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How to be a responsible cat owner

Cats can live up to 21 years, so owning a cat is a long-term commitment.

As a general rule treat kittens for fleas straight away and treat for worms from 2 weeks of age. Talk to your local veterinarian about which products are safe to use on kittens younger than 8 weeks of age. All other pets need to be treated as well.

Desexing male and female kittens can be done from 8 to 10 weeks of age.

Provide your cat or kitten with a collar, id tag and microchip, even if they live indoors.

Vaccinations protect pets from a range of diseases which can be life threatening. Kittens should have their first vaccination between 6 and 8 weeks of age.



Think about keeping your cat or kitten in an enclosure or indoors: this keeps them safe from being lost, injured, killed or abused. It will also keep your neighbours happy and protect the wildlife.

Encourage owners of unwanted cats and kittens to surrender them to a reputable shelter instead of giving them away.

Anyone can sell or give away a cat or kitten but legally cats must be implanted with a microchip from the time they are 12 weeks of age and before they are sold (whichever occurs first) and must be registered with the Local Council by six months of age.

Never dump or abandon a cat or kitten (it is against the law).

Encourage people you know to make good choices for the care of their cat/s, their community and the environment.

Where possible kittens should remain with their mother until 8 to 10 weeks of age. This gives them the best opportunity to develop physically and socially.

Do not take free or cheap kittens unless they are already desexed, microchipped and vaccinated.

Call your local animal shelter for help on how to care for your cat/kitten or how to find a new home for your cat/kitten if you can no longer care for them.

Cat Survey

Conduct a survey in your class to find out how many cat owners there are and how many of their cats are desexed, microchipped and kept indoors.

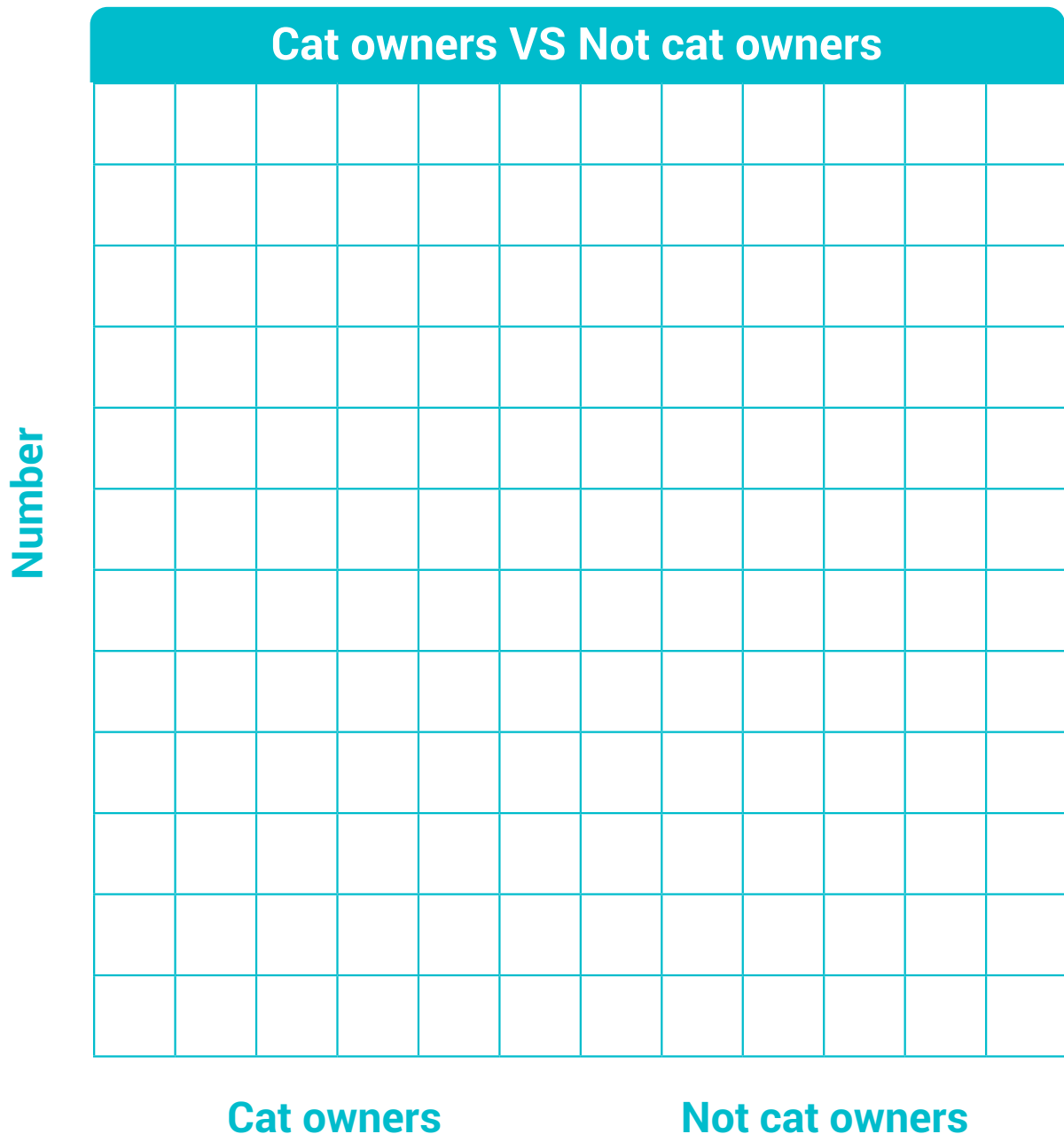
| Has Cat | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|
| Desexed | Microchipped | Indoors |
| | | |

| Does not have a cat | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| | | |

Cat Survey

Use the collected data and produce two column graphs:

1. Cat owners VS Not cat owners
2. How many of the pet cats are desexed, microchipped and kept indoors



Cat Survey

| Pet Cats | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Number | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Desexed **Microchipped** **Indoors**

Why are cats so good at adapting? What makes them special? Cats have special features that make them good hunters. All cats, including wild cats, lions and tigers have similar features, our pet cats are just smaller.

eyes

- Split pupils get bigger and smaller faster than round pupils. This helps cats see in dim and changing light.
- Cats have three eyelids.
- Cats can see up to 35 meters away but cannot see things very close to them clearly.

nose

- Cats sense of smell is better than dogs.
- Cats don't have many taste buds on their tongue, they rely on their sense of smell to know if food is ok to eat.
- The ridges and bumps on a cats nose are unique, like human finger prints no two are the same.

fur

- Cats have 4 different types of fur (hair).
- Down hairs** are closest to the skin and are short, fine and soft and keep cats warm.
- Awn hairs** are medium length and help keep cats warm and protect the down hairs.
- Guard hairs** are long and thick and protect the down and awn hairs.
- Vibrissae (whiskers)** are large, tough and sensitive to touch, providing cats with information about the world around them.

ears

- 🐾 Hearing is a cat's strongest sense, it is even better than dogs.
- 🐾 Cats have very sensitive hearing and can hear noises up to 1.6km away.
- 🐾 Cats can move their ears together or separately.

tail

- 🐾 A cat's tail helps them to balance and shows how they are feeling.

tounge

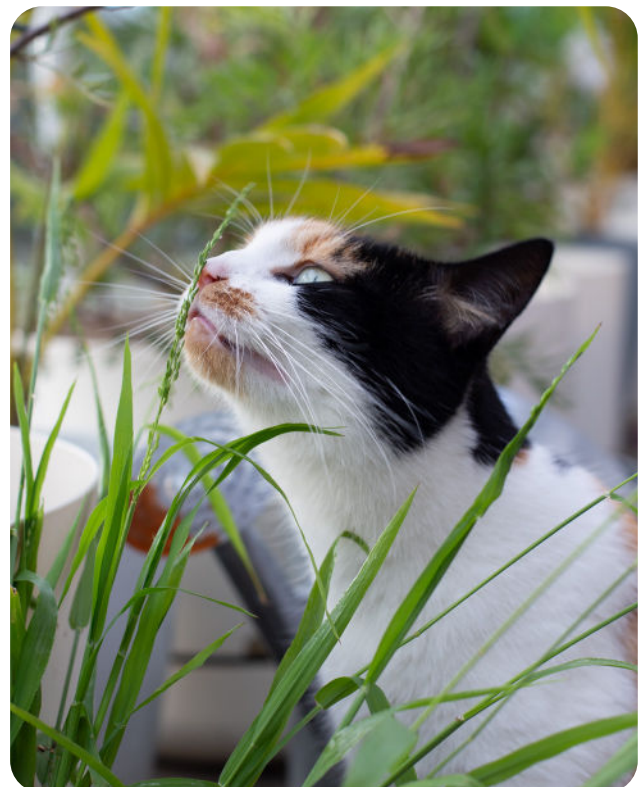
- 🐾 A cat's tongue is covered in tiny backward facing barbs called (papillae) which help them lick meat off bones and keep their fur clean.
- 🐾 Anything caught on a cat's tongue like wool, string, cotton and tinsel is very dangerous as it is usually swallowed and may have to be surgically removed.

claws

- 🐾 Cats use their claws for climbing, balancing, digging, self-defence and holding onto prey. To keep their front claws sharp cats retract them when not being used.

paws

- 🐾 Cat's paws are strong but also very soft and sensitive. Cats walk on their toes and this allows them to walk quietly. Cats only sweat through their feet.



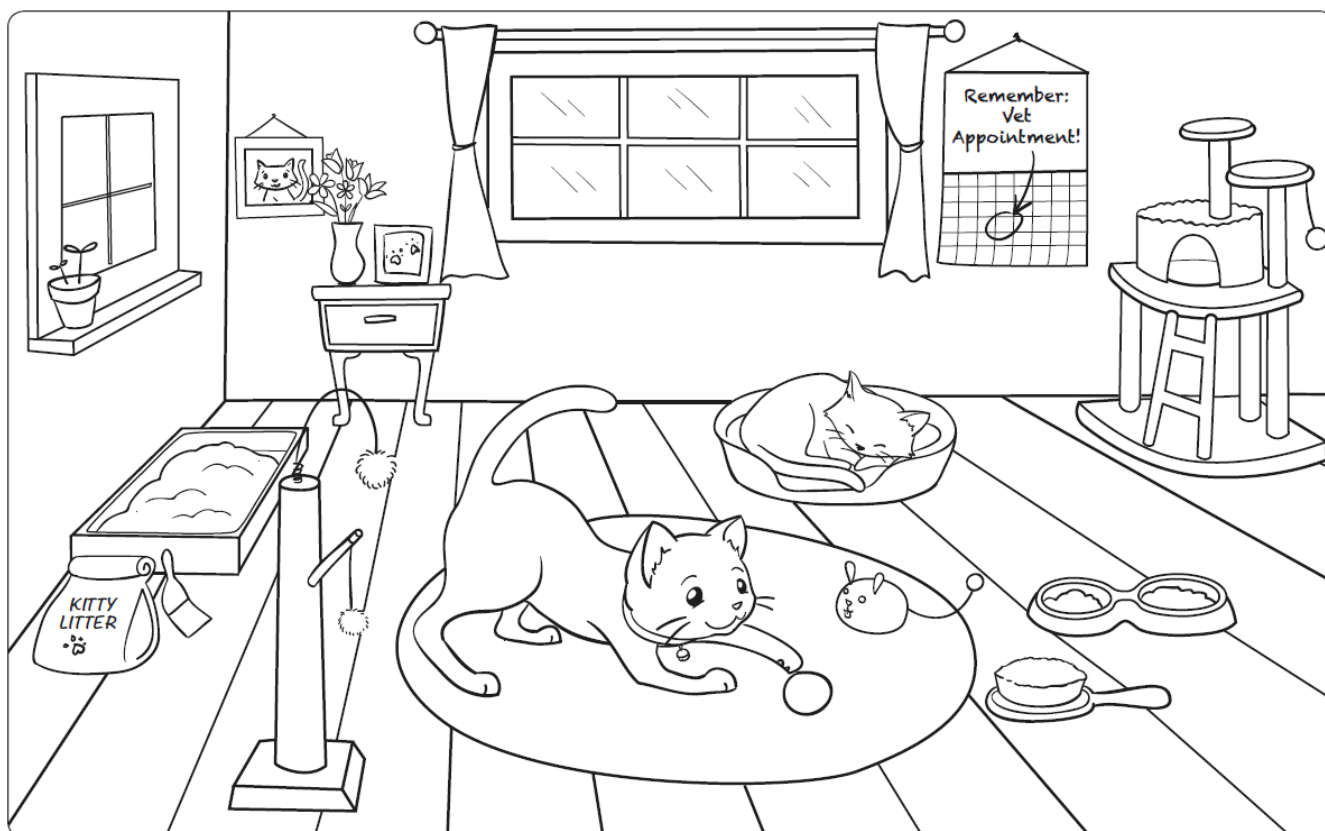
**Draw a cat or kitten and label at least 6 features.
Write what the features are used for.**



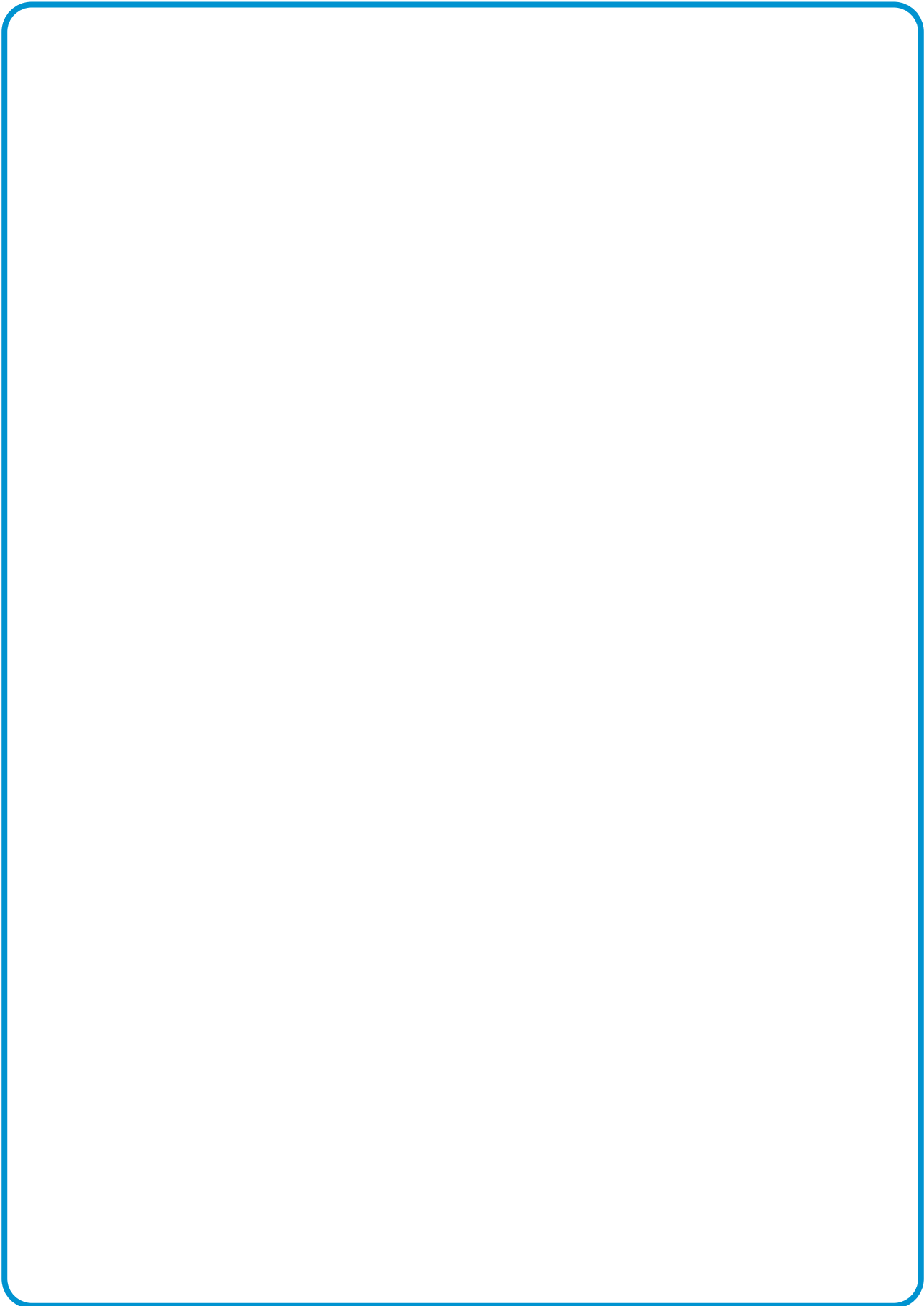
Cats living the good life

Using the RSPCA NSW Cat Care colouring in sheet as inspiration, create your own scene of a cat or cats living a safe and happy life.

Think about all the things a cat would need and how you can depict it in your artwork.



Your artwork – Cats living the good life



CONGRATULATIONS!



You have completed all the activities in your Cat Booklet!

This certificate of achievement is presented to:
