

Important Contacts

Veterinary Services

Consultations and surgeries are by appointment only - please call your nearest clinic for more details.

Hong Kong Hospital

5, Wan Shing St, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel : 2802 0501

Kowloon Clinic

105, Princess Margaret Rd, Kowloon
Tel: 2713 9104

Sai Kung Clinic

7, Sha Tsui Path, Sai Kung, NT
Tel: 2792 1535

Hang Hau Clinic

Flat B, 2/F, Block 5, Hang Hau Village, Tseung Kwan O, NT
Tel : 2243 0080

Cheung Chau Clinic

Tung Wan, Cheung Chau
Tel : 2981 4176

Mui Wo Clinic

Shop 14, Mui Wo Centre, Mui Wo, Lantau Island
Tel : 2984 0060

Mobile Clinic

An appointment booking service is now in operation. Please call our hotline on 2713 9104 or any of our centres.

Shatin Mobile Clinic

Wo Che St, Opposite Wo Che Police HQ, Shatin

**Monday 9:30AM-12:30PM
2:00PM-3:30PM**

Yuen Long Mobile Clinic

The junction of Kam Pok Rd and Ha San Wai Rd, Yuen Long

Tuesday 10:00AM-12:00NN

Tuen Mun Mobile Clinic

Tat Yun Square, San Hui, Tuen Mun

Tuesday 2:00PM-4:30PM

Tsuen Wan Mobile Clinic

Junction of Yeung UK Rd & Kwu Hang Rd, Tseun Wan

Thursday 9:30AM-12:00NN

Tung Chung Mobile Clinic

Outside Tower 12, Caribbean Coast, Man Tung Rd, Tung Chung

Thursday 2:00PM-4:30PM

Behaviour Services

Please contact our Behaviour and Training department on 2232 5567.

Training Classes

We strongly recommend you enroll your new dog in a training class. Please contact our staff on 2232 5567 for enquiries regarding class times and enrollment.

Grooming Services

Please call 2232 5532 to make an appointment for grooming.

Boarding Services

We provide a quality boarding service for dogs and cats at our Hong Kong Centre. Please call 2802 0501 for more details.

Retail Services

A wide range of products are available at our Hong Kong, Kowloon, Sai Kung, Mui Wo, Hang Hau, Mong Kok Adopt-a-Pet and DOG x GOD Centres.

Volunteer Programme

If you would like to help the SPCA find loving homes for animals, perhaps you could consider becoming a volunteer. Various positions are available. Please contact our Volunteer coordinator at 2802 0501.

Adoption

For enquiries, please contact a member of our Homing Staff on:
2232 5529 (Hong Kong Centre)
2713 9104 (Kowloon Centre)
2714 1000 (Mongkok Adopt-a-Pet Centre)
2792 1535 (Sai Kung Centre)
2232 5599 (DOG x GOD Adoption Centre)

or visit our website:
www.sPCA.org.hk



First Day Home



We feed and recommend Hill's pet food



Congratulations!

By adopting a cat from the SPCA, you have not only given her a well deserved second chance but also have created the opportunity to build a life-long, loving and rewarding relationship with your special friend.

No doubt you are excited about getting your cat home and starting to learn about each other. Before you do so, please take a little time to read the first few pages of this booklet particularly the sections about settling your new cat in and the first night in her new home. You may be glad that you did!

If you have any questions regarding your new cat's health or behaviour, please contact our Homing staff on


Hong Kong Centre	2232 5529
Kowloon Centre	2713 9104
Mongkok Adopt-a-pet Centre	2714 1000
Sai Kung Centre	2792 1535
DOG x GOD Adoption Centre	2232 5599

Our clinics are by appointment only. Please take a note of the times of the clinics nearest you.

Co-ordinated by Homing Dept. - SPCA(HK)

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BEING PREPARED

Make sure you are well prepared for your new pet's arrival at home. You can purchase all the items you will need from the SPCA. These include:

Good quality cat food – our homing staff will be able to assist you in choosing one suitable for your new cat.



Two dishes that do not tip over: one for food and one for water.

