your vet on the methods for internal and external parasite control to keep parasites at bay.



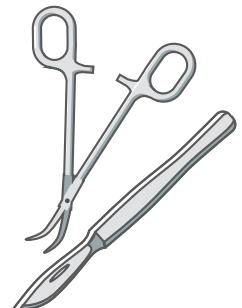
3rd VACCINATE

One week after the deworming, vaccinate the stray when he/she is in a healthy state.



4th NEUTER

Strays are mostly the offspring of abandoned animals. Therefore, neutering is a crucial procedure to curb overpopulation and improve their overall health.



NOTES FOR NEUTERING

BEFORE



- 1 **Make an appointment** for the surgery



- 2 **The day before neutering:** Follow veterinarian's instructions, abstain from eating and drinking for 6 to 8 hours and 2 to 3 hours respectively prior to the surgery.

AFTER

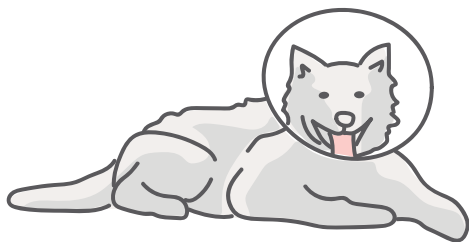


- 1 **Arrive at your appointment** as scheduled as per instructed



- 2 **Few hours after your stray wakes up from anesthesia:**

It is advisable to allow our stray to be monitored in the clinic/hospital for a minimum of few hours after the surgery as they may experience drowsiness and disorientation that may persist until the next day. Decline of appetite is common on the following day too, do not panic.



- 3 **Once back home:** Follow veterinarian's instructions, quarantine them in a space where they are alone and their activity is limited in order to keep the surgical site clean and dry. This would help the recovery process.



