

RSPCA NSW Keeping Cats Safe at Home

Objective: To promote the positive pet ownership of cats and encourage cat containment

Duration: 60 minutes

KLA and Syllabus Outcomes:

Key Learning Area (KLA)	Early-Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
English	ENE-OLC-01 Communicates effectively by using interpersonal conventions and language with familiar peers and adults	EN1-OLC-01 Communicates effectively by using interpersonal conventions and language to extend and elaborate ideas. for social and learning interactions	EN2-1A Communicates in a range of informal and formal contexts by adopting a range of roles in groups, classrooms, schools and community contexts	EN3-1A Communicates effectively for a variety of audiences and purposes using increasingly challenging topics, ideas, issues, and language forms and features
Science	STe-3LW-ST: explores the characteristics, needs, and uses of living things.	ST1-4LW-S: describes observable features of living things and their environments	ST2-4LW-S: compares features and characteristics of living and non-living things	ST3-4LW-S: examines how the environment affects the growth, survival, and adaptation of living things
PDHPE	PDe-3 Communicates ways to be caring, inclusive, and respectful of others	PD1-3 Recognises and describes the qualities that enhance inclusion and respect relationships	PD2-3 Explains how empathy, inclusion, and respect can positively influence relationships	PD3-3 Evaluates the impact of empathy, inclusion, and respect on themselves and others

Teaching and Learning Experiences

PowerPoint slide reference

Introduction: (10 min)

K-2

Year 3-6

Key questions:

- Hands up if you like dogs?
- Hands up if you like cats?
- Hands up if you like both dogs and cats.

- Does anyone own a cat?
- Know someone that owns a cat?
- Anyone has seen stray cats wandering around their local neighbourhood?

Whether you're a cat or dog person, we can all agree that cats are pretty much everywhere BUT did you know how they came to be our pets?

Play the "History of Cats" video






(Note for educator: main message from video is to contextualise a cat's hunting behaviour as natural and revered in history)

Slide 1



Slide 2



Development: (40 min)		
K-2	Year 3-6 (extend)	
Food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dry biscuits help to keep their teeth clean so are a better choice over feeding wet food only 		Slide 3
Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change water everyday to ensure it is clean and fresh 	Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cats are lactose intolerant so can get sick from drinking cow's milk. Fresh water is all they need to drink 	Slide 4 & Slide 5
Vet treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular vaccinations to keep them healthy. - Intestinal worming to keep worms away that like to live inside them. - Desexing: an operation to stop them from having any more kittens and keeps them healthy and living longer. 	Vet treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As soon as you notice your cat or kitten is unwell (change in eating or drinking habits, change in behaviour, vomiting or diarrhea), take them to the Vet. The longer you leave it, the worse it can get and more difficult to treat. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Desexing</p> <p>Desexing a cat is a very safe and simply procedure.</p> <p>Your cat should be desexed before they reach the age at which they can start breeding. Cats can reach sexual maturity at 16 weeks of age.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;"><small>RSPCA</small></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>Why should I get my cat desexed?</p> <p>One of the key benefits is preventing unwanted kittens. Right now, thousands of unwanted kittens are born each year, and have to be rehomed across the country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduces the risk of some types of cancers - Prevents certain unwanted <u>behaviours</u> (scent marking, aggression, cat calling etc. - Reduces their urge to roam  <p style="text-align: right;"><small>RSPCA</small></p> </div>
Desexing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desexing involves a simple surgery performed by a veterinarian while the cat is under anesthesia (the cat will not feel any pain) to prevent cats from having unwanted kittens. -By desexing cats, can help reduce the number of stray and abandoned cats in the world. -Reduces the urge to roam 	<p>Desexing involves removing the cat's reproductive organs. This surgery is performed by a veterinarian while the cat is under anesthesia and will not feel any pain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desexing cats can help reduce the number of unwanted cats in the world. Cats reproduce quickly and can produce large litters of kittens, which can end up homeless or in shelters. - Desexing cats also has benefits for the health of cats. Certain types of cancers and infections can be reduced. It can also reduce the risk of cats engaging in behaviours such as spraying, fighting, and roaming. - Reduces the urge to roam 	Slide 6
Toilet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide two litter trays for your cat and then one extra for every other cat in the house E.g., two cats = three litter trays. 	Toilet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Try and provide two separate toilet areas for your cat to choose between E.g., one in the bathroom and one in the laundry 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Cat Care</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>Food</small></p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>Water</small></p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><small>Vet treatment</small></p>  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>RSPCA</small></p> </div>

High surfaces

- Provide different levels as they like to climb, eg. Windowsills, shelves and the top of furniture
- Different views so they can watch what's going on

Hiding places

- Provide hiding places so they can retreat, rest and sleep, e.g., Boxes, shelves, and cupboards

Cat Care

Toilet



High surfaces



Enrichment



Enrichment (toys & exercise)

- Provide toys that allow the natural behaviours of a cat like following scents, stalking, chasing, and pouncing.
- Toys don't have to be expensive, here's a simple toy that can be made with a toilet roll.

Enrichment (toys & exercise)

- Provide enrichment that plays on the five senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste)
- Rotate toys regularly to keep them interesting.
- Toys don't have to be expensive, here's a simple toy that can be made with a toilet roll.

Slide 7

Cat Enrichment

Kitty Recyclerball

You will need:

- Empty Paper roll
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pair of thin black bands

Step 1: Open the top of the roll and cut along lines to create four rings.



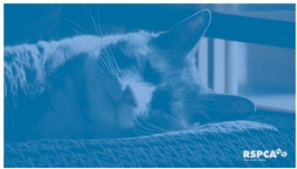
Step 2: Insert the second ring into the first.

Step 3: Now, add the third & fourth ring.

Done.

Now decorate!

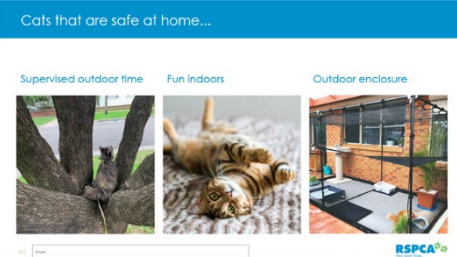
RSPCA

<p>Scratching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give them something to scratch or they will find their own (e.g., curtains or furniture) - Allows them to express natural behaviours, keep claws healthy, and spread scents <p>Identification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Microchipping your cat lasts a lifetime. - Also can wear an ID tag on their collar with the owner's name and contact number <p>Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spending time with your cat – chat, pat, do training or brush them if they enjoy it 	<p>Scratching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Think about providing vertical and horizontal scratching posts <p>Identification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remember to change your address on the microchip details if you move <p>Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remember to always let your cat initiate the contact. - They prefer regular, short interactions. 	<p>Slide 8</p> <p>Cat Care</p> <p>Scratching Identification Love</p>  <p>RSPCA</p>
<p>Indoor or Outdoor Cat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask students the benefits of either lifestyle - <p>Benefits of indoor cat living:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Which cat do you think will live longer?</u> Cats that live at home live four times longer than cats that are left to roam - <u>Which cat do you think is healthier?</u> Cats left to roam risk catching cat flu, FIV, feline leukaemia virus and panleukopaenia as well as face potential fights with stray cats. - <u>Which cat do you think spends more time with their owner?</u> Cats living at home have more time to bond with their owner and can exhibit all their natural behaviours from the safety and comfort of their own home. 		<p>Slide 9</p> <p>Indoor or Outdoor cat?</p>  <p>RSPCA</p>
<p>Play the “Cat Containment” video</p> <p><i>(Note for educator: main message from video is to depict safer options of enjoying time outdoor and also showing indoor life in a positive light)</i></p>	<p>Slide 10</p> <p>Indoor cat life...</p>  <p>RSPCA</p>	

Cats at home can be safe by

- Having supervised outdoor time: safe backyard, escape-proof fences, some cats can be trained to walk on harness (only some cats are suitable for this and should not encourage children to do it by themselves at home)
- Creating a fun indoor environment with lots to do: scratching pots, high surfaces, hiding spots, access to sunlight, toys, cosy beds.
- Setting up a cat enclosure: These enclosures provide a protected outdoor environment where cats can enjoy fresh air, sunshine, and plenty of activities to keep them entertained.

