

# ADDING A PET TO THE FAMILY?

## DID YOU KNOW?

Pet owners are accountable for the welfare of their pets 24/7, for life. They are also responsible for the impact of their pets on the environment, ensuring all pets live in harmony with birds, wildlife, domestic animals, livestock, neighbours and the general public.

Before welcoming a new pet, make sure you can tick all these boxes:

- ✓ adopting from a rescue not from a breeder or shop
- ✓ own a home or rent a long-term pet-friendly house
- ✓ financially secure
- ✓ extra budget for insurance and emergencies
- ✓ time for training, socializing and care
- ✓ reliable support and pet sitter

# DO YOU NEED HELP?

## IT'S NEVER OK

to neglect, abandon or dump an animal. If you are struggling to cope or unable to provide your pet with the care it needs, or you find a distressed or deceased animal, please contact WISCA for advice and support.

# BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

## Help protect the birds and wildlife of Waiheke Island

### CONTACTS:

#### WISCA

Waiheke Island Society  
for the Care of Animals  
027 539 5107

#### Te Korowai o Waiheke

Predator Free Waiheke  
0800 2473 7664

#### Native Bird Rescue

020 473 9464

#### Wildlife Rescue

09 372 6744

Supported by:



Pets are more likely to have predatory urges if they don't form a close bond with their home or owners, are bored, not exercised enough, left alone, allowed to wander, or have learned to chase, and other destructive habits.

## OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

proactive pet owners with pets who are:

- contained on their own property
- under control or on leash when out
- properly trained and socialised
- desexed, microchipped and registered on the NZ Companion Animal register
- wearing a collar and identification tag

## KNOW WHERE YOUR PET IS AT ALL TIMES

Keeping your pet supervised and confined keeps your pets, birds and wildlife safe.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- feed pets a balanced breakfast and dinner
- include real meat in your cat's diet
- never leave pets unsupervised or alone for long periods of time
- eliminate boredom with exercise, games and play
- avoid games that mimic predatory behaviour (chasing and pouncing)
- avoid toys that are tasty (treat dispensers) or life-like (feathers)
- aversion training with dogs and cats
- use experienced pet sitters
- limit travel on boats and to holiday houses
- keep pets indoors for 2 weeks to bond to a new house
- never have bird feeders in the yard

All pet owners have a responsibility to ensure that their pets behave well and are supervised (when out) and contained (when at home).



## WE SUGGEST CATS

- wear a quick release collar with a bell
- wear a colourful bird warning collar
- explore on a harness and lead
- stay indoors pre-dusk to post-dawn
- play and relax in a catio (fully enclosed outdoor cat patio)

## WE SUGGEST DOGS

- avoid bush & coastal bird nesting areas
- avoid Blue Penguin areas at Matiatia and Kennedy Point boat ramps and rocks
- are on a leash or under control at all times
- have excellent recall and "leave it" response times
- are muzzled if prey-driven or untrained
- are discouraged from chasing birds and wildlife
- play and relax indoors or in a fenced yard

## WHY ARE MICROCHIPPING AND DESEXING IMPORTANT?

### Microchipping and Registration

Speeds up the identification of a found or roaming pet and they can be quickly reunited with their owner which:

- reduces the stress on the pet, owner and community
- reduces the time spent fending for themselves, preying on birds and wildlife
- reduces the chance of being considered a stray and rehomed or euthanised

### Desexing

- reduces breeding and unwanted litters
- reduces pets given away as gifts
- reduces tendency to roam
- reduces spraying, predation, and fighting
- improves the long-term health of the pet