- 4 **Let them rest in a quiet and dimmed environment**

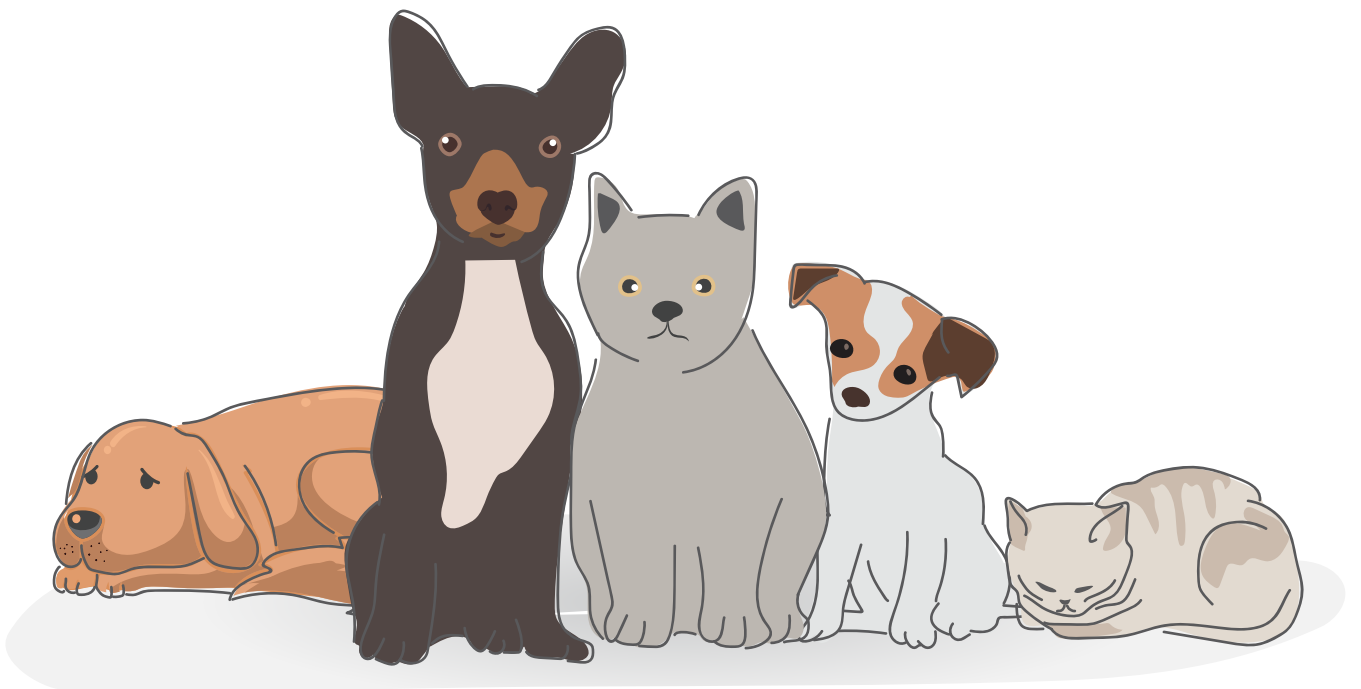


- 5 **Monitor their appetite and bowel movement closely for any abnormalities.**

ARE YOU READY FOR ADOPTION

Is adopting right for you?
Are you ready to bring them home safely?

After completing all the health-related routines for the
stray as mentioned earlier,
now you must think – to return or to adopt.



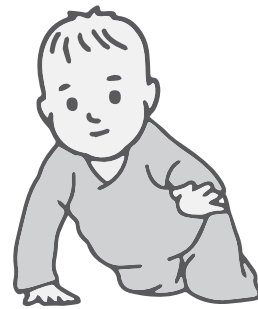
ARE YOU READY FOR ADOPTION

To determine whether a household is adoption-friendly, please evaluate accordingly:

- 1 Does anyone at home have allergies towards animal hair/fur



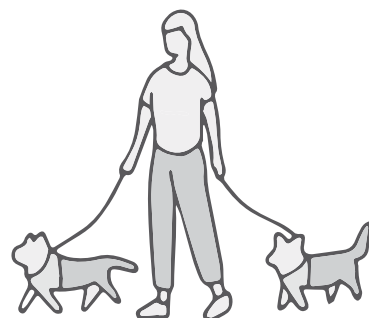
- 2 If you already have young children at home, please consider the safety and resources required



- 3 Does your family collectively support the decision



- 4 Do you have enough time to bond and spend with your adopted pet



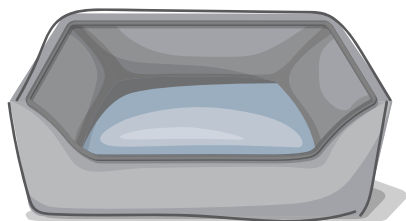
If all the above considerations are taken care of, congratulations! You are a suitable adopter. You may now start preparing to welcome a new member to the household!

PREPARATION FOR CAT ADOPTION

1. Equipment to prepare

① A cat cage:

Having a soft cushion and a slightly dimmed environment help the cat to feel secured.



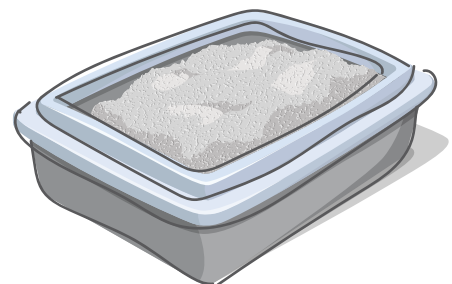
② Two Bowls:

A small bowl to hold dry cat food and a bigger bowl to hold drinking water. Cats eat little but frequently, so remember to choose dry food that does not spoil easily and replace the clean drinking water regularly.



③ Litter Box:

Lay enough litter into the litter box so that it is enough to cover your cat's stool. Also, prepare a little shovel so you can remove the excretions easily. Make sure to keep a distance between the litter box and your pet's food and water bowls to avoid cross contamination.



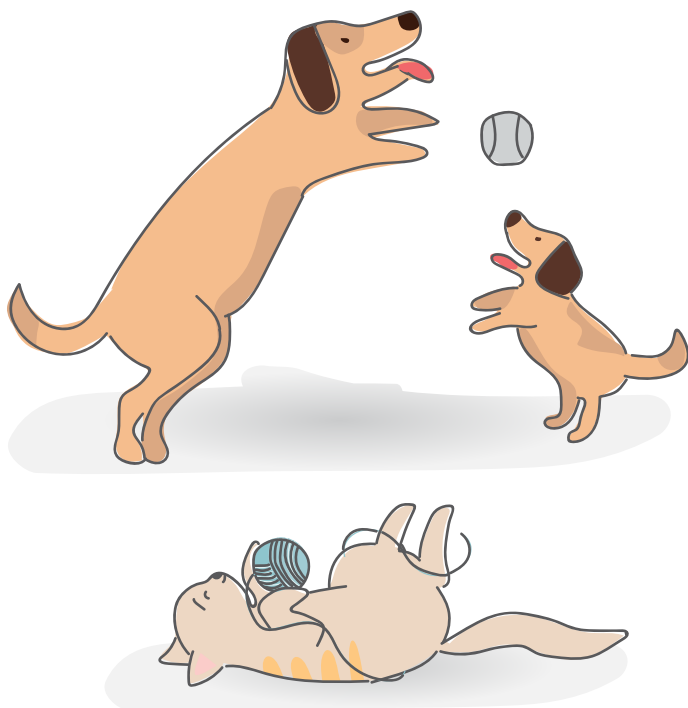
2. Emotional preparation



During the first few days of you bringing them to their new home, please keep your overwhelming emotions in check and remember to be gentle with your pet. Speak softer, avoid loud noise, and try your best to reduce interactions with them at first. Once they are able to eat, drink, and excrete normally, do allow them to roam around in your home with the cage door opened as it helps to create a sense of security for them.

PREPARATION FOR CAT ADOPTION

3. How to socialize them with existing dogs/cats



If there is an existing pet in the household, please follow one golden rule: the earlier pet is the master of the household, **do not interfere with their habits and do not show favoritism for the newcomer**. This could be hurtful to the former as it may cause them to feel ditched. Please be sensitive and patient, prevent fights from happening between the pets, they will understand each other and learn how to live together eventually.

It is easier for the newcomer to be accepted by dogs that are generally more sociable, but it could be trickier to interact with other cats. Adult cats dislike having their territory being invaded by others and their daily routine being disrupted; therefore, they are more hostile towards newcomers and often act aggressively.



PREPARATION FOR CAT ADOPTION

4. Understanding their language

Cat expresses themselves via head, body movements, or sound. Understanding these “languages” helps to foster an intimate relationship between the owner and the pet.

1. Head



Calmed

Having a soft cushion and a slightly dimmed environment help the cat to feel secured.



Happy

Ears are upright, eyes half-opened, narrowed and elongated pupils



Attack mode

Ears fold downward with enlarged pupils



Angry

Ears fold sideways, staring intensively

2. Vocalization

Obeying and satisfied

Snuffling (as drinking breastmilk from his/her mother)

Threatened

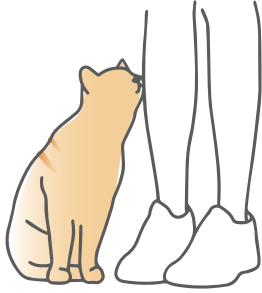
Hissing, as self-defense strategy while attacking

Asking, complaining, confused, rejected

Meowing, it has a lot of meanings. Pay more attention to your cat and you will be able to tell the different meows.