Slide 11



Cats at home are safe from many dangers:

Slide 12

What outdoor risks should cats be protected from? Encourage children to name some of the risks cats face outdoors and they need to be protected from.

Cars: cats can be injured or killed by cars. Less than 1 out of 3 cats will survive a car accident.


Cat Fights can lead to injuries and infections and some diseases such as FIV can be transmitted through catfights.

Dogs can be a danger as they cats can be killed or seriously injured in dog attacks.

Wildlife: reduce the risk of snake bites and paralysis ticks by preventing your cat from hunting wildlife.

Getting lost: did you know less than 1 in 10 cats who go missing in NSW are reunited with their family? Indoor cats are far less likely to go missing, plus they often have fewer health issues—and even live longer.

Slide 12



What outdoor risks should cats be protected from?

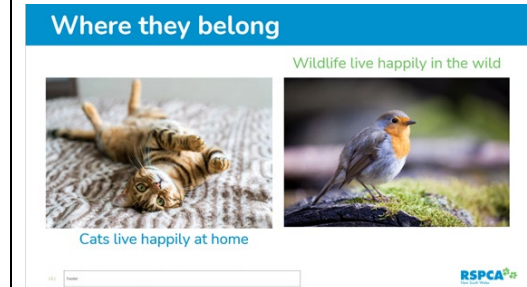
RSPCA

This slide features a blue background with the text "What outdoor risks should cats be protected from?". To the right, there is a collage of six small images: a black and white dog's head, a ginger cat, a black cat silhouette, a white dog, a blue snake, and a tick. The RSPCA logo is in the bottom right corner.

Where they belong...

- Cats live happily at home
- Wildlife live happily in the wild

Slide 13



Where they belong

Cats live happily at home

Wildlife live happily in the wild

RSPCA

This slide has a white background with a blue header bar containing the text "Where they belong". Below the header, there are two side-by-side images: a ginger cat lying on a white textured surface and a small blue and orange bird perched on a rock. The text "Cats live happily at home" is centered below the cat image, and "Wildlife live happily in the wild" is centered above the bird image. The RSPCA logo is in the bottom right corner.


Play the “Wildlife Happy in the Wild” video

(Note for educator: the main message from the video is reinforce the idea that cats belong at home and wildlife in the wild – trying to put the onus on owners as opposed to blaming cats)

Slide 14

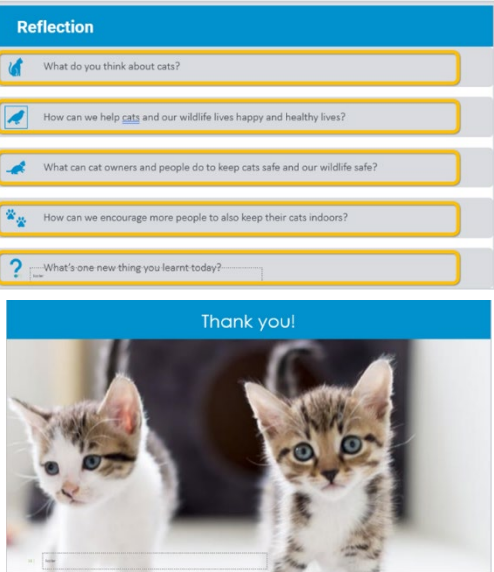
Wildlife happy in the wild



<p>A happy cat at home</p> <p>It's a cat that can display all its natural behaviours at home while being safe from outdoor dangers, receiving love, and being cared for by its owner.</p>	<p>Slide 15</p> 
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Conclusion: (10 min)

Reflection

<p>K-2</p>	<p>Year 3-6</p>	<p>Slide 16</p> 
<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do you think about cats? - How can we help cats and our wildlife live happy and healthy lives? - What can cat owners and people do to keep cats safe and wildlife safe? - How can we encourage more people to also keep their cats indoors? - What's one new thing you learned today? 		

Assessment strategies:

<p>K-2</p>	<p>Year 3-6</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a poster and draw everything a cat needs to live a happy and healthy life indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write a story or journal entry from the perspective on an indoor cat. Include everything they need to be happy and healthy indoors - Design your own outdoor enclosure for your cat

Lesson evaluation: