



A self-funded, Foster-care, non-kill group
Authorised Charity Holder CFN 14802 INC 9874224
ABN: 693 179 807 71.
Approved Rehoming Organisation: **R251000005**

ANIMAL RIGHTS AND RESCUE GROUP, Inc.
Postal Address: PO Box 987, LISMORE NSW 2480
Location: 135 Three Chain Road, SOUTH LISMORE.
Phone: (02) 6622 1881 (Mon-Fri 9:00 am to 3:00 pm *excl. PH's*)
Operating Hours (Appointments): Mon-Fri 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Email: nonkill@animalrights.org.au
Website: www.animalrights.org.au
Facebook: *Animal Rights and Rescue Group*

Are you thinking of adopting a cat or a kitten from ARRG?

Please comply with the following instructions, after reading the following information.

BEING A PET GUARDIAN IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT!

If you have not been a cat guardian before, please do your research before committing to becoming a cat guardian. If you google 'Jackson Galaxy' <https://www.jacksongalaxy.com/blog/> or 'Kitten Lady' <https://www.facebook.com/kittenlady/> , they have good advice. As does the Petbarn website: www.petbarn.com.au .

- * **After submitting your emailed application**, with attachment/s, give us time to process your email, then Phone ARRG for more information and to make an appointment to meet animals available for adoption.
- * Note that very few of our adoptable animals are located at the South Lismore Centre, as **ARRG is primarily a foster carer group**. To make an appointment to meet animals with foster carers you must first submit your application with attachment/s, before being referred to the foster carer to organise a day/time to meet.
- * All potential adopters are **phone interviewed** for suitability prior to making an appointment to meet cat/kitten of choice.

Home owners to supply proof of home ownership, ie, Rates Notice (redacted if preferred) is preferred.

Renters need a **letter of agreement** from either the rental agent (on their letterhead) or the property owner. If letter is from the property owner and NOT from a rental agency, then letter will need to be accompanied by the owner's proof of home ownership (ie, Rates Notice) as verification that they are the owner of the property you are renting. Refer to ARRG Adoption Policy page if unclear.

<https://www.animalrights.org.au/adoptions.php>

If you want to read more detailed and current information/instructions about adopting cats or dogs from ARRG you can visit the ARRG Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/109591692443650/posts/3517733341629451/?d=n>

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DO YOU HAVE THE TIME?

Please do not assume that dogs are the only companions that will require your time. You also need to be prepared to spend quality time with your cat/s.

You may want to take them for a walk on a lead, but this is not absolutely necessary. However you do need to be prepared to spend quality play time with your kitten/s and young cat/s.

If you or your family members don't expect to have that sort of time, then there are birds, reptiles and mammals that make good companions but aren't as time needy.

Refer to below about adopting a pair of kittens/cats ...

How many hours are the human guardians at home? School and work can keep humans away from home and their companions for long hours. Please advise ARRG of these details when applying as it may impact on the animal we recommend that you adopt.

APPLYING TO ADOPT:

To expedite the adoption process ...

- * Go to the animal's entry on our website under CAT ADOPT – www.animalrights.org.au;
- * Click on the 'More Info' button;
- * After reading ALL the information provided, scroll down to bottom and click on "I Want To ADOPT <name of cat>";
 - * Email will open ...
- * Attach proof of home ownership (ie, Rates Notice – redacted if preferred),
- * or if you RENT a letter from landlord/owner giving you approval to house animal/s.
 - # Letter must be very specific about number and type of animal/s permitted;
 - # Whether animals are allowed inside or outside or both;
 - # Any other specific requirements that may impact on your lease;
 - # If letter is from a private owner, then they MUST ALSO provide proof that THEY OWN the rental property, ie, Rates Notice – redacted if preferred.
 - ^ Letters on Rental Agency letterhead is sufficient.(Note that some rental agencies will agree to your having a pet if you agree to paying a special pet bond.)
- * Email should provide as much information as possible to show why you should be approved for adoption.

Recommend that you provide the following details:

- # Why you/your family would make the best guardian/s for this cat/kitten;
 - ^ If you rent, you should tell us what plans you have for your animals in the event you have to move ... (Too often we have adopted animals surrendered because the adopter is not prepared to look for a new rental/accommodation that allows animals – whether it be due to cost or location or whatever – and if they have to give up their 'much loved' pets, they did not have an acceptable alternative guardian.)
 - ^ We will remind you of the advisability of remembering your companions in your Will, or asking if you have organised for someone to take over the care of your pets in the event you are no longer able to care for them (especially if you are elderly – note in your email application if you are over 70/80 years of age).
- # Number & ages of children;
- # Number, types & ages of your other pets;
- # Your history with cats; ie, how many? Ages when they died?
- # PHONE NUMBER!
- * OR ... If automatic email does not open ...
- # Email ARRG: nonkill@animalrights.org.au;
- # For the SUBJECT type: ARRG ID # & name of cat/kitten;
- # You will still need to supply proof of home ownership OR letter from landlord/owner, as per above instructions, attached to your **INITIAL** email application;
- # Please tell us why you would make the best guardian for this cat/kitten, as per above instructions.
- * OR go to website's CONTACTS page and fill in the automated form – not preferred if applying to adopt as you cannot attach;

- # If applying to adopt, in the Enquiry box, type: ARRG ID # & name of cat/kitten;
- # You will still need to supply proof of home ownership OR letter from landlord/owner, as per above instructions (your application won't be processed for approval until we receive the attachments, though we will at least be aware of your interest);
- # Please tell us why you would make the best guardian for this cat/kitten, as per above instructions.

If ALL the required information is not supplied in your **INITIAL** email, your application is unlikely to be approved and you may miss out on the cat/kitten you are wanting to adopt.

* **Recommend that you FOLLOW the ARRG Facebook page, which will likely contain more photos & videos of our animals, stories of new arrivals, useful information about care and welfare, stories about successful adoptions, etc.**
Detailed info: <https://www.facebook.com/109591692443650/posts/3517733341629451/?d=n>

PETBARN:

Some of our friendlier desexed cats can be found at **Petbarn Lismore** as part of their ADOPT ME programme. The ARRG Adoption Policy still applies. You will still need to present the staff with your proof of home ownership (ie, Rates Notice) or letter of agreement from landlord/owner, as instructed in section “APPLYING TO ADOPT”. They will also ask to see your Driver’s Licence as proof of identity as part of the Petbarn policy.

Please be patient with the Petbarn staff, especially if the store is busy. You will still need to be interviewed as part of the pre-adoption process.

You will also need a proper cat carrier to transport cat home in a secure manner, ie, seatbelt through handle.