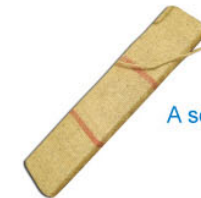


A cat basket with a washable cover or a suitable alternative, such as a cushion or folded blanket



A litter tray, litter and scoop

A variety of toys – ask our homing staff which types are suitable for your cat



A scratch pad or pole

A cat carrier



You may even want to consider an identity collar as this can help in tracing your cat if she goes missing

Work out your house rules and cat care regime in advance with all the members of the household. If your new cat is a kitten you should make her environment safer by preventing access to things she might chew or lick, such as cleaning agents, pesticides, poisonous plants, rubbish and electrical wires.

Select a separate room and place in it all the items your cat needs. The bathroom may be the best option as it is easy to clean and there is less furniture that the cat can hide behind.

Designate one family member to be in charge of looking after your cat's needs – in all the excitement, it is easy to assume that other people are taking care of them.





ARRIVING HOME; THE FIRST NIGHT AND WEEK

Just like people, cats have a different personalities and it will be up to you to assess how comfortable your cat is before you let her explore the rest of her new home. Some cats are relaxed and secure after just a few days in their room, some cats may take a couple of weeks. Once you think that your cat has adapted to her secure environment, gradually allow her to explore her new home. Leave the secure room door open so that she makes the first move and knows the route back to safety, food and the litter tray! You might want to close off some of the rooms so that she is not overwhelmed by the sudden expansion of her domain. As she gains confidence you can allow her access to the whole house.

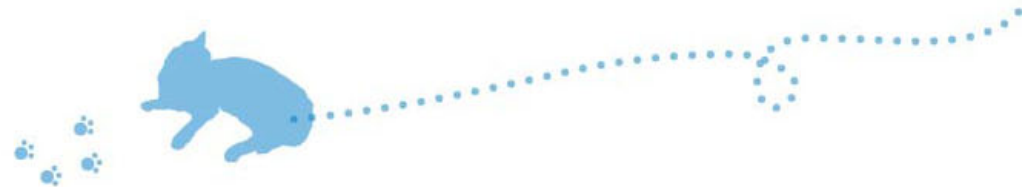
Before you go to bed, you should encourage your cat to go to bed too by switching off the light in her room. If you have a small kitten that was previously with some friends or her mother she might cry and be restless for the first few days or so. Make sure she is not cold – you might want to give her a hot water bottle under a blanket. If your kitten miaows or scratches at the door do not respond and definitely do not take her to bed with you!

Some people think giving a cat a ticking clock wrapped in a blanket will remind her of her mother or siblings.



If your cat is to have access to the outside then it is important that she is confident in her new home before allowing her to experience the outdoors. After a few weeks, allow her access to the outdoors. Again it is important that she only ventures outside of her own volition and can recognise the route back to safety. Your cat might be more comfortable taking the first few steps into her new environment if you go first, boosting her confidence.

When deciding whether to let your cat venture outside to enjoy the outside world, you have to understand that there are some risks involved. She could fight with other cats, be attacked by dogs or injured in an accident. You might decide to allow your cat to be outside only when she is supervised or to limit her to daylight hours. Whatever your decision you should consider identifying your cat. You can do this with an identity collar (designed with safety in mind) or electronically by having a microchip implanted or by using both methods.





INTRODUCTIONS

General rules for all pets

Every cat has an individual personality and some cats are more sociable than others. Most animals are territorial and need to be introduced gradually. Avoid face-to-face confrontations that might give rise to long-term problems associated with fear and aggression.

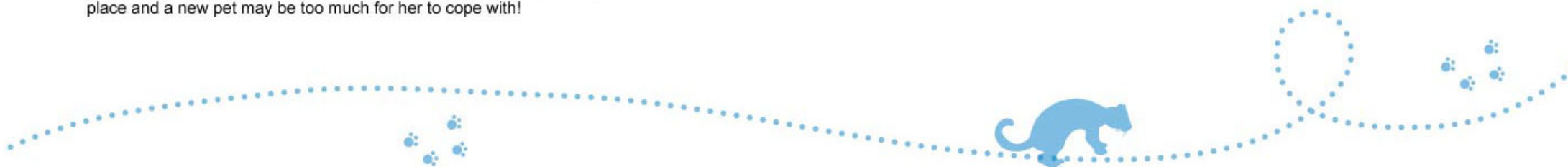
You can start to expose your cat to the idea of other animals in the household by gradually introducing items that carry the scent of each of your other pets into the separate secure room. You may temporarily feed your pets on either side of the secure room door. After a while you can progress to feeding them either side of the door with it wedged open slightly so there is visual access but no physical access.

Introductions should be undertaken in an environment that both animals feel secure in and is as neutral as possible. It is a good idea to allow your new cat to become comfortable with the surroundings she is in before making any new introductions – a new place and a new pet may be too much for her to cope with!









Meeting other cats

- 🐾 When introducing new cats to each other it is helpful to swap living quarters once your new cat has settled in. This allows even more exposure to each other's scent and also makes the territory more neutral for the initial meeting.
- 🐾 Make the initial introduction slowly, so that there is little aggressive behaviour and neither cat is afraid. It is natural for cats to show some apprehension and this may be exhibited as mild signs of aggression, however, it is important that such feelings are not allowed to intensify. Separate the cats and start the slow introduction process again.
- 🐾 It is important that during this process all cats when introduced have access to a safe place for them to hide.
- 🐾 When settling in your new cat, do not just consider her needs but also those of your other cat. Try to keep your old cat in her routine as far as possible.










Meeting dogs

-  Dogs and cats are not natural enemies. A puppy and a kitten will make a wonderful match, and any combination of a young animal with an adult animal will usually work out well. Older dogs and cats will usually become friends, but it will take time and patience in most cases. However, you should closely consider your dog's personality and how well trained he is. If he might be overly aggressive towards a new cat you might want to take him to some training classes to try to improve his manners first, or re-consider adopting a cat.
-  Make sure your dog is well out of the way when you first bring your cat home, and place her in the secure separate room.
-  When introducing a new cat to a dog, bear in mind that dogs can be predatory and are generally much bigger and more energetic than cats (especially kittens), so introductions should be closely supervised.
-  When you are ready to introduce them, put the cat in a basket so she is safe and secure, and then bring your dog into the room on a lead, close enough to sniff.
-  If the dog growls or tries to lunge at the cat, take him out of the room and try again later.
-  If the meeting is peaceful, reward both animals with praise and petting. The next step, at a later meeting, is to let the cat loose while keeping the dog on a lead, and watch the dog's reaction when the cat is moving. Do not allow your dog to become too aggressive, if he does remove him from the room and try again.



-  If your cat swipes at the dog's nose when he gets too close do not get too worried – it is just your cat's way of telling him she will not stand for any nonsense. Take it very slowly and do not leave them unsupervised until you are certain that they are both completely comfortable with each other.
-  Be aware that while puppies respond to training, it is often difficult to train adult dogs to lose their aggression towards cats once they have developed this behaviour. If the aggression continues, the new cat might not work out as a member of the family.

Introducing your cat to family & friends

-  While you might be keen to show off your new pet to your friends and neighbours, remember that the first few days in a new home are a huge period of adjustment for your cat and too many faces may confuse her or make her nervous. Try to limit introductions to family members first, and then gradually introduce her to other people.
-  When your cat is in her secure room for the first few days, encourage family members to visit her, especially at meal times. Sit quietly with the cat, ignore her (take a book to pass the time) and let her make the first move. Let her sniff you and allow her to build up trust and confidence in you. Do not rush your cat, proceed at a slow pace and speak to her quietly. When approached by your cat do not place your hand directly on her head as this can be threatening; reach out and allow her to rub her face on your hand. You can also scratch her on the chin or behind her ears.
-  Once your cat is confident with your family members you can start introducing her to your friends.





FEEDING

Your new cat will already be on a cat food of some description. Ask what food she has been eating and initially feed that food to avoid stomach upsets. It might be an idea however to check with your vet that this food is appropriate for your cat. If you wish to change the diet in the long term, make the change gradually, mixing very small amounts of the new food in with the old one, increasing it slowly.

Do not worry if your kitten does not eat all the food in the first day or two – she might be unsettled by the move. As long as she has a constant supply of water and is offered food regularly, she will be fine. Do not fall into the trap of feeding your kitten special foods to tempt her as this can lead to intestinal upsets and she might decide she likes the special food more than her normal food – you may end up having to cook for your cat for the rest of her life!

Today pet foods are manufactured to high standards and give your cat all the nutrition she needs when fed according to the manufacturer's instructions. What you feed your cat depends on her age, size and activity level. On the packaging of cat food there is usually a chart which can act as a guide, ask our staff for particular recommendations for your cat.

Dry diets are normally designed as complete diets and have the advantage that your cat has to chew the biscuits, which helps to maintain her dental health. If you are feeding your cat a dry diet you might decide to supplement with canned food – but be aware that any food your cat is not used to may upset her intestines, so introduce the new food gradually. Never add extra calcium or vitamins unless instructed by a veterinary surgeon – you may do more harm than good. Water should always be available for your cat.

Recommend feeding schedules:

With small kittens, just like small children, it is better to offer food regularly, in smaller amounts than an adult would need. Four meals a day are recommended initially or the food can be left out for the whole day. If your kitten seems to find the biscuits a little too hard you can soften them with a small amount of water until she is big enough to chew them properly.

As your kitten grows older you might decide to change your feeding schedule. From three to six months of age you can start to reduce the frequency of meals from four to two, after six months you can feed one to two meals a day. It is also important to change the type of food fed as your kitten gets older. An adult cat has different nutritional requirements from a kitten as they are not growing and also tend to have a lower activity level as they do not play as much.

There are two basic feeding regimes for cats: one is to have set meal times where food is available to your cat for a set period two or three times a day, the other is to have the food available for the cat to help itself to throughout the day (ad lib).

Whatever regime you decide to use when she is older, you should still follow the guidelines provided by the food manufacturer.

A regular feeding schedule can help you to bond with your cat as she will associate you with something very positive (food). If your cat goes outdoors a set meal regime is also helpful in that your cat will learn that food is available for her at certain times and she should appear at those times – allowing you to check that she is ok.

An ad lib diet is also acceptable but you should remember to change the food daily so that it remains fresh.

Never give your cat bones of any kind as they can splinter and injure your cat's mouth or internal organs and can also cause constipation. Never give table scraps to your cat as it may discourage her from eating the more nutritious pet foods and may encourage her to develop undesirable behaviour.

A very high percentage of adult cats are now overweight, the result of a change in lifestyle. A large number of cats are now kept as indoor cats, which means they are exercising less and often have access to food all day, with the end result that they put on weight. A fat cat is not a healthy cat and is at risk of developing conditions associated with being overweight, usually later in life for example diabetes.

If you notice your cat appears to be overweight you should adjust your feeding regime, encourage your cat to exercise more by playing with her and consult your vet to make sure there are no medical problems.





GROOMING

Most cats will self-groom, but it helps to handle and groom them regularly. Most cats like having contact with humans; however, some need to learn to trust people, especially when being touched. It is important that you have a regular pattern of handling and grooming for your cat. This will not only benefit her coat, but also her general health as it will allow you to spot any abnormalities and increase your bond with her.

Examine your cat all over each day and your vet will love you! It should only take a few minutes.

If she seems to be nervous about having a particular area touched, do not force her to accept being handled there, but work on the area gradually to build up her confidence. Check that her eyes and nose are clear and free from discharge. Run your hands slowly down her neck and along her back and tummy, and then repeat the process in the opposite direction, looking out for any lumps or bumps, parasites and signs of skin infection.

From the shoulder, gently run your hand down her front leg and hold the paw for a second before letting go. Reward your cat with lots of praise and a food treat; gradually increase the length of time you can hold the paw. Gently spread the toes and feel between them checking for dirt and matts. This will help you if you decide to trim your cat's nails, but remember to repeat the process on all four legs and feet.

Playfully scratch your cat behind the ears, and then gently hold the ear for just a second. If your cat does not protest reward her with lots of praise, affection and even a small food treat. Repeat the process increasing the length of period the ear is held for. Once she is comfortable with you holding her ears, try to look inside the ear. Gradually she will be relaxed about you handling her ears, she will allow you to clean her ears using a commercial ear

preparation and cotton wool balls (never use cotton buds). Weekly ear cleaning should be sufficient for most cats, however if you notice a large amount of ear discharge or wax, a foul smell or if your cat appears to be in pain when you touch her ears, make an appointment to see your vet – she could have ear mites or an infection.

Being able to examine and touch your cat's mouth is also important as dental disease is a common and serious condition in older cats. The only effective way to try to prevent this is through regular dental care. Kittens lose their baby teeth at around 5 months of age, but you should not lose the opportunity to get your cat used to having her teeth brushed from an early age. Gently slide a thumb under her upper lip to expose her teeth. Then try opening her mouth, first for a second then longer; if she accepts this then praise and reward her. Once she is happy with you handling her mouth you should then try to clean her teeth or apply a dental care preparation. There are a variety of preparations to aid the dental care of your cat from toothbrushes (some even fit on your finger), to pastes, gels and special diets.

Grooming is especially important in long haired cats and should be done daily. This helps to prevent the formation of matts that develop as a result of loose hair not being removed effectively by the cat's self-grooming. You should use a brush that has been specifically designed for cats and again introduce grooming slowly and gently, use lots of praise and rewards and hopefully both you and your cat (long haired or short haired) will enjoy these sessions. If a cat's coat becomes matted, they may need a body clip, but unless you are experienced in clipping or trimming your cat it might be safer, for you and her, to use the services of a professional groomer.

Occasionally cats may develop fur balls. This is a natural phenomenon and results from the ingestion of either your cat's own hair or another cat's hair if carrying out mutual grooming. Long haired cats have more hair and obviously can be more prone to developing these fur balls. Fur balls may not cause any problems in a cat and just be passed through the intestine with other waste products or they may be eliminated by vomiting (on occasion they can cause intestinal problems). There are several products on the market such as pastes or diets that are aimed to help a cat's body to eliminate ingested hair safely.

Cats can be difficult to bath as many are not used to water. As a rule cats are very clean animals and do not usually need bathing and indeed too frequent bathing may remove natural oils from her coat and could lead to skin problems. In general vets do not recommend bathing cats unless for medical reasons.

If you wish to bath your cat, start to introduce the concept gradually and begin early in life, with lots of positive rewards and praise. Initially, just let your cat get used to the idea of getting wet – start with small areas and do not use shampoo. Then progress to larger areas and the use of shampoo. Drying your cat can also be a challenge unless you get her used to it. You should use a towel initially, but also try to get your cat used to a hairdryer. If you do decide to bath your cat then use a shampoo that is designed specifically for cats.





TOILET TRAINING

During the first few days keep your cat confined to your specially prepared room. This not only makes her feel more secure and makes it easier for you to introduce her to all the family members and socialise with her but also makes it easier for you to toilet train her.

Most kittens will use a litter tray as long as they know where it is, as they have learnt by following their mother's example and by natural instinct. Place your cat in the litter tray so she knows where it is.

Kittens will want to go to the toilet more often than adult cats and often feel the urge after waking up, eating and also after periods of play. If you are not sure about your kitten's toilet training, placing her in the litter tray at regular intervals (especially after the activities mentioned above) may decrease the incidence of "accidents". If you notice your kitten sniffing, circling or scratching at the floor this may be a sign that she needs to go to the toilet – quickly place her in the litter tray and praise her when she performs.

Never punish your cat for "accidents" as she might develop negative feelings associated with both you and the litter tray.

Once your cat is toilet trained and secure in her environment you might wish to relocate the litter tray to another room in the house. Always make sure that she knows where the tray has moved to by placing her in it and ensure that the new position is easy for her to use.

Most cats like to use a clean toilet, so if you have more than one cat you might need more than one litter tray to accommodate them. Cats often prefer to use fine-grained litters and also sometimes find the scented litters unpleasant.





HEALTH

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, diseases can occasionally go home with adopted animals. It is important to ensure that all your pets at home are in good health and have had all relevant vaccinations before taking home your new cat.

Vaccinations

Every cat adopted from the SPCA has started or completed a primary vaccination course and will have a follow-up vaccination scheduled. The vaccination programme is against feline infectious enteritis, feline calici virus and feline viral rhinotracheitis.

All vaccinations should be recorded on a vaccination card. It tells you what and when has been given as well as when the next shots are due. Your new cat should have a card provided if any vaccinations have been given. The initial vaccination course is provided by the SPCA free of charge. After the initial course of vaccinations your cat will require an annual booster – this is also a good time for an annual check-up with your vet.

A rabies vaccination is not required by law for your cat but if you are considering emigrating with your cat, you should ask your vet for advice as it is often a requirement for importation into a country. It might also be necessary to identify your cat by having a microchip implanted.



Worms

Your cat has been treated against roundworm and tapeworm, and we recommend you to continue to de worm her every three months as a routine measure. Young kittens may require de-worming every two weeks until 12 weeks of age, and people with young children may also wish to deworm their adult cats more frequently than every 3 months. Consult your vet for advice.

Fleas



Fleas not only cause itching and discomfort for your pet, but can also cause anaemia, hair loss, allergic reactions and tapeworm infestations. Effective flea control must include environmental treatment for eggs and larvae, as well as the fleas on your pets. A variety of products are available. Always read product labels carefully and follow directions exactly. For detailed information, see our separate leaflet on flea control, or ask your vet.

Desexing

Desexing is normally carried out at between 4 and 6 months of age and is strongly recommended. It can be done at any age after this period also.

Desexing not only prevents unwanted litters of kittens, but also provides important health benefits for your pet, preventing cancer and infections of the reproductive organs- common diseases which can prove fatal in older cats. Desexed animals are more content and less likely to stray.

Insurance

Pet Insurance is strongly recommended by the SPCA. This ensures peace of mind and is invaluable in the event of unforeseen illness or injury to your pet.





RECREATION AND TRAINING

Whether an older cat with a possibly unknown previous history, or a new kitten, your cat now belongs to you and her future is in your hands. Your relationship with your cat will be better if you have well-established basic family rules that everyone sticks to. If one person allows the cat into a restricted area such as a bedroom and permits behaviour such as sleeping on or in a bed it confuses the cat when this behaviour is then discouraged by someone else later on. Consistency will create harmony in the home.

Cats love playing a lot, especially young kittens, but the importance of playing with your cat even as they grow up should not be underestimated. Play increases the bond with your cat, and also through increased exercise can ensure she has a healthier lifestyle and help with weight management.

Cats play in three ways: in the air, on the ground and below the ground. These three ways mimic methods of hunting; birding, mousing and fishing.

When selecting a toy for your cat to play with you should consider their safety. You should avoid toys with small parts that could be chewed and ingested by your cat, as this may then cause an intestinal obstruction. String or thread also has potential to cause a problem if it is ingested, as do sharp objects such as needles and pins. If you select a soft toy it helps if it is machine washable.

To prevent your cat from getting bored you should rotate the toys that are available, although it is a good idea to for her to have constant access to her favourite. Cats quite often like to discover their toys for themselves as it adds interest to their play session.

Unfortunately in single cat households and in young cats under two years of age, play – motivated aggressive behaviour is not uncommon as play tends to mimic natural behaviour – hunting, exploring and investigating.

Cats learn from their siblings and mother at an early age how to modify their behaviour appropriately. Unfortunately, if a kitten is separated at an early age, or if we play with the kitten using hands and feet instead of toys the kitten may not have learned to control its rough behaviour or may get the idea that rough play with humans is acceptable. As with most animals it is much easier to teach a good behaviour pattern from the start than attempt to correct a bad one later.

Encourage your kitten to play with toys and make sure that you initiate several periods of play with her during the day. If your kitten starts to play too roughly with you and directs any play-motivated aggression towards you then you should distract her and present her with an appropriate toy to play with. If distraction is not working then you should discourage her by withdrawing the attention. She should eventually realise that you will only play with her if she plays with you in an appropriate manner.

When trying to modify you cat's playing techniques do NOT reprimand your cat physically as your cat could either interpret this as acceptance of rough play and respond with more of the same or become scared of you. Also, when withdrawing attention it is better that you walk away from your cat rather than physically remove her from the room as she might perceive the physical contact as a reward. If you are concerned about your cat's behaviour you should consult your vet or an animal behaviourist.

Whenever you are trying to train your cat it is always better to use methods based on positive re-enforcement. This means that when your cat has behaved as you wanted her to you, immediately present her with something she perceives as a reward (praise, affection, food treats or toys). It is much more likely that when rewarded the good behaviour will occur again in the future. Again, it is important that everyone in the home is consistent with the rules and rewards system as well as with any commands used.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE ABOVE TOPICS PLEASE ASK YOUR VETERINARY SURGEON OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE ON www.sPCA.org.hk

