

ANIMAL BITES

INSIDE THIS MEOWSLETTER

- LEARN ALL ABOUT CATS
- RESCUE CAT PROFILE
- HOW YOU CAN HELP

+ HEAPS MORE!

CATS, CATS & MORE CATS

PAWSOME FACTS ALL ABOUT
OUR FELINE FRIENDS



Animal
Squad

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safeanimalsquad.org.nz

ALL ABOUT CATS

Most people love cats, and half of all homes in Aotearoa have a companion cat in their family! Cats spend most of their time catnapping — 15 hours on average per day. During their waking hours, most cats can be found grooming themselves (for up to half of their time awake), searching for food or patrolling their territory. Did you know that cats walk using both right feet then both left feet, like giraffes and camels?

EARS

A cat's ears can tell you a lot about how they are feeling. Forward-facing ears could mean a cat is happy or curious. Ears turned to the side or flattened most likely means they are angry or scared.

EYES

Because they are natural hunters, cats have incredible vision. They can actually see better in the dark. This is one of the reasons why cats are so active at night time.

TEETH

If you have ever been bitten by a cat, you will know that they have small, but very sharp teeth. These teeth are designed for catching small animals.

LIFESPAN

Cats live for around 12 to 15 years, but they can sometimes live to be over 20 years old. Did you know the oldest cat ever recorded lived to be 38 years old? Wow!

PAWS

Cats sweat through their paws to cool themselves off, and they will pant if they are too hot.

PURR

Cats usually purr when they are feeling content. However, cats are masters at hiding their illnesses or injuries and they may also purr if they are stressed or hurt.

CAT HISS-TORY

The domestic cat can be traced back over 4,000 years to ancient Egypt and Africa, when cats were kept to stop rodents from eating crops. Today, cats are the most popular companion animal in the world – there are over 500 million domesticated cats worldwide. That's one cat for every 15 humans!



RESCUE ANIMAL PROFILE

Name: Azalea

Age: 1

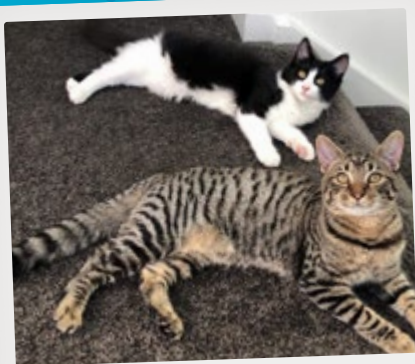
Hobbies: Chasing paper balls and stealing socks

Best friends: Rowan

My story: I was all alone, just 12 hours old, in an old abandoned house. I was very frightened and hungry. Someone found me just in time and Cat Rescue was called to help. My foster mum took special care of me because I was so small at only 80 grams. I was very sick, and everybody was worried that I wouldn't make it. My foster mum even took me to work with her in a special cat pram so that she could feed me every two hours. I was definitely a special case! It was at Cat Rescue that I met my very best friend, Rowan. Because of our bond, we were adopted together and are now living happily ever after.



AZALEA, 12 HOURS OLD



AZALEA AND ROWAN, AGE 1

DID YOU KNOW?

In just seven years, one cat and her offspring can produce over 370,000 kittens. ALWAYS spay and neuter your companion animals! Not only does this help prevent cat homelessness, it also keeps your kitty cat in better health and they are likely to live much longer.



CAT RESCUE CHRISTCHURCH

Cat Rescue is a charitable trust whose mission is to reduce the population of homeless cats in Canterbury. Their focus is on desexing stray cats and rehoming them wherever possible. Feral kitties who can't be socialised are released. You can learn more by visiting their website.

catrescue.org.nz

CATS IN TROUBLE

DESIGNER DNA

All cats are wonderful, right? But some people want a purebred cat because of their distinctive characteristics like a long coat or large ears. Unfortunately, what many people don't know is these breeds can also have severe health problems such as kidney, breathing or heart conditions. Moggies, commonly found at shelters, are much less likely to suffer from these issues and are just as deserving of love.

