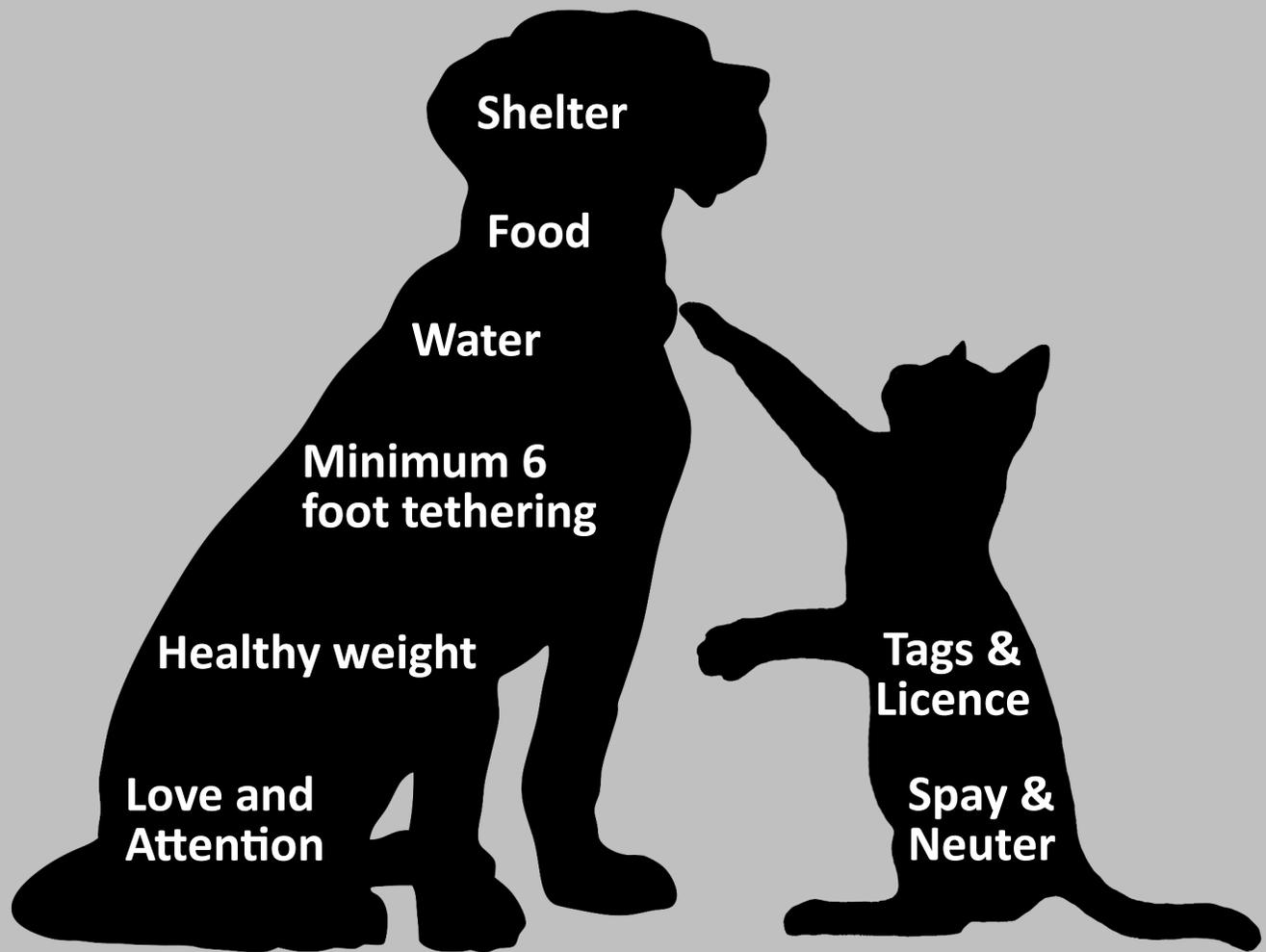


Animal Welfare Takes a Village



All Animals deserve a safe and loving environment.

- Exercise your dog regularly to help with behaviour
- Take ownership - provide and care for your pets
- Get a dog tag - Dog tags can help save you impound fees
- Spay & Neuter your pets

To report or surrender an animal contact:

Jason Seward • 250-748-3196 Jason.seward@cowichantribes.com

Or fill out the *Contact Us* form at www.cowichantribes.com

Caring for Cats

Cats are wonderful companions. Each has a unique personality – just like people! Some are shy and quiet while others are outgoing and social; but no matter the personality of your cat, they always rely on you as a guardian to provide a good home with what they need to be happy. Remember, a healthy cat is a happy cat!



Typical life span for a cat

13 – 20 years

How to keep your cat happy and healthy

Cat food and feeding

Kittens need good quality kitten food when they're weaned. Adult cats do best on a mixture of good quality dry kibble and canned food. Feeding guidelines provided on the bag can help you determine how much your kitten or cat should eat in a day.

It is common for most cats to eat two to three meals a day. Feed the last meal of the day right before bedtime. An adult cat will sleep throughout the night. Kittens may need more meals a day.

Some cats need special diets. Ask your vet for a recommendation for your cat.

Your cat must have access to fresh water all the time.

Change the water daily and wash out the bowl regularly.

Cat grooming, teeth and nail trimming

Grooming

Brush your cat on a regular basis, especially if they are long-haired. Regular brushing prevents hair from matting and removes loose hair. It also will

help with hairballs.

Teeth

To keep your cat's teeth healthy and tartar free, they need to be brushed daily. Buy a special toothpaste and finger brush from your local pet supply store or at your vet clinic. Do not use human toothpaste.

Nails

Nails need regular trimming, usually once a month or as needed. Take care not to cut the blood vessel (the quick) that runs through each nail. Cats who go outside do not need their nails trimmed. They need their nails to climb and defend themselves. If you prefer not to cut your own cat's nails, a veterinarian can do this for you for a small fee.

Declawing Cat

The BC SPCA is against declawing cats. Cat's nails are not like fingernails, they're attached to the bone. Declawing is a serious surgery. It's like removing a part of your finger at the knuckle.

How to stop my cat from scratching the furniture?

Most cats love to stretch and scratch something. Scratching is important for cats, it's a natural behaviour. Scratching also helps shed the outer covering on their claws and scent mark.

Instead of trying to stop them from scratching, give them something to scratch. Put scratching posts close to an entrance or near where your cat sleeps. They usually stretch and scratch after waking up or when entering a room.

If they're using your couch as a scratching posts, interrupt them. Don't scare them. Interrupt and get them to scratch their post. Make sure to reward them for scratching their post.

Never use harsh verbal or physical corrections with your pet. If you feel like nothing is helping, talk to your vet about safe and humane nail covers.

Identification (ID) for your cat

Nobody plans to lose a pet. Prepare for the unexpected and ensure your cat has two forms of identification.

- 1. A collar and tag:** Keep a collar and tag on your pet with your home phone number and address
- 2. A form of permanent ID (microchip or tattoo):** Pets can slip their collars at any time, but they can't slip a permanent ID. Make an appointment with your vet to get your pet a microchip or tattoo today.
- 3. Register your pet's per-**

Caring for Cats

Permanent ID. Register your pet with the BC Pet Registry. Registration guarantees that your pet can be traced by all participating veterinarians and animal sheltering agencies.

4. Keep your contact information up-to-date



Indoor cats vs outdoor cats

The BC SPCA recommends that cats be indoors, however, some cats get frustrated indoors and may enjoy outdoor time.

Indoor cats have a longer life span than those that go outside. Whether you choose to let your cat out or keep them in, know how to provide them with the best environment to keep them happy and safe.

Risks of letting your cat outdoors

- Other cats or dogs in the neighbourhood can cause injuries to your pet
- Busy streets and traffic can cause injury or death
- Exposure to contagious disease and parasites
- Extreme weather issues
- Poisoning
- Pet theft
- Animal cruelty
- Eaten or injured by wildlife like coyotes, eagles or other predators

Risk for indoor cats

- Depression
- Frustration
- Become lethargic if their environment does not provide enough stimulation

To prevent these issues, help your cat be a cat. Indoor cats need to do things in their home that let them hide, chase, climb, jump, and pounce.

Medical care is important for your cat

Take your cat to the vet when you first get your cat. After the initial visit with the vet, you may only need to go back once a year for a check-up and vaccinations. Kittens will need to go back more often at first for vaccines.

It is also important to have your pet spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted litters. There are also many behavioural and health benefits to sterilization.

Over time, watch for lumps and bumps on your pet. Also pay attention to signs of your cat not eating or change in their behaviour. If you notice anything different talk to your vet.

Playtime is a special time with your cat

Cats love to play, explore, run around, use a scratching post and spend time with you. These

are all essential activities for cats.

If your cat is bored, try adding stimulating and challenging vertical places for your cat to explore. Creating shelves (even some a little wobbly), nooks and walkways instantly doubles the enrichment value for your cat.

If you aren't handy, use store-bought shelves, bureaux, and even couches with cat tunnels. Don't stop with just adding vertical spaces. Satisfy your cat's primal hunting instincts by splitting up food rations and hiding small amounts around the house. Put treats in a cardboard container with pay holes to provide a new challenge. Introduce new objects such as cat toys, a tree branch, or cat grass to stimulate smell and touch.

Make time in your day to play with your cat with a variety of toys, rather than your hands.

How to stop my kitten from biting and scratching me?

When there's a new kitten at home, it can be tempting to play with her with your hands—don't! Your cute kitten will grow into an adult cat who might think biting your hands is a natural, normal thing to do. Instead, use big stuffed toys and wand toys to teach your kitten to play with their toys and not your hands and arms.