While you can adopt during Petbarn’s operating hours, DO NOT enter the store an hour before closing time, expecting to be able to take a cat home that day. These are still ADOPTIONS and you still need to go through the adoption process, including interviews.

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ADOPTION PROCEDURE – Office or Foster Carer:

Once you have chosen the cat/kitten/s you wish to adopt, and if you are approved, you can then proceed with the adoption.

At time of adoption, you will be asked to complete and sign an Adoption Agreement form, and fill in the microchip C3A form – Change of Owner. You can pay the Adoption Fee by cash, or if adopting from a foster carer, you can write your credit card details on the Adoption Agreement Form, or if adopting from the ARRG Office, you can pay by Eftpos.

The foster carer or ARRG volunteer will then complete an Interim Receipt on which will be written all the relevant details of your animal, such as dates of vaccination, fleaing & worming, and when next due, and it will also show actual/approximate date of birth, age at time of adoption, and microchip number (it is ILLEGAL for a cat or dog to be even given away without a microchip number).

You should READ the Agreement carefully before signing.

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TWO WEEK TRIAL:

When adopting a cat or dog from ARRG, you have a two week trial to ensure that your new companion fits into your household, and has no medical or behavioural issues of which we were previously unaware.

At any time during the, the adopter can **phone the ARRG Office (02) 6622 1881 (M-F 9-3) to confirm the adoption**. Until this phone call confirmation, the cat still belongs to ARRG and ARRG will cover any unexpected medical visits and must be contacted prior to making a vet appointment and obtain a Job Authorisation Number.

In the event of an **EMERGENCY**, notify ARRG immediately (by email or phone) with details. This policy only covers illnesses that may arise as a result of the animal being in the care of ARRG and does not cover accidental damage, mistreatment or pre-existing genetic health problems (ie, Manxism).

Once the adoption has been confirmed, the cat is now your responsibility – both financially and welfare. ARRG will mail out the official receipt, a copy of the C3A microchip form you filled out, vaccination records & sterilisation certificate (or desexing voucher if under 4/5 months of age). You can organise to collect this paperwork direct from the South Lismore office if you don’t want to wait for the delays caused by using Australia Post – please phone first to organise.

NOT WORKING OUT? Phone the ARRG Office within the two week trial period, and organise an appointment to return. But please discuss the problems you are experiencing, as they are happening, with our knowledgeable staff and volunteers as they may have some ideas you will find useful and avoid the return.

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WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ADOPTING TWO KITTENS ...

While it is not absolutely necessary to have two cats in a household, it can make your cats more sociable if they have a companion, especially if they are siblings. If humans are not at home for large portions of the day, then ARRG may query the adoption of a SINGLE young playful kitten. (Of course, there are some older cats who are perfectly suited to being an 'only child' and spending many hours alone.) ARRG is prepared to negotiate adoption fees if you do decide to adopt a pair of older teenage kittens/cats. There is lots of good research material on the internet, so we expect that you will look at websites such as:

The Kitten Lady – <http://www.kittenlady.org/twokittens> **

Jackson Galaxy – <http://www.jacksongalaxy.com/blog/> **

** *These are both American sites, so be aware that some of their information is USA-centric.*

Both of these sites have lots of useful information, ie, Jackson Galaxy explains:

- Before you get a kitten ...
- How to introduce cats – do's and don'ts;
- Playtime;
- Catification of your home;
- Leash training;
- Litter box problems;
- Furniture scratching;
- Christmas warnings;
- How to pet your cat;
- Cat behaviour tips;
- Indoors or Outdoors?
- How to say ... "I Love You".

Please consider the negatives of adopting a kitten as opposed to an adult – refer to **Helpful Hints** below.

Most of the **adult cats** in ARRG foster care are long-term fosters who would dearly love their own Furever Homes.

If you are considering adopting and **already have a cat in your household**, then your new kitten/cat should be introduced carefully to avoid long-term problems. (Refer to the Jackson Galaxy website – Cat Introductions parts 1-5.)

Advantages to adopting two kittens, either siblings or bonded co-foster. (Refer to The Kitten Lady Facebook.)

- * Learn by observation;
- * Focus Play Aggression;
- * Entertain & Enrich;
- * Keep out of trouble;
- * Easier to introduce two kittens to an adult cat;
- * Comfort in Friendship;
- * Bonded pair adoption.

<http://www.petpartners.com> has advice on more pros:

- % Live-in playmate;
- % Fewer Behavioural Issues;
- % Keep each other company;
- % Increased learning;
- % Better grooming;
- % Healthier cats;
- % Twice the love ... less work.

As adults, your two cats will be better socialised.

When no-one is at home, they will be company for each other.

Cats that have grown up together, or have been successfully introduced and are friends, will seek comfort from each other, especially during cold weather. Seeing two cats/kittens sleeping together can be very heart-warming.

While cats are good at self-grooming, you often see two or more cats **grooming** each other, especially the top of the head, neck and the face – difficult places for a cat to self-groom.

When one cat is **sick**, a sibling will often provide the sick individual with comfort and grooming. And if the worst happens and you lose one of your companions, the loss will be (if only slightly) lessened for you by the presence of the remaining companion.

Humans aren't always available when a kitten wants to **play**, but adopting siblings means they'll always have a playmate. It is also great entertainment for human members of the family to watch kittens at play with each other. So if you aren't prepared to be a SINGLE young kitten's playmate when it has the 'zoomies' between 8-10 pm, then you may not be approved for adoption.

Often a young adult cat will even enjoy a second childhood when a younger **playful** cat is carefully and successfully introduced. ARRG sees this a lot with young mum cats, who have successfully raised their offspring (and sometimes surrogate kittens) and start playing with their aging kittens. And then you can see their inner kitten showing, and often these mum cats can enjoy the kittenhood that they missed out on when they became pregnant.

If you have a **senior cat**, they may not appreciate a lively youngster in their life. Taking home a pair of kittens won't cause as much stress in the senior cat, as the youngsters will prefer each other's company if the senior cat doesn't want their company. Most kittens raised in a large foster home have already been taught to 'respect their elders' by the older cats in the foster home.

When taking a new cat home to meet a **resident cat**, a helpful hint is to keep them separate until they have both accepted the presence of another. In addition to the Jackson Galaxy tips - <https://www.jacksongalaxy.com/blog/the-dos-and-donts-of-introducing-cats/> - you can also use 'scent swapping' to get them used to the presence of each other, ie, wipe new cat with clean sock or material; wipe resident cat with clean sock or material; then place each scented item next to food bowl of other cat so they can get used to the scent of the other cat in a positive, non-threatening situation. Then repeat the process each meal so that their scents are intermingled.

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CAT FLAPS (even for indoor cats):

It is advisable to instal a cat flap, even for an INDOOR cat, in case of emergency.

If the cat should escape through an accidentally left open door, it will at least have an avenue to regain access to the home. Especially if its excursion has left it sick or injured.

Recommend that once cat has become settled in your home, that you show it how to use the cat flap as not all cats understand the concept.



Small - Fitted to Security Screen Door

The Petway cat door <http://www.petway.com.au/> is recommended, as it has 4-way access, so it can be set up to only allow access inside, and once inside they can't go outside. The SMALL door is also large enough to accommodate a large-sized cat. They are easy to instal, and can be bought for either a security door or a solid door. If you decide to instal it in a window, be sure to provide steps, shelves or some means for the cat to access the window easily.

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PET REGISTRATION/MICROCHIPPING:

Upon receiving an adoption confirmation phone call (or email if more practical for you) ARRG will then mail the microchip C3A form, which you filled in at the time of adoption, to the Lismore Council for processing. Once processed, Lismore Council will mail out to you a letter with the official microchip form, advising that it is a legal requirement for you to pay the **NSW LIFETIME REGISTRATION**.

Once you receive the **sterilisation certificate** (once cat is desexed), take that, along with your Interim Receipt and the paperwork from the Lismore Council, to your OWN LOCAL COUNCIL to pay the NSW lifetime registration fee. As ARRG is a registered rehoming organisation in accordance with the Department of Local Government NSW Pet Registry, you are entitled to a discounted fee (\$25 from 1 July 2020) having purchased a desexed cat sold by an eligible pound or shelter. Refer to www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au for any future changes to the NSW Pet Registry policy and fees. ARRG is an Approved Rehoming Organisation: **R251000005**.

Some animals that have been SURRENDERED may already have a microchip and have had their **Lifetime Registration paid**. In which case you will not have to pay that fee again. The animal’s contact details will be changed by Lismore Council to your name and contact details as per the C3A form you completed. The Adoption Agreement form will identify if animal has been Lifetime Registered, to our knowledge.

You are legally required to update the **NSW Pet Registry** with any changes to your contact details. Go to: www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au where you can record change of address or ownership or status of animal (ie, if animal is lost or dies) by setting up your account on this site. If an animal is LOST you should continue to maintain your Pet Registry details for the anticipated life of the animal, so that you can be notified if it is FOUND. Some animals have been identified from their microchip 10 even 15 years after disappearing!

It is ILLEGAL in NSW for anyone to sell or give-away a cat or a dog that is not microchipped, as per the NSW Office of Local Government. If you are aware of anyone doing so, they should be reported to the local council rangers.

Note that for responsible pet owners, there is no such thing as a ‘freebie’. The ‘freebie’ will still cost you for desexing, microchipping and vaccinations. So your freebie may end up costing you \$300-\$400+.

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HAZARDS to small kittens (8-12 weeks)

- * Toilets with lid left open;
- * Fridge doors; Freezer door if a side-by-side, or on bottom;
- * Washing machine/dryer front loading;
- * Oven;
- * Dishwasher
- * Members of the family leaving an external door open;
- * Closing a door on the tail of a cat may result in removal of the tail;
- * Curtain ropes etc can be accidentally wrapped around the neck of a small kitten or even an adult cat, and they can be choked to death. So check your home for any such hazards;
- * Thin elastic, cotton, string & wool can cause damage if eaten, if the length of material is caught under the tongue and can saw through the tongue each time the cat swallows. Sewing needles should also be monitored to ensure they aren’t swallowed as their removal can be the cost of a major operation.
- * Being dropped from a height – despite their remarkable agility to land on their feet, cats can still cause themselves damage when falling from a height.

Possibly that which is most hazardous to a small kitten is **A TODDLER!!!** Which is why ARRG rarely adopts an 8-12 week old kitten to a family with a child under 5 years of age. Toddlers aren’t always capable of understanding the dangers or obeying the commands of adults in relation to the health and welfare of the small kitten. An older kitten is more able to defend itself if mishandled, or is able to avoid being fallen upon.

Be prepared for your toddler, or any child for that matter, to be SCRATCHED if they mishandle a kitten or a cat.

DO YOU HAVE PET INSURANCE to cover the costs in event of accident or misadventure?

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SETTING UP SAFE ROOM ...

- * When introducing a new cat/kitten into a new household, keep them in a **small room** for anything from 24 hours or up to a week, so they get used to their new homes and humans. They should be able to see this room as their 'safe place'. All members of the family should spend as much time with the new cat/kitten as possible. This is a good place to bond with your new companion by spending time with it in there. If it is shy, don't stand over it, but try and spend time with it on its same level, such as lying or sitting on the floor in a comfortable nest, which is a very non-threatening posture.
- * Identify a room in your home that has **few hiding places**, that is comfortable, and where you are happy to leave litter trays, food plates and water bowl. Kittens can fit into VERY SMALL hidey holes.
- * Set up a '**nest**' on the floor of the safe room where family members can sit and make the kitten/cat comfortable with their presence. As cats don't often like being ignored, try reading out loud, so they get used to your voice, and after a while of being ignored in this confined space, they will likely (hopefully) approach and curl up next to you or on your lap.
- * To show a cat you are not a threat, but a friend, use the **slow eye-blink method** – watch the Jackson Galaxy videos to see an example if you don't already know what this is. Also offer your extended finger slowly for the kitten/cat/s to get used to your scent. If the cat/kitten is reluctant to approach, don't pressure them; allow them to approach at their own pace.
 - # When you are finally confident about letting kitten/cat out of the safe room, **let the newcomer investigate its new home at its own pace**. Don't force it to investigate new rooms. In particular don't let children carry a kitten around the house. Allowing it to investigate at its own pace means it can find its way back to the litter trays, food and water in the safe room.
 - # If you live in a large house, or especially a two-storey house, it may be prudent to **place trays strategically** around the house.
 - # If the kitten is nervous, don't put it in a room where it can hide, such as under a bed. If it does hide, do not traumatise it by trying to drag it out of hiding. **Use enticements**, such as treats and toys to encourage it out – possibly over a period of days.
 - # Cat should be kept as an **indoor cat**, but if you choose to let it go outside, do not do so for at least one month after arrival. And certainly not until they have been desexed.
 - # Try **scent-swapping** if introducing to a resident cat – or even an inside dog.
 - # Remind family members to **NOT leave toilet lid up** as this may be dangerous for a curious kitten.

SAFE ROOM as security.

If scared, a cat will quickly retreat to its '**safe room**' for protection. Fear reaction can be caused by unexpected outside noises, or the arrival of visitors.

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WARNINGS ...

Kittens do require a lot of your time and attention, especially if it is by itself. It is why **pairs** are more suitable.