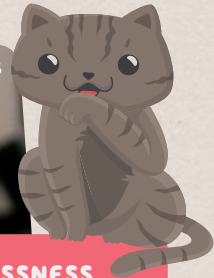


BETTIE

PET SHOPS

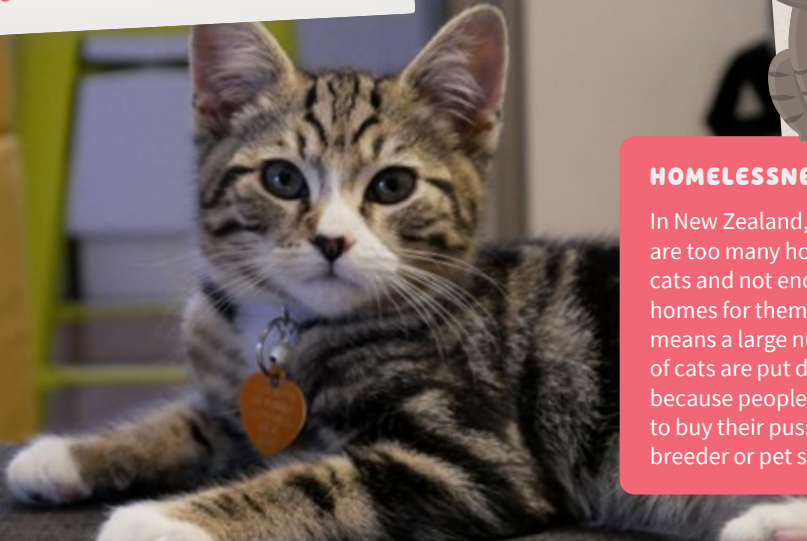
Many pet shops help to rehome animals from the SPCA or another local shelter, which is fantastic! Some, however, will purchase their animals from breeders who may not be desexed or vaccinated. Because selling animals is a business to these pet shops and breeders, some put making money ahead of the needs of the animal and the animals can suffer.

OTIS



HOMELESSNESS

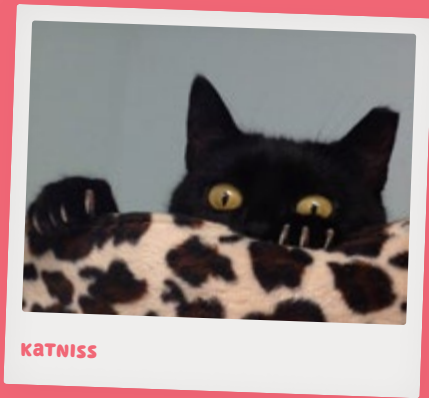
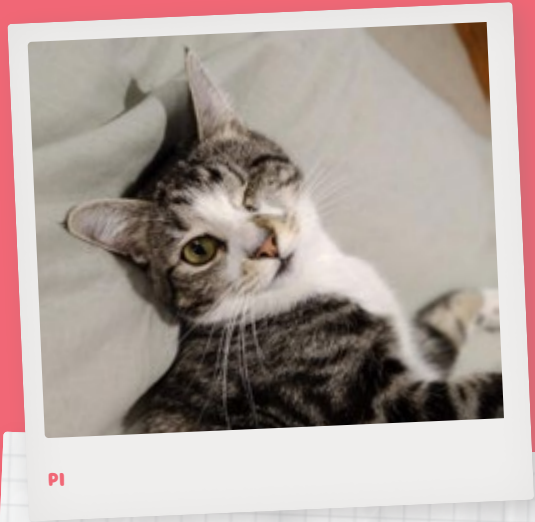
In New Zealand, there are too many homeless cats and not enough homes for them. This means a large number of cats are put down because people choose to buy their puss from a breeder or pet shop.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

MAKE A LIFELONG COMMITMENT

Cats need more than just lots of love. They need to be spayed or neutered so they don't have kittens that will need rehoming. They will also need veterinary care, which can be very expensive, especially as a cat gets older. Cats can live for a long time (up to 20 years). Do you and your family have what is needed to give a kitty a full and happy life?



WRITE A LETTER

Write to your local pet shop and request that they work with a local shelter to rehome animals in need, as well as vaccinate and desex them before they're rehomed!

Check out more ways to help animals on our website!

safeanimalsquad.org.nz

SAVE A LIFE

If your family does decide to bring a fur baby into your home, make sure you adopt them from an animal shelter. Contact a local shelter, like Cat Rescue or the SPCA, and save a life!



HAVE YOU ADOPTED A FURRY FRIEND?

Submit your story and photo and you may be featured on our website or an upcoming newsletter. Head to our website for more details!

safeanimalsquad.org.nz/action-kit

KIND FOOD

CORN FRITTERS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 C corn kernels
- ½ C finely chopped onions
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 1 C flour
- ½ C water
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tsp oil



GET IN MY BELLY



OM NOM NOM!

