

Responsible Cat Ownership

A responsible cat owner:

- Spays or neuters their cat and provides regular vet care throughout its lifetime.
- Keeps their cat indoors or builds an enclosure to protect it as well as wildlife.
- Microchips their cat to identify it, increasing the odds of being reunited if lost.
- Keeps the microchip information updated.
- Reads and ensures they are following local By-laws.
- Knows their responsibilities under the Animal Protection Act.

Indoor cats live an average of 13-17 years. Cats that roam free outside live an average of only 2-5 years.

An indoor cat:

- Is significantly less likely to contract diseases such as Feline Leukemia, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, Rabies or pick up fleas/ticks.
- Is safe from vehicles, insecticides, pesticides, parasites and harm from other animals — reducing emergency vet visits and expenses.
- Avoids becoming lost, homeless or placed in a shelter.
- Doesn't risk frostbite in winter or dehydration in summer.

To register a complaint or report a lost cat, call 311 or visit halifax.ca



Benefits of Microchipping:

Microchipping is the best form of identification that you can provide for your animal to ensure its safe return.

- A microchip is for the life of your pet. Collar and tags can become lost/ removed but a microchip is secure forever.
- Microchips can be implanted in cats, dogs, rabbits, etc.
- Microchipping is a relatively painless injection and doesn't require anesthesia. Once implanted there is no physical discomfort to the animal.
- Microchips are widely used at vet hospitals, rescues and kennel facilities, with many having a microchip scanner on site. Microchip companies provide 24/7 access to contact information allowing the finder to reunite you with your pet.

Benefits of Spaying/ Neutering:

- Less spraying, reduced smell and unwanted behaviour.
- Elimination of unwanted kittens.
- Feral colony numbers will decrease.
- Less likely to wander away from home.
- Reduces the spread of disease, aggressive behaviour and injuries.

A single female cat can have an average of two litters per year. Averaging four kittens per litter, that cat and her kittens could produce roughly 420,000 cats in only seven years.

If you have an outdoor cat ensure it is **spayed or neutered, microchipped** and **provided regular vet care.**

For tips on how to keep your cat happy indoors please visit: spcans.ca/animal-care/cats-and-kittens