If any member of the household is unstable on their feet (especially older people), consider that energetic kittens make dangerous **trip-hazards**. A more sedate adult or older teenage kitten may be the safer option.

ARRG is reluctant to adopt 8-12 week old kittens (<1kg) to families with **babies/toddlers** (children 1-5 years old). If there is a young child in the household, you should consider adopting an older kitten instead of a small kitten unable to defend itself. Unfortunately there have been accidents involving a small child unstable on its feet or unaware of its own strength, and a small helpless kitten.

Pregnant women should research **Toxoplasmosis** and have another member of the family be prepared for litter cleaning duties.

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COSTS TO CONSIDER ...

In the 21st Century ... being a pet guardian is a PRIVILEGE not a RIGHT!!

The main cost ... is TIME!

There are many different types of pets, other than cats or dogs, that are not as expensive to maintain, or require as much of your time. Even with a cat, you must be prepared to spend time with it. Just as you spend time each day walking your dog, you are expected to spend the same amount of time playing and socialising with your kitten/cat. So ask yourself, DO YOU HAVE THE TIME to raise a kitten/cat?

If you cannot afford the ongoing financial costs, then you should not even accept a freebie!!!

If you are a RESPONSIBLE PET GUARDIAN, a freebie will end up costing far more than the cost of ADOPTING.

Do not encourage BACKYARD BREEDERS by taking their kittens unless the mum cat especially, but all cats in the household, have been sterilised.

In NSW it is ILLEGAL for someone to even GIVE AWAY a cat/dog/kitten/puppy that is not microchipped. Report offenders (usually backyard breeders) to the local Council/rangers. If the cats/kittens are in bad health, report the offender to the RSPCA.

ONE-OFF COSTS for supplies, such as ...

CAT CARRIER (<\$70 depending on quality) is needed when adopting for transporting home, but it is also useful to have in the event of a medical emergency, or for their annual veterinary visit. Suggest you consider what size your kitten is going to grow to, and buy an appropriate sized carrier.

% The SMALL foldable canvas carriers are a good purchase, available from K-Mart for <\$30. Vets like these as they can access the cat from three angles: top, side & front.

% For larger & adult cats you should have a carrier each.

% When transporting a cat in a carrier, be sure to secure the carrier using the seatbelt threaded through the handle. Otherwise the cat & carrier have the potential to be a hazardous projectile in the event of an accident.



LITTER TRAYS – prices vary depending on quality, ie, \$50 each for Oz-Pet tray (recommended only if you intend to use the environmentally-friendly Oz-Pet litter which costs approximately \$20+/kilo <http://www.oz-pet.net.au/> and available for most pet stores and vets and some supermarkets) or <\$10 for a basic tray that uses any type of litter which range in cost according to quality. Some cats do like to use hooded trays, which may also be aesthetically pleasing for humans – not necessarily suitable for ALL cats. Double sieve trays, such as the Oz-Pet product, are an advantage as they allow urine to pass through to the bottom tray, leaving a dry surface for the cat to walk on. You will only need to scoop and dispose of faeces as they appear in top tray.

% You will need at least 2 trays for 1 cat - 1 tray for each cat in the household plus 1 tray for the house; so at least 3 trays for 2 cats; at least 4 trays for 3 cats, etc.

(The reason for multiple trays for even a single cat is when you observe a cat toileting outside, you will see that it will urinate in one spot, and then move to a different location to defecate. The same instinct applies inside.)



* **LITTER** – there are many different products available ranging in price depending on quality. Some products are better at smell-control than others. Again, ARRГ recommends the Oz-Pet products, as they regularly donate bags of litter to our group, and we are happy to support local companies that support us. Oz-Pet is a local company based out of the Woodburn Mill. Oz-Pet litter is a pine-based wood litter that is environmentally friendly. When the wood pellets become wet with urine (in the bottom of a double sieve tray) the pellet turns into a sawdust and can be placed in a mulch pit or on your garden. It is not recommended that Oz-Pet litter is used in a standard single tray, as it would not be as economical as when wet the pellets turn into a sawdust, and will have to be replaced more frequently than necessary with a sieve tray. For more information about this product, go to www.oz-pet.net.au to learn how to use the double sieve tray and litter most effectively.

% Litter needs to be kept **clean** and replaced according to individual directions. Dirty litter may result in urinary tract infections and other medical conditions.

% Some cats show a preference for particular litter-**types**. ARRГ uses Oz-Pet litter, which is kindly donated by this local company.

% If you choose the cheapest option of shredded paper, then be careful not to leave important papers lying where your cat can access it, as they'll see all paper as a potential toilet area. It will smell and needs to be changed after every use.

% If using **clumping** litter, consider how you intend to dispose of it.

% **Disposal** of litter is of course something else to consider. Cheaper litter will need to be disposed of each day, in your garbage bin. Whereas environmentally friendly litter, such as Oz-Pet, is more easily disposed of. Used Oz-Pet litter breaks down into a sawdust when wet (with urine) and is safe to use in your mulch pile or in your yard. You will find that Oz-Pet litter is economical as you don't use as much of it as the cheaper litter options. Faeces can be flushed down your toilet (unless you have a specialised system) if not too badly contaminated by litter.

* **CAT POSTS** can be purchased cheaply for \$100-\$300 depending on height & quality from websites such as eBay – the taller the post/tree, the better; anything less than 160cm is not recommended – cats like high places to rest or get away from young children. Placing a post next to a window allows an indoor cat to receive outside mental-stimulation, ie, **cat tv**. Refer to Jackson Galaxy's blog on the subject of Catification.

% If there are **young children** in the house or who visit regularly, ensure they realise that when the cat is on the post, it is to be considered a no-go zone. This gives the cat/s a safe refuge. The cat then choose if it wants to socialise or not.

% You should buy a post with **sisal rope** covering the poles, as it will be used for scratching, which may protect your furniture. The taller the post, the better, especially for large adult cats who can stretch over a metre.

% **Do not buy** a post covered with **loop-pile carpet** as that can catch a cat's claw and in a worst case scenario actually rip out the claw when the cat struggles to free itself.

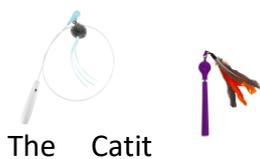
% When buying a cat post, recommend you buy one that has one or more **circular hammocks** that cats enjoy sleeping in, especially in the cool.

% **ARRГ try to stock good quality cat posts** than can be purchased at our office. We try to keep the costs down by buying when at a special price.

* **CARDBOARD SCRATCHERS** (made from recycled compacted cardboard) are enjoyed by most cats, and will give the cat an alternative to scratching on your furniture. The scratcher will likely be well used – so expect pieces of cardboard to be shredded!



* **CAT TOYS** are good for keeping kittens/cats entertained. Recommend you not buy toys with **thin elastic** that can be chewed through. Also take care with **string, cotton & wool** – these are not playthings and can result in a trip to the vet! Cats have even been known to swallow a needle on the end of cotton.



The Catit

Suggest you buy an assortment of toys which are either self-entertaining (no batteries) or require human-interaction (ie, battery operated). Cat nip toys and bell toys are often the most entertaining. Senses Play Circuit is great entertainment for kittens & adults alike, is



good quality and doesn't take up much space. Wand toys (using cords and not thin elastic) provide good exercise. Battery operated toys require human intervention, but can be entertaining. (The Jackson Galaxy website has good advice on how to best play with a cat.) K-Mart have a nice assortment. EBay have lots of good options, including exercise wheels which are a wonderful investment for indoor cats. The noisier the toy the more the cat seems to enjoy them – but be careful with the bells if they are broken.



To provide exercise for indoor cats, the product recommended by ARRГ is 'One Fast Cat' wheel, which can cost about \$500 including postage, from Bengals Australia through eBay.



plates. You can also



Petbarn staff can advise on which are the safer and most enjoyed toys that they sell.

* **EATING UTENSILS** – plastic, metal or ceramic – bowls or purchase automatic feeders that can be used if you expect to be away from home overnight and don't want to impose on a neighbour.



* **BEDDING** – depends on whether you want your cat to sleep on your bed. Some cats like bed/mats to sleep on or cat-houses to sleep in, but don't be surprised if they are totally ignored. Most cats are more than content to sleep on your bed or other soft furnishings, including the round hammocks on the tall cat post/tree.



* A **HAMMOCK** made out of shadecloth or equivalent can be useful during summer for keeping a cat cool. Kittens also like to sleep/play in hanging net tubes (available from IKEA and also sold by ARRГ - such as are found in children's bedrooms for their stuffed toys) which also keep them cool in the heat. Dog trampoline beds are also enjoyed by cats, especially in Summer thanks to their ventilation.

* **CAT HARNESS** – if your cat is going to be kept inside, but you'd like to take it for the occasional walk, you should harness-train the kitten early. (Jackson Galaxy website has good advice on how to train your cat to walk on a lead.) Recommend a full body harness & lead. Petbarn staff can advise the best product for your cat.



% Taking your cat outside also gives it the opportunity to eat grass, which is also good for its health. Cat Grass (and catnip) seeds can also be purchased to be grown inside using pots.

* **ONE-OFF VETERINARY COSTS** in the event of accident or illness should be budgeted for. Note that many insurance companies now provide **PET INSURANCE**, which may save the life of your beloved companion. If you already have pet insurance, this is worth mentioning in your application to adopt. Check the conditions of coverage, as most are likely for only injury, not illness.

% Keeping a cat inside, particularly at night, will protect it from accidents and fight injuries – abscesses likely won't be evident for about a week but will need veterinary treatment for the infection - which in turn incur veterinary bills. Keeping it permanently inside will also protect local wildlife and lessen the possibility of hunting-related parasites. If your cat does go outside, you can buy a 'cat bib' for it to wear



<https://catbib.com.au/>, which is supposed to curtail its ability to hunt. **White cats** or cats with white ears or noses should also be kept inside and out of direct sunlight to avoid skin cancer.

% Protecting against **ticks** can ultimately save the life of your cat, and in excess of \$500 vet treatment.

ONGOING COSTS ... (Check with your vet as to their costs, as charges may vary. Purchasing goods online can save money.)

^ The annual cost of 1 cat is at a minimum \$1,000 per year. A second cat can cost a little less:

* Food (depending on quality of food) can be as little as \$400/year for basics, or over \$1,500 for good quality products. Remember, raw chicken wings/necks 2 or 3 times a week will save you the cost of dental bills down the track. Good quality biscuits can also be good for the long-term health of your companion, especially hairball and oral-care biscuits. Obtain veterinary advice for the best dietary care of your cat.

* Litter varies in cost from approximately \$250 per year depending on quality. Products such as Oz-Pet (<https://www.oz-pet.net.au/>) are environmentally friendly and economical if used in accordance with instructions and an appropriate sieve tray.

* Annual vaccination - <\$100. Speak to your vet about including FIV/Feline Leukemia vaccinations if you allow your cat outside. Many strays now carry FIV which can be passed on to your cat during even a moderate fight. (Another reason for keeping your cat/s indoors.)

FLEAING/WORMING

Fleaing/Worming can be a tablet or a spot-on. Always seek veterinary advice for your individual circumstances. In northern NSW paralysis ticks are quite prevalent and can have a deadly impact on cats (or dogs), so you are encouraged to treat your cat/s all year round. Some examples are:



Bravecto spot-on is a relatively new product that is recommended for any cat in our high-risk tick area. Many vets will now tell you that there is no longer a 'tick season' as they have cases all year round. Even indoor cats can be affected by a hitch-hiking tick that comes in on another animal, including humans. Check the instructions – usually protects for 3 months. (\$55 to \$85 (2 pack) – depending on whether you buy online, in-store, or at vets.)



Separate worming product should be used in conjunction with this product, either tablet (such as Milbemax which is also applied in 3 monthly intervals) or spot-on (once a month). (\$15 to \$35 (2 pack) – depending on whether you buy online, in-store, or at vets.)



Bravecto-PLUS Spot-on is to be applied bi-monthly, however it has the advantage of being a two-in-one flea/wormer, protecting against some intestinal parasites. (\$25 to \$45 (2 pack) – depending on whether you buy online, in-store, or at vets.) If your cat is a hunter, consult with your vet that this product is sufficient to protect against the type of parasites a cat can pick up from eating prey.



Revolution spot-on covers both fleaing & worming and can be used out of tick season if you live in a tick area. Or if you don't live in a tick area then it can be used monthly all year. DOES NOT protect against ticks. (Comes in multi-packs at an approximate cost of \$12-\$20 per pipette.)



Revolution Plus spot-on covers both fleas/ticks & worms with monthly applications. (Comes in multi-packs at an approximate cost of \$12-\$20 per pipette.)

Worming tablet (\$10-\$20 ea – depending on source) if also using a fleas/ticks-only product.

Obtain veterinary advice if your cat is allowed outside and may hunt, as you may have to treat them with specific worming tablets, as not all parasites are treated by generic worming products.

There are many online vet stores for you to choose from, such as <https://www.thevetshed.com.au/>.

ALWAYS SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE!

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FOSTERING AS AN OPTION ...

If you would like the companionship of a cat, but don't believe you can meet the long-term responsibilities, then perhaps you should consider becoming a foster carer, even temporarily. This is something for the elderly to consider who are looking for a companion. Cats can live for over 20 years, though a more average age is 15-20 years. There are many reasons why the elderly or infirm may accept that they are not in a position to give an animal a home for its whole life. Or you may even be a renter who can't get long-term permission to have an animal in your home, but can have one short-term.

Emergency foster carers are always in high demand. Refer to the 'becoming a foster carer' page on our website <http://www.animalrights.org.au/carers.php>

If you feel that you and your family would like the experience of raising an **orphaned kitten/litter** from **newborns** or as young as **a few weeks old**, but don't want the long-term responsibility, then becoming a foster carer can be a rewarding experience and quite educational. Foster carers who have the time and patience to handfeed orphaned kittens are in high demand. Remember, it can be a lot of hard work and sleepless nights. A kitten foster carer can have a constant stream of kittens in care, whereas if you adopt, your new companion will only be a kitten for 12 months. Of course, you must be prepared to say goodbye to your fosters ... but every adoption means you can save another life. Unfortunately you may also have to accept the unexpected death of one of your fosters, though this is rare.

Sadly there are still irresponsible cat owners out there who do not spay their female cat. Then when she becomes **pregnant** they discard her like rubbish, and if she's lucky she'll end up with a group like ARRГ. So if you've ever been tempted to say ... "I'll let her have just one litter of kittens so the children can experience the birth," consider the repercussions. You will have to find homes for your kittens with people who are more responsible than you and will guarantee that the kittens will be sterilised by 5 months of age. Then the kittens you can't home end up at places like ARRГ. And don't forget, in NSW, it is ILLEGAL to even give away a kitten/cat that is not microchipped! Instead of bringing more kittens into the world and not being able to find responsible owners for them then perhaps you should put up your hand to be a foster carer for a pregnant cat, and your children can experience kitten birth that way! The responsibility for finding homes for the kittens is then ARRГ's.

In cities, when pounds and shelters are at capacity, every time you find a home for one of your kittens ... a cat will be **euthanised** in a pound/shelter.

You should not ever let the cat experience its first season, as they can become desperate enough to escape from your house. It only takes one excursion outside for a female to become pregnant.

The more foster carers we have available, the more lives can be saved.

The hardest part of being a foster carer? Saying goodbye to a foster animal you've spent weeks raising, have fallen in love with, and now have to hand over to a stranger. However if you talk to a foster carer, they will tell you what a REWARDING experience it is, and remember, for every kitten you re-home, ARRГ will then be in a position to save another life.

You just have to be careful not to become a statistic of the foster fails.

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OUTDOOR OPTIONS:

ARRГ has two cat enclosures on-site at the South Lismore Centre, that you can view prior to purchasing from either 'Backyard Cat Enclosures' – <https://www.backyardcatenclosures.com.au/product/meow-manor/> or 'Sommerzby' – <https://www.somerzby.com.au>.

Another alternative is to build an enclosure onto your house using catnets – <https://catnets.com.au>

You can add runs that extend from your house to the enclosure, in quite elaborate fashion if preferred.

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HELPFUL HINTS FOR WHEN ADOPTING A KITTEN ...

CHOOSING ...

* On-line research can be very helpful when choosing the best kitten for your situation. There are lots of websites and books with good advice on the subject. The personality of a kitten/cat should fit in with your lifestyle and the personalities of the members of the human family.

% People often ask whether it is better to adopt a male or a female. As long as males are desexed at a young age (4-6 months), they are unlikely to spray, but any cat, male or female, can spray if placed in a stressful situation.

% As long as the cats are desexed, there is little difference between the personality of male and female cats. It all comes down to their individual personalities. Either gender can be extremely affectionate, timid, stand-offish, or independent.

Five personality types in cats: Neurotic; Extraverted; Dominant; Impulsive; Agreeable.

* Medium & Long-haired cats will require regular **grooming**. Knots (especially in the pits of the legs) can be quite painful and change the personality of the cat. Some long-haired cats may benefit from an annual shaving, especially if they are allowed outside and collect seeds and sticks in their coats which are hard to remove. Shaving is also of benefit in tick areas, as long-haired cats are more susceptible, and the **ticks** can be more easily found in short hair. Seek veterinary advice on what's best for your cat.

* When adopting a kitten, consider that **cat breeders** don't allow their pedigree kittens to be adopted any younger than **12 weeks old**. This ensures the kitten is well-socialised before leaving its siblings and mother, and is introduced to a new human family. ARRG does not adopt out kittens until they have been **microchipped and received their first vaccination at 8-9 weeks of age**. You should still consider that a slightly older kitten is better suited for adoption, so don't be put off by older kittens.

One point to consider when adopting a young kitten is that the personality of an 8 week old kitten is often not the same as that kitten at 8 months old or even 18 months old. So the older the kitten you adopt, the better idea you will have of its ultimate personality type.

*** REMEMBER, YOU AREN'T ADOPTING A PLAYFUL KITTEN. YOU ARE ADOPTING A COMPANION FOR WHOM YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEXT 15-20 YEARS.**

* Shy cats can benefit from being separated from their siblings, as it will force them to bond with their new human family. **Shy cats** tend to bond extremely closely to their human family, but you may have difficulty convincing your visitors that you actually have a cat.

Most **shy kittens** can be won over by hand-feeding them a treat – roast chicken is often a favourite, but don't overdo it – so they don't see a descending hand as a threat. Dine also have a soft treat most cats enjoy. Or you can buy a packet of treats. Feed treats to cats with the same caution as feeding ice cream or chocolate to children.



The reason shy kittens are so timid can sometimes be explained by their being so small and humans so large. One way to relax a kitten is to put yourself on their level by making a nest on the floor and spending as much time as possible with the kitten in the 'safe room'. The 'safe room' shouldn't have any hiding places to avoid stressing both kitten and human.

Patience + time = boundless love!

* **Kittens will climb curtains!** Suggest you replace curtains you like with old ones for the first 12 months.

* **Remove breakables** from any surface that a kitten can access – they are good climbers! And those media videos of cats deliberately knocking items off benches is not a myth!

* **Kittens will have accidents!** If you don't want accidents, consider adopting an adult.

If you are at all concerned about **protecting your furniture** from these potential ‘accidents’, then consider covering lounges/furniture with waterproof mattress protectors.

If your cat is **scratching your furniture**, first buy a cat post (preferably with sisal rope around the poles) as an alternate scratching area. Another option is to place double-sided tape on the area of furniture being scratched, as cats don’t like the sticky sensation. After some time when the cat has stopped testing the furniture and is using the cat post, you should be able to safely remove the tape.

Placing a **cardboard scratcher** near the furniture also gives it an alternative to scratching your furniture.

* If you don’t want **bad behaviour in your adult cat**, then don’t encourage that behaviour in your kitten. *Encourage calmness.*

* If you are that way inclined, a kitten/cat can be trained to **perform** certain behaviours, especially if it is food-oriented.

* You can even set up an **obstacle course** in your home to give your companion some extra exercise. This is part of your quality time you can spend with your cat each day.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

* If you are going to let your cat go outdoors, you should discuss with your vet about **FIV annual vaccination** shots!

* For each cat in a household you should have **one litter tray, and then one additional tray for the house.** (ARRG kittens are used to using OzPet litter <http://www.oz-pet.net.au/>) – 1 cat = 2 litter trays; 2 cats = 3 litter trays; etc.

* Kittens are like toddlers, they will have occasional accidents. Make sure you keep their **litter trays clean** and in easily accessible locations.

If a kitten persists in going in a particular location, place a tray there and then slowly move it to where you want it to be.

* Feed your kitten/cat a **raw chicken wing/neck** two or three times a week (or as your vet advises), raw bones are excellent for extra healthy teeth.

Get kittens used to having their teeth looked at and their **claws & paws examined** – it will help when they are adults to monitor them for healthy teeth and gums, or to help if their claws need **clipping**.

By **examining your cat’s mouth** every month, you will be able to anticipate the development of a potential problem. Seek vet advice if you notice a negative change in the condition of teeth or gums.

* Don’t give cats/kittens normal milk as many are lactose intolerant. Water is sufficient but **kitten/pet milk** can be a treat for those who like it. Monitor poos for any negative reactions or diarrhoea.

* **Indoor cats** need to eat **cat grass** occasionally. Either allow them to go outside sometimes with a harness and a lead so they can graze, or grow grass in an indoor pot. Cat grass can be purchased already grown for re-potting, or grown from seed. Cat grass can be purchased from most garden stores or online.

Some people train their kittens to be walked on a lead/harness.

* **Slowly introduce** the kitten/cat to other existing cats/dogs.

Show all the new and the old kittens/cats/dogs lots of attention, so no-one feels left out. Lots of cuddles during the introduction phase.

* Do not leave papers on the floor. They may be mistaken for a toilet.

* **Cat Posts** (the taller the better) are great entertainment, and help kittens/cats feel secure by giving them a high vantage point – especially if they feel the need to escape from young children. Tall posts also cater to

a kitten/cat's desire to climb. They also like to sleep in the round hammocks. You can find good deals online at locations such as eBay etc.

In households with children: **educate the children** not to interfere with a cat having a time-out on a cat post.

* **Sleeping hammocks** made from shadecloth are very good in Summer. As are hanging net partitioned tubes. Dog trampoline beds also make comfortable sleeping spots for cats. You can also buy hammocks to attach to windows so the cat has 'cat tv'.

* If your new kitten has **mild diarrhoea**, or soft stools, which can happen with a change of environment and diet, then feed it **ONLY** boiled chicken (sometimes mixed with plain rice) for a few days, then when its poos start to solidify, slowly re-introduce its regular diet. But diarrhoea may also be a side-effect of an intestinal parasite, so an alternate worming product may be necessary. However if diarrhoea persists or gets worse, seek veterinary advice immediately. **Contact ARRГ** prior to taking to vet if this happens within trial period before you have confirmed the adoption. You will be given either advice or a Job number.

* Continue to feed cat/kitten the same food it is used to, and after the 2 week trial period, you can start experimenting with new foods by mixing with old food.

* During the **two week trial** adoption period with ARRГ, up until you contact the ARRГ office confirming the adoption, ARRГ will cover the cost of any **veterinary visits** for pre-existing conditions. You will need to contact the ARRГ office prior to making a veterinary appointment (other than for second vaccinations that you pay for) to discuss your options. You are responsible for any injuries occurring while in your care.

ARRГ foster carers can provide limited suggestions to assist you with caring for your kitten/cat, but if in doubt, seek professional veterinary advice. It's better to be a paranoid parent than to wait too long before taking your animal to a vet to investigate some matter of concern.

CREATURES OF HABIT ...

Cats generally do not like change. Most love routine. So try and start them on the routine that you feel comfortable with as early as possible, with meal times on a schedule.

Going to bed at a particular time can also help them set up a routine.

The younger kittens/cats often suffer from 'zoomies' and will tear around the house between 8-10 am & pm. If they have a playmate, it means you can have fun watching them. If they don't, then you should take the opportunity and play with them. If you or your family don't have the time to do this, then you should consider adopting an older and more independent cat. Dogs are not the only pet that you need to spend time with; cats need that time too.

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MEDICAL CONCERNS after adopting.

Sometimes a cat/kitten can have an upset tummy when it goes to live in a new home. This can be due to a change in their routine, or a change of their diet.

If your kitten/cat does start to exhibit signs of diarrhoea, contact the foster carer or ARRГ volunteer for advice. Most times the solution is as simple as feeding them boiled chicken & rice for a few days until they start poo'ing normally.

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FOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

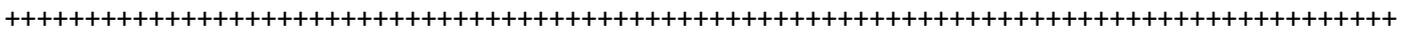


Do not feed kittens/cats any cheaper brand **gravy-based food**. This can often cause diarrhoea as some companies save money and the gravy is very watery with very little meat content.

The **loaf style** food from reputable cat food companies is recommended. Check the source of the product to make sure it is made in a pet friendly country. Note that even Australia does not have strict pet food standards, but our products are still better than what come from some other countries. The soft food products ARRG recommends are usually Royal Canin, Advance, Hills, Felix, Optimum, Whiskas (not the mince which is mostly water) and you can test other products on the advice of vets or Petbarn staff.

Jelly style foods are also acceptable, but you may want to compare. If you see that there is more jelly than meat, perhaps you should try a more expensive brand that provides better nutrition.

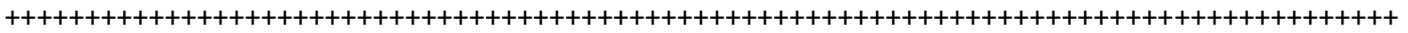
Good quality biscuits are the way to go. Same brands as for soft food, with the possible exception of Whiskas. Cheaper brands may have a higher mineral content which is not necessarily good for the health of your companion. Research about feeding protocols, or ask for veterinary advice.



