

猫咪是非常美好的宠物——有将近三分之一的澳洲家庭养了一只或以上的宠物猫，他们大多数都把猫咪视作自己的家人。

养猫有很多益处——除了能够陪伴人类，研究表明它们还能让人保持身心健康，让人心情愉悦。

不幸的是，在新南威尔士州，由于有太多无家可归的猫咪，每年都有成千上万的猫咪在认领中心和收容所被注射安乐死。

没有做绝育手术的猫咪，无论有没有主人，都是造成众多流浪猫出现的原因——因为猫咪是非常多产的动物。据估计，一只没有结扎的母猫和公猫以及它们的后代在仅仅七年内就能育出超过四十万只猫咪！因此要控制猫咪数量，减少流浪猫和不必要的安乐死，对年幼猫咪的绝育尤为重要。

被抛弃或者主人因故照顾不了的猫咪也使得领养中心和收容所“猫”满为患。领养一只猫咪并不是儿戏——这意味着要对它们的一生负责，这个期限可能是15到20年。

在领养猫咪之前，你要需要弄清楚养猫咪对时间，居所，花费（包

括食物，卫生保健，医疗）上的需求以及你未来的计划。如果你想旅游，养猫适合吗？你住的地方允许养猫吗？如果你不能给猫咪一生的承诺，你可以去当地的收容所做义工或者参加临时寄养的项目。这样的话，你既可以享受和猫咪一起的时光，但又未必需要像猫主人那样承担多年的责任。猫咪是充满爱的智慧生物，但它们也需要一个安稳的家，需要陪伴，需要理解，需要好素质和迎合它们营养需要的食物和兽医服务来确保它们健康地生活。

猫咪保护协会（**Cat Protection Society**）可以帮助你了解如何照顾猫咪以及选择合适的猫咪来领养。中心所有的猫咪都已接受兽医体检，已接种预防疫苗，绝育和植入芯片*，亦已除蚤和杜虫，并受过如厕训练。只要你能提供充足的玩具和玩乐时间，大部分的猫咪都可以在室内愉快地生活（如果有另一只猫咪作为它的玩伴也是很好的）。我们为没有讲普通话或是粤语的工作人员感到抱歉，不过我们十分欢迎你和会讲英文的朋友一同到访。

如果你养有宠物猫，并且希望参加我们的绝育手术优惠项目，欢迎你请会讲英文的朋友或亲戚来电咨询，我们会详细介绍我们中心提供的各种服务。

绝育有很多好处。为了获得最大的健康效益和行为效益，猫咪绝育的最佳时期应在性成熟前（最早3个月大）。

早龄绝育有助避免不必要的行为，如到处撒尿，流浪和打架。绝育也可减少猫咪的许多疾病风险，包括癌症和感染猫科免疫缺乏病毒(猫艾滋病)的机会。绝育手术是由兽医进行的，猫咪需要全身麻醉。手术后，兽医会让猫咪休息几个小时。当他们回家时，你的猫需要安静的待在室内数天（小猫和雄猫比成年雌猫恢复更快）。绝育后，你应该仔细观察你的猫数天，以确保它们饮食和如厕正常。对于雌猫来说，应在手术后的十天左右每天检查它的伤口，留意是否愈合正常，没有肿，流脓或出血等现象。如果你有任何疑问，请联系你的兽医。

绝育不仅对你的猫咪有益，也对整个猫咪群体福利有益，因为这样可以避免猫咪过度繁殖。同时，这也可以为你节省一笔费用，因为注册已绝育的猫咪比未绝育的便宜得多。已绝育的猫咪到处乱跑或与其他猫咪发生冲突的机会也较低，这减少它们受伤的可能，也就替你节省看兽医的费用。

猫咪是美好的，充满好奇心，聪明的动物。它们已与人类一同生活了很长的时间。我们可以同心协力，确保它们的幸福与安康。

*根据新南威尔士州的法律要求，宠物需要植入芯片和终身注册。芯片的大小如米粒，并带有条形码，上面有“宠物注册”

（Companion Animals Register）的编号。当你注册了你的猫咪，你的姓名与联络方式会联结到你猫咪的注册编号。所以如果你的

猫咪走失了，你就能够透过条形码上的编号找回它。当你在领养猫咪的时候，职员会请你填写附有你的联络方式的表格——一式两份，一份给你，另一份副本则会递交至市议会（local council）。市议会会录入你的资料并给你寄一封信，提醒你需要注册猫咪。然后你带着所收到的表格，在你所在地的市议会付清注册费，即可完成猫咪的注册。需要注意的是，如果你搬了家或换了电话号码，你需要联络当地市议会更新你的资料，这样他们才能通过注册编号让你和走失的猫咪重聚。为防止猫咪走失，让猫咪戴项圈和吊牌也是很好的，这有便于找到你家猫咪的人直接与你联络。值得一提的是，“宠物注册”（Companion Animals Register）上的资料是保密的，仅供被授权的人存取。

