

# REHOMING A PET

## TIPS AND RESOURCES

People rehome pets for many reasons. If you're in a position to keep your pet but are struggling in one of these areas, please read the tips below.

### CONFLICT WITH EXISTING ANIMALS

#### FOOD RELATED

##### Microchip feeders

These limit who can eat out of which bowl by registering to your cat's individual microchips.

##### Separate food bowls

To reduce fighting over resources, keep food bowls separate and differentiate feeding schedules.

##### Try CALM biscuits

This is a dry food by Royal Cannin used to support your cat in times of stress.

#### ENVIRONMENT

##### Diffusers

These work by releasing odourless pheromones which helps to reduce your cats stress levels.

Feliway Diffuser  
Pet Remedy

##### A safe space

Giving each animal a space/routine to themselves. Separate at different times of the day, areas of the house etc.

##### Limit conflict for resources

Separating resources reduces competition between animals. Food, toys, bedding, space and attention [are all resources](#).

### TOILETING

#### Health check

Toileting in odd places can be due to underlying health issues or stress.

- 🐾 **Are they up to date with their worm/flea treatments.**
- 🐾 **Are they settled**
- 🐾 **Is their urine concentrated**
- 🐾 **Do they have a diarrhoea, constipation or digestive issues**

If in doubt, take your cat in for a health check.

#### Try different types of litters

Clay, pine pellets, recycled paper, sand and even tofu.

**Tip:** For cats who have been living outside try sprinkling a layer of dirt over the top of the conventional litter until they get used to using a box inside.

#### Clean regularly

Cats prefer to use clean boxes and some prefer not to share. Scoop or replace litter daily.

#### Delegate at least 1 box per cat

Use extras for shared spaces.

#### Type of litter box

Try closed in or domed litter boxes for privacy. Experiment with walled, open, shallow etc. to find the right fit.

#### Location

Opt for private area with low foot traffic or strong scents.

### ALLERGIES

Allergies to cats are primarily caused by a protein that accumulates on the fur and skin of a cat.

For acute allergy sufferers, outside cats can also bring in pollen, mold, and other allergens on their fur. Try:

- 🐾 **Regular grooming away from the person who's most susceptible**
- 🐾 **Anti-histamines for temporary relief**
- 🐾 **A specialised diet to lower the production of the protein**  
Purina Liveclear range  
<https://www.purina.co.nz/brands/pro-plan/liveclear>

### SHORT TERM FOSTER

If your living situation is changing temporarily consider:

- 🐾 **Long term fosters**
- 🐾 **House sitters**
- 🐾 **A temporary stay with family**



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## WHERE TO DO THIS



### ONLINE

Online Platforms are the fastest way to share over a large and diverse audience.

### SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Such as **Facebook** and **Instagram**

Search Nation-wide pages

E.i. RESCUE CATS AND KITTENS FOR ADOPTION - NZ WIDE

or local pages

Auckland Cat/Kitten Rescue Adoption Network (etc. for auckland region)

Pets for Rehoming/Rescue Rotorua, Tauranga, Hamilton & Ruapehu NZ (etc. for Tauranga region)

and **Community pages and Notice Boards**

E.i. Tauranga Local Noticeboard

### REHOMING PLATFORMS

**Friends with tails**

<https://friendswithtails.co.nz/>

**Myhooman**

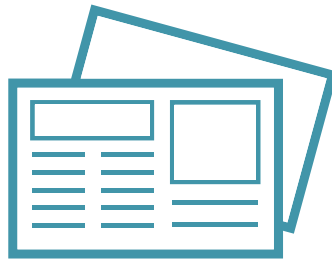
<https://myhooman.com/>

**Trademe**

<https://www.trademe.co.nz/a/marketplace/pets-animals/cats>

**Neighbourly**





<https://www.neighbourly.co.nz/>



### PRINT

Print reaches a different audience, particularly an older generation and foot traffic.

Try posters or flyers on local community notice boards such as in:

-  **Supermarkets**
-  **Social clubs**
-  **Pet stores**
-  **Vet clinics**
-  **Run a newspaper article**

### FINDING A FIT

**Have a questionnaire for potential adoptive homes.** Things like lifestyle, family, work hours and renting vs home ownership are all are great points to communicate on.

### MEET & GREETs

Pick a time of day your cat is active and alert. Visit in the home and a familiar routine gives adoptive families the best idea of the cat's personality.

Watch how the prospective families interact with the cat and vice versa. Cats are great judges of character!

Organise follow up visits if more time to make a decision is needed.

Disclose any medical history.

Be upfront if you feel it's not a good match.

### PLAN AHEAD FOR THEIR ADOPTION!

**Checklist:** Is your cat in good health, desexed and current with their flea and worm treatments? If not, get these done where possible!

Offer to transport them to personally help them settle into their new home.

Consider gifting bedding, toys or food to help with transitioning.

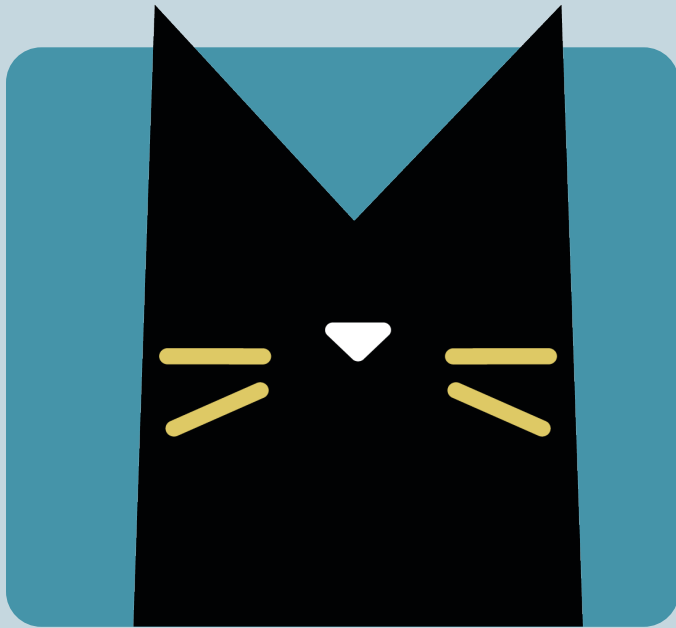
Propose an adoption trial for peace of mind if either family isn't fully confident of the match.



# REHOMING A PET

## ADVERTISING YOUR PET

HELLO, I'M...



I'M LOOKING FOR A  
NEW HOME

**THIS IS WHAT MAKES ME ME.**  
MY AGE, MEDICAL HISTORY, LOCATION AND  
QUIRKS ARE:

**THE PERFECT HOME FOR ME IS...**  
ARE KIDS OK? DO I GET ON WITH OTHER PETS?  
DO I NEED SOMEONE AT HOME OR ARE  
FULL TIME WORKERS A GOOD FIT ETC.

### INTRODUCE YOUR PET

#### TAKE A GOOD PICTURE.

Aim for a clear, high quality snapshot with your cat as the focal point and not too much going on in the background.

Try for one or two that really captures their personality.

#### I'M SPECIAL

Cover the basics but also take time to explain what makes your pet special.

#### I NEED A NEW HOME BECAUSE

Focus on their good points but be transparent if there are reasons they can't stay with you. Explaining why they need a home can help their potential new families decide if they'd be a good fit before investing in the adoption process.

#### WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM

Consider what lifestyle they've been living and if they'd adjust well to change or they need a similar environment.



# REHOMING A PET

## SETTLING IN TIPS

### GIVE THEM A SAFE SPACE

The general rule is 3 days to decompress, 3 weeks to feel at home. Your new pet will need a few days to get used to the smells, sounds and habits of their new household so keeping them in a separate space, with a hideout if they need one, will help them settle in this new life.

Once comfortable with their surroundings you can open more rooms for them to explore. A smaller space opening to a bigger space is best and gives them the chance so they grow in confidence with both their new family and environment.

### MEETING NEW ANIMALS

Keep existing pets separate for at least a week while your new pet settles into a routine. Introductions can begin with placing bedding/ used and scented items belonging to your existing pet in the room with your new one. Meet and greets by sniffing under the door or behind a glass screen are also great! We recommend pets be kept separate for the health of both animals as the stress of adjusting to a new environment can trigger underlying ailments or behavioral issues.

During the settling in period keep food, water and litter boxes separate so there's no competition. Toys and your cuddles can be shared. Up to date vaccinations are recommended and always make sure both animals are in good health before there's any contact.

### DIETARY

Where possible keep them on the food they're used too and slowly wean them over to the new food if you'd like to change their diet. Transitioning 1/4 of their plate at a time is recommended. Should they get loose bowls during their adjustment period chicken mince or breast is great for firming stool up.

You can often find pet mince at local butchers and plain shredded chicken is usually a crowd pleaser.

### TOILETING

Ask their foster parent what litter works best and set aside at least one litter tray per cat where they'll be toileting most. While they're getting used to their new home we recommend a couple of options if they have multiple rooms to choose from - e.g. one in their safe place and one in the lounge.

If they're shy, a covered option may suit them better than an open box.

When they start transitioning to the outside world they may naturally begin to toilet outside. If this isn't the case slowly move their litter box closer to the door and eventually outside (have a dedicated one inside in the event of accidents).

### GOING OUTSIDE

Naturally your pet will be curious to see the outside world. Wait until they are settled and know their surroundings before letting them out. Be careful to close doors and windows during this period as they can be escape artists! The recommended time is 2 weeks but you can gauge what is best for your pet's personality and confidence level. The more confident they are the quicker they can to explore safely!

Be mindful of the time of day, who's coming and going from the property and neighbouring animals when considering this step. Supervised outings of an hour or so around mealtimes are a good place to start.

### REGISTER YOUR MICROCHIP!

If your cat/kitten has a microchip it will need to be registered to your name. Registering their chip adds them to a national database so that if they're ever lost they can be returned to you.

You can do this on <https://www.animalregister.co.nz/>. If they are registered to a different guardian, ask them to Rehome the cat on the NZCAR system. They'll find a link to do this on their user profile.

### MOST IMPORTANTLY...

Be patient and kind. It's a big change and the start of their happily ever after.