PREPARATION FOR CAT ADOPTION

3. Body



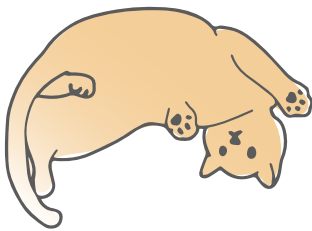
Enjoy spending time with you

Rubs against your leg with head or tail



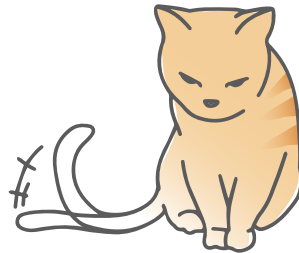
Likes you very much

Extends and retracts its paw, "kneading" on you



Obey and trust fully

Flips and rolls on his/her tummy as soon as they see you



Very excited

Shakes tail intermittently

Dislike very much

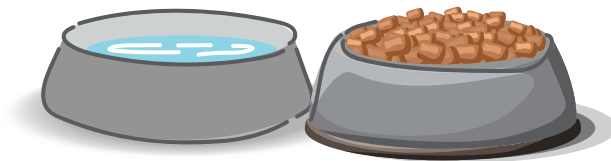
Slaps hard with tail



PREPARATION FOR DOG ADOPTION

1. Equipment to prepare

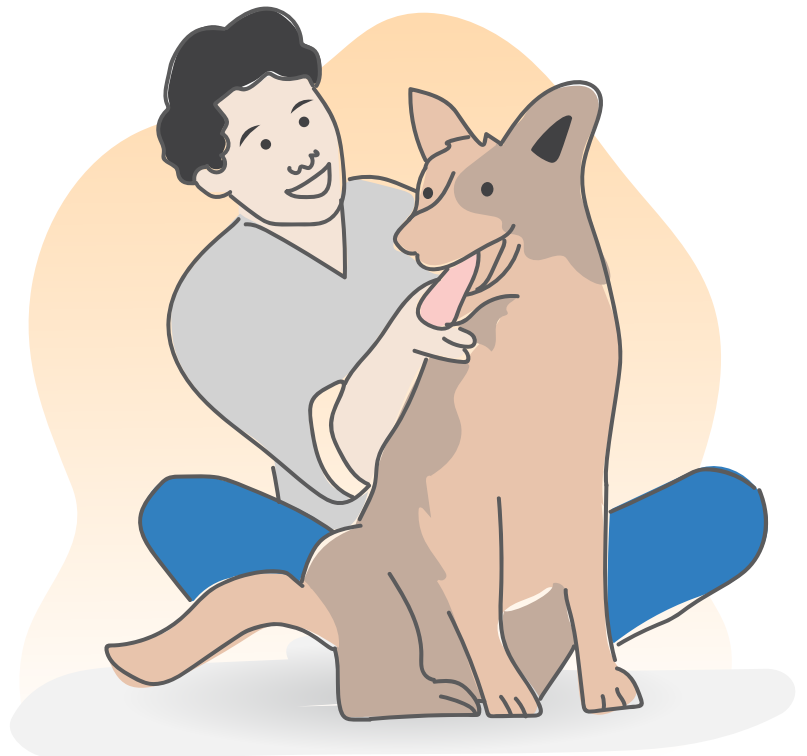
Please prepare two bowls (one for water and another for food), a collar or belt (to habituate them early),



2. How to socialize them with existing dogs/cats

If the existing pet is a cat, please ensure that a “safe hideout” to escape is prepared for the cat before the arrival of the new dog. Once the cat comes out from the hideout, they should be able to live together peacefully.

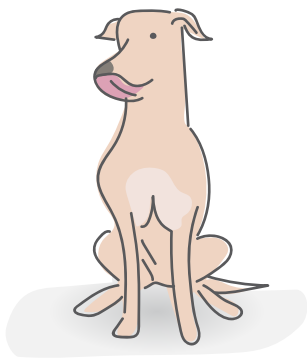
If the existing pet is a dog, introduce them in a neutral zone (eg. outside of the house) to ensure the existing pet dog does not feel that its territory is invaded. Also make sure that both dogs are leashed and can be maneuvered. Let them greet and sniff each other.



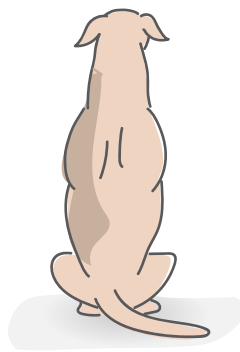
PREPARATION FOR DOG ADOPTION

3. Understanding dog's emotions

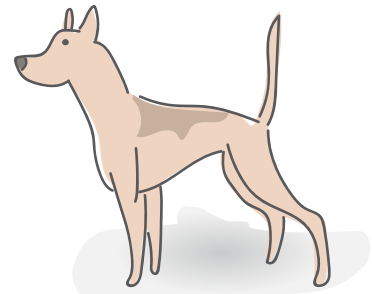
Dogs are men's best friend, understanding the emotion behind their actions could help to foster an intimate relationship between you and them.



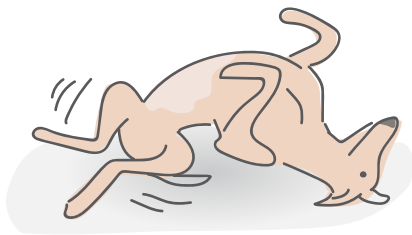
When your dog likes to lick you, they are showing their affection



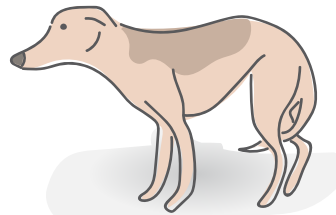
When you greet your dog and they react like this, it means he/she doesn't know you and wants to leave



When your dog reacts in this sequence, it means he/she feels threatened and ready for fight



This reaction means that he/she trusts you!



How do you comfort a dog who is scared to visit the vet? Reward them every time when they visit the vet.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have unlocked all the knowledge in

You are now well-equipped.

While you are confidently befriending with more cats and dogs,

Don't forget to share these rescue tips

To more friends,

Creating a better world for stray dogs and cats.