关于绝育手术优惠的资料，详情请咨询猫咪保护协会（Cat Protection Society）：9519 7201（英文），工作时间是周一至周五，早上九点至下午四点。更多领养等相关内容，请查询我们的网站。

FACTSHEET

Cat welfare

Cats make wonderful pets – almost a third of Australian households have a pet cat or cats, and most consider them as part of the family.

Pet cats are good for us too – as well as providing companionship, research shows they help us to have better physical and mental health, and they make us happy.

Tragically, in NSW every year thousands of cats are euthanased (killed) in pounds and shelters because there are too many cats and not enough homes.

Undesexed cats, whether owned or not, contribute to the population of homeless cats. Cats are very fertile – it has been estimated that one undesexed female and one undesexed male cat and their offspring can result in more than 400,000 cats in just seven years! Early-age desexing is essential to containing the feline population and reducing the number of cats killed or homeless.

Also contributing to pound and shelter populations are cats who are no longer wanted, and cats whose owners can no longer care for them. Adopting a cat is a big commitment – it means looking after them for the rest of their life, which could be 15 to 20 years.

Before adopting a cat, make sure you understand what is involved in terms of time, housing, cost (food, health care, vet bills) and your future plans. If you want to travel, is a cat for you? Do you have permission to keep a cat where you live? If you can't make a lifetime commitment to a cat, you could volunteer

at your local shelter or become a foster carer; that way you can still enjoy some time with cats without the years of responsibility that cat ownership entails. Cats are loving and intelligent creatures but they need a stable home, companionship, understanding, good food and veterinary care in order to ensure their welfare.

Cat Protection can help you to understand what's involved in caring for a cat and choosing a cat that's right for you. All our cats and kittens have already been desexed and vaccinated, are microchipped*, have been health-checked by a vet, flea- and worm-treated and are litter trained. Most cats can live happily indoors as long as you provide lots of toys and play time (and often another cat as a playmate is a good idea). Sorry we don't have any Mandarin or Cantonese speakers on staff, but if you visit with a friend or relative who speaks English, we'd be glad to have them come with you to translate!

If you already have a cat, and would like to access our discounted desexing programs, please ask an English-speaking friend or relative to phone our office so we can explain the services we offer.

There are many benefits to desexing. For maximum health and social benefits all kittens should be desexed before they reach sexual maturity (which can be as early as 3 months).

Early-age desexing prevents the development of unwanted behaviours such as spraying, wandering and fighting. Desexing also reduces the risk of many diseases in cats including cancer and Feline AIDS. The surgery is performed by a vet while the cat is under general anaesthetic. After surgery, the vet will keep the cat resting for a few hours and when they get home, your cat will need to stay indoors and fairly quiet for a couple of days (kittens and male cats

recover more quickly than adult females). After desexing, your cats should be monitored by you for a few days to make sure they are eating, drinking and toileting normally, and for female cats, that the incision scar is healing properly and not swollen, weeping or bleeding. If you have any concerns, contact your vet.

Desexing is good for your cat and good for feline welfare because your cat won't contribute to feline overpopulation. It's also good for your wallet as there is a significant discount for registering your cat when they're desexed, and, because your cat is less likely to wander and get into fights, lower vet bills!

Cats are wonderful, curious and intelligent animals. They have shared their lives with people for more than 10,000 years and we can all work together to help ensure their welfare and wellbeing.

**Microchipping and lifetime registration of pets are legal requirements in NSW. The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and contains a bar code, the numbers on which are on the Companion Animals Register. When your cat is registered by you, your name and contact details are linked to this registration number, so if your cat ever becomes lost, you can be reunited with your cat. When you adopt a cat, you will be asked to sign a form with your contact details – a copy is given to you and a copy sent to your local council, which will enter the details and send you a letter asking you to register your cat. You then take the forms and pay a registration fee to the council to register your cat. Remember, if you move house or change phone number, to contact your council to update the details so you can always be reunited with your cat if they become lost. A collar and tag is still a good idea as it makes it easier for a person who finds your cat to get in touch with you directly. Details on the Companion Animals Register are confidential and can only be accessed by authorised people.*

For information on discount desexing please phone Cat Protection on 9519 7201 Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm. For more information on adoptions, please review our website www.catprotection.org.au