

Surrendering a Cat/s

Written by Melanie - Last Updated Thursday, 23 January 2020 21:38

Obviously there are situations that occur that means a family can no longer keep a pet they own. An example of this is if an elderly owner passes away and their friends or family are not in a position to take on the animal. Sometimes people run into dire financial trouble and can no longer provide for their animal or they are moving overseas.

If you have already spoken to us and we have agreed to take in your cat/s we ask you to please provide the following at the time of dropping your cat/s off to us...

- 1) Vaccination History (or at minimum the most recent vaccination that you can access)
- 2) Desexing Certificates for both cats)
- 3) A list of favourite foods and litter preferences
- 4) Anything you no longer need that you know that has the cat/s scent on it and will help their transition here to us (Litter Tray, Bed, Scratching pole, Bowls, Toys).
- 5) Any health or behavioural issues or concerns that may require rehabilitation and/or veterinary attention.
- 6) Before we rehome any rescue cat - All the cats we take in need to be vet checked, vaccinations are brought up to date etc. If the cats aren't desexed we do this. The cats are flea treated/wormed etc. Some Cats require Dentals and other expensive medical treatments or long term rehabilitation. **We ask people to donate to the Burmese Cat Society - NAME: Burmese Cat Society. BSB: 032501 Acct: 194647 - REF: Burmese in Distress.** IF you wish to contact the Secretary or the President of the society you can do so and all relevant information is on www.burmese.asn.au

If you are thinking about possibly surrendering your cat/s or rehoming your cat yourself:

I think it is so **IMPORTANT** that people have thought about this and reached such a decision very carefully - As mentioned on our "TIPS FOR BUYING A KITTEN" page under the 'RESOURCES' menu: "...purchasing a kitten is a **LONG TERM** decision. When you purchase a kitten you must be aware that he or she will grow up. They are not going to stay a kitten for ever. You should purchase your kitten with the thought that you are likely to have this animal for 12, 13, 14 or more years. They are not a throw away toy. You can't purchase a kitten and then get rid of it when it grows up. You **MUST** consider the long term financial and emotional impacts that come with owning an animal. There will be times when they inconvenience you. They will get sick right when you are busy at work and really shouldn't be taking a day off to take them to the vet. You will have to organise a boarding facility or family/friend to care for him when you go on holidays and there are usually costs associated with that. There are obvious ongoing maintenance costs as well just for the basics. (Please see "Costs of Owning a cat" under the FAQ menu) They may, like children, develop some unwanted traits but most are treatable with a bit of time, patience and professional advice. They all have different **PURRsonalities** but that is what makes them a special part of your family. Please fully understand the **LONG TERM RESPONSIBILITIES** of pet ownership **BEFORE YOU** proceed.

We have had clients move overseas and have successfully relocated their cats with them and we are happy to assist our clients to do this so please where possible consider taking your family pets with you if you can. Most businesses will work with their staff to make this possible and some will even cover the cost as part of the relocation cost.

I do struggle when people that own a pet decide to move into a rental property that won't let them own a pet and as a result they decide to rehome it. I have so many customers that rent properties that allow them to own their Suchi Burmese that I just struggle to see why someone wouldn't consider this when rental property hunting. I myself have lived in numerous rental properties that have allowed me to own my cats. It may take a little longer to find the right property but it is possible.

Please think about what impact a new home, new owners and different environment and household schedule may have on your cat. Senior cats often won't move well and can develop serious stress related conditions. You will also need to think about the impact on any children in your household. Children often develop very strong bonds to their pets. Also consider what life lessons you are teaching your children and discuss in detail with your children why you have made the decision you have made. Children should **NOT** be under the impression that they can purchase a living animal and rehome it because they "can't be bothered looking after it any more." or "it isn't a cute little fluffy baby anymore." Children need to realise the responsibilities of pet ownership and that owning and rehoming an animal are serious decisions. Some pets require more time and maintenance than others. It is important that children learn the thought processes required prior to purchase.

Rehoming a cat is not easy. There are many aspects that will need to be considered.

a) The microchip details will have to be changed over to the new owners details. A change of ownership form can be picked up from your local vet clinic

- b) What are you going to do to ensure a new owner that the cat is fit and healthy with no behavioural problems. Are you prepared to guarantee the health of the animal of a period of time? Will you have it vet checked prior to them taking it home? Are you going to ensure the vaccinations are up to date and that the animal has been wormed, and flea treated prior to leaving you?
- c) Are you going to include food, litter, bed etc that the cat is familiar with to ensure as much as possible remains constant in their move. It is quite important that the cat remains on the same diet for at least the first couple of weeks.
- d) Are you prepared to take the cat back if she doesn't settle in to the new home? Are you also prepared for the new owners to contact you with any concerns they may have or questions regarding the cats welfare?
- e) Are you going to supply the new owner with all relevant care information and instructions as to what treatments and vet visits are required when?
- f) You may need to call your vet to swap over any reminder emails and letters are sent to the new owners details.

If you own a Suchi Burmese that you can no longer care for for any reason your kitten/cat must be returned to us - NO EXCEPTIONS. As per your purchase contract you are not to onsell or giveaway your Suchi Burmese to ANY other owner without discussing this with us first.

Should you need to rehome a cat that is NOT a SUCHI PURE BURMESE there are a number of ways you can try to find a new suitable home....

1) PETLINK - www.petlink.com.au

Petlink lets you advertise for free. You can upload up to 3 photos to attach to your advert. Be as specific as possible. Include info on the cats medical history (vaccinations, microchip, desexed etc). Detail what type of home may be suitable - Older childer, Single person, Elderly owner, Someone who works from home etc etc.... If your cat is a lap cat or a feline that is happy to entertain herself discuss.

2) NOTICE BOARDS -

□ Print up posters and put them on Notice boards at your local vet clinic and at community halls and shopping centres. Include all the details mentioned above.

3) Local School News Letters/ Local community papers -

Most schools have a newsletter that you should be able to include your advert in or alternatively call your local newspaper and find out how to place an advert in their next print run.

4) Word of mouth/Emails etc.

Send out emails to any pet lovers you know. A great way to advertise for FREE and include lots of info and photos.

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