If you enjoy your new companion, please spread the word about ARRG. As a group of volunteers, ARRG relies exclusively on donations from the public to allow more animals to be rescued and veterinary bills covered. Click on the DONATE button to contribute.

https://www.animalrights.org.au/donations_quick.php

Foster carers are vital for ARRG to continue to rescue animals.



THANK YOU ...

Thank you for choosing to adopt a rescued animal and saving its life, and giving it a Furever Home, and also for supporting Animal Rights & Rescue Group, Inc. For every cat adopted it means ARRG can then save another life. Remember, you are adopting a companion for the next 15-20 years. And an extra big special thank you to those good-hearted and generous folk who are prepared to adopt an adult or senior cat instead of a kitten.

Most of all ... enjoy the company of your new companion/s.

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CONDITIONS OF ARRГ ADOPTIONS

When adopting a kitten/cat from ARRГ, you will be asked to sign an Adoption Agreement form whereby you will be agreeing to the following conditions ...

At time of adoption ... **READ** the complete **ADOPTION AGREEMENT** policy **BEFORE SIGNING** the form, so you fully understand to what you are agreeing.

Safely transport a cat/kitten in an approved cat carrier. To secure carrier in car, place seatbelt through the handle. You do not want the cat carrier to become a projectile in the event of an accident.

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SINCE 1995 ARRГ HAS RESCUED OVER 20,000 UNWANTED ANIMALS FROM DEATH/SUFFERING OR BEING UNWANTED OR LOST. THESE ANIMALS HAVE BEEN SAFELY RE-HOMED, OR CARED FOR UNTIL THE END OF THEIR NATURAL LIVES.

ARRГ HAS PROVIDED VET CARE FOR MANY SICK ANIMALS & ASSISTED WITH DESEXING THAT HAS PREVENTED THOUSANDS OF UNWANTED ANIMALS BEING BORN.

DONATIONS TO HELP PAY THESE BILLS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

All potential owners are screened thoroughly to ensure the suitability of the proposed home. ARRГ cats and dogs are placed into their new home on a two week trial.

If adopting a kitten or puppy under 5 months a prepaid desexing voucher is included in the Adoption Fee, to be used at no later than 4 months of age by a participating vet clinic in this area.

ARRГ Cat Adoptions—\$180.00 includes the 1st Vaccination, fleaing/worming, desexing and microchipping. All cats are litter and indoor trained.

ARRГ Dog Adoptions—\$250.00 includes the 1st Vaccination, fleaing/worming (including heartworm), desexing and microchipping. Dogs/puppies that are over 5 months of age have been Heartworm tested.

Disclaimer: The behaviour of this cat has been observed and assessed whilst in the care of Animal Rights & Rescue Group, Inc, and has been deemed suitable for rehoming, based on those observations. Animal Rights & Rescue Group accepts no liability for the actions of this cat once it is rehomed and cannot guarantee the temperament of it in its new home.

Prior to adoption, every cat is given a visual health check. Since some breeds are prone to inherited genetic conditions, there can be no guarantee that an inherited genetic or other medical condition may not arise later in this cat's life. ARRГ accepts no responsibility for any such condition which may arise.

Health Guarantee Policy: While ARRГ makes every effort to ensure that our animals are healthy when put up for adoption, many diseases have incubation periods making it impossible to warn owners at the time of adoption. The Health Guarantee only covers the adopted animal and not any other animals in or out of your home. ARRГ agrees that if your adopted cat exhibits any signs of ill health within the 2 week trial period, ARRГ will organise a health check with one of our approved veterinarians, to which conditions apply. In the event of the cat requiring a vet check for a pre-existing condition, the adopter must first contact ARRГ (02) 6622 1881 (M-F 9-3) for authorisation. Not doing this **may** make you liable for the veterinarian costs.

It is a requirement of the health guarantee that you keep your new pet isolated from other animals in the community, except for your own animals, for 14 days. This is to provide protection for your new companion and prevent any disease transfer to other pets in the community while ARRГ immunisations are taking effect. In the event of an emergency illness related to a pre-existing

known condition, you will notify ARRГ by email or phone immediately upon taking to a vet, and provide full advice on the outcome (including vet report). This policy only covers illnesses that may arise as a result of the animal being in the care of ARRГ and does not cover accidental damage, mistreatment or genetic health problems.

Return Policy: ARRГ provides a 14 day settling in period for you and your new companion. If your new cat does not settle into its new home, please consult the ARRГ volunteers at our South Lismore Centre (02) 6622 1881 (M-F 9-3) for advice. If the problem/s can't be resolved you can book an appointment to return your adopted cat prior to the animal being returned to the Lismore ARRГ Centre. A refund of the adoption price will be paid by bank deposit, provided the animal is returned within 14 days from the date of adoption.

If for an unanticipated reason, in the future, you cannot keep this adopted cat, you must first contact ARRГ before attempting to re-home. When ARRГ is in a position to accept the return of the cat, when there is available space, you must pay a surrender fee and return all appropriate paperwork to allow it to be re-homed by ARRГ. In the meantime it is expected that you will do all in your means to see that the cat is taken care of when you are no longer able to provide appropriate care, whether this be providing for your pet in your Will and leaving a bequeathment to a rescue group of your choice, or organising with a family member or friend who will continue to care for your companion in an acceptable manner. In the event this is not possible, then an agreement should first be reached with ARRГ to guarantee our ability to accept the return of the cat, then written into your Will.

Must be transported in cat carrier secured by seatbelt.

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAT UNATTENDED IN A VEHICLE!

You also agree to the following ...

1. If kitten is under 4 months of age I must have the kitten desexed using the prepaid voucher with one of the ARRГ participating vets at the age of 4 months -
The prepaid vouchers cannot be used at any other vet clinic.
2. **I agree to complete** the course of vaccination boosters and ongoing annual vaccinations.
3. **I agree to continue** the recommended intestinal worming program for this cat that is ongoing for life.
Please discuss this essential pet care with our volunteer if not understood.
4. This cat will not be for business or security purposes or re-sale.
5. This cat is on a two-week trial period and is still legally owned by ARRГ during this time. This cat must not be given away or offered or re-homed during this time.
6. **I agree** to the following requirements previously discussed with ARRГ prior to Adoption.
 - The cat/kitten is secured in an appropriately safe room for at least 24 hours, and up to a week if necessary, until accepting of resident animals and humans.
7. I understand that the cat is in good health at time of purchase and will contact ARRГ immediately during the two week trial period if the animal appears not well in any way.
8. **I agree** to be FULLY responsible for the actions of this cat while it is in my care.

TWO WEEK'S TRIAL APPLIES FROM DATE ON THIS FORM & NEW OWNER MUST RING ARRГ WITHIN THAT PERIOD AND CONFIRM IF KEEPING OR RETURNING THIS CAT/KITTEN.