METHOD

1. Mix all the ingredients, except for the oil, to make a thick batter.
2. Heat the oil in a frypan over low-medium heat.
3. Spoon the batter into the pan, making sure your fritters are equal in size.
4. When the bottom is golden, flip the fritter over and cook the other side.
5. Serve with your favourite sauce and enjoy.

GAMES / PUZZLES

RIDDLE

Jae has some cat friends. All but three cats are completely black. All but three cats are completely orange. All but three cats are completely brown and all but three cats are completely white.

How many cat friends does Jae have?



DIY CAT TOY

YOU WILL NEED

- A used toilet paper roll
- Dry cat treats

INSTRUCTIONS

- Fold one end of the roll down on two sides
- Place a few treats inside
- Fold down the other end of the roll and decorate

Top tip: So your kitty can be rewarded, make sure each end has a few gaps for the treats to fall out of.

ANIMAL SQUAD PROFILE



Name: Roman

Age: 10

Favourite animal: Cats.

What got you interested in wanting to help animals? My whole family went vegan when I was just two years old because we didn't want to be cruel to animals.

What is your favourite vegetarian food? Tofu.

Tell us about a kind thing you have done for animals: I sent a letter to our Prime Minister telling her about things I would like changed.

Dear Jacinda

First I would like to say you are an awesome Prime Minister. The one thing I would like to talk about is the exporting of animals from New Zealand. The animals are crammed into tiny pens on boats. They are in discomfort and pain. Some of them die on the journey. The other thing I would like to talk about is the farming of cows. The way they are treated is terrible. Farmers separate the calves from their mothers within a few hours of their birth, then they kill the calves for meat. Please stop this animal cruelty, Jacinda!

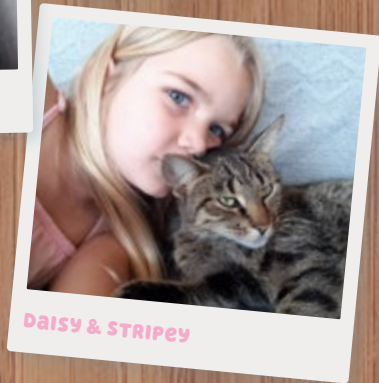
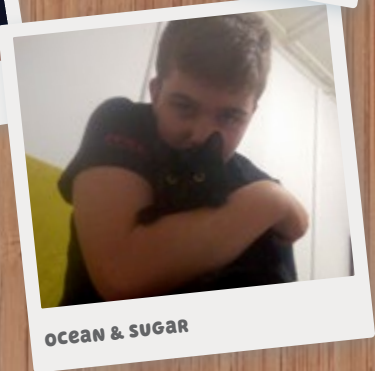
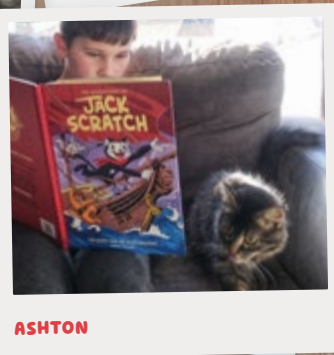
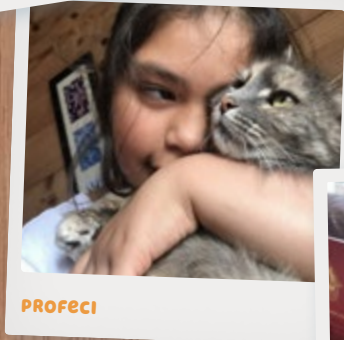
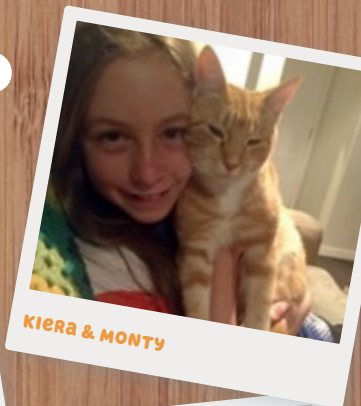
Yours sincerely

Roman

Want to feature in an **Animal Bites** newsletter? Head to our website for details

safeanimalsquad.org.nz/profile

ANIMAL SQUAD ADOPTIONS



JOIN SAFE ANIMAL SQUAD

If you are 8-14 you can join for free.

Sign-up online at safeanimalsquad.org.nz

Or email animalsquad@safe.org.nz



For Animals
Ngā Kararehe Haumaru