

outWELCOME

Thank you for fostering/volunteering with Mid West Cat Shelter. We have put together this guide to help you. If something isn't covered in here, or you'd like further clarification, please don't hesitate to ask in our volunteer Facebook group!



0487 193 244
 23B RIDLEY ROAD WOORREE WA 6530
www.midwestcatshelter.com
www.facebook.com/midwestcatshelter
www.facebook.com/groups/mwcsvolunteers- Volunteers with current memberships only

Casey Fiorenza – Chair of the Board - **0481 123 416** – chair@midwestcatshelter.com
 Trudi Stephens – Foster Care Coordinator & Volunteer Support – “Missti Eva” on Facebook



SANFORD VETERINARY CLINIC
 9921 1797 (business hours)
 163 NWC Hwy, Geraldton WA 6530
www.sanfordvet.com.au

For anything foster cat related, (appointments for vaccinations, micro-chipping, sterilisation, cat or kitten health etc) please contact Sanford Vet Clinic. You will need to quote the cat number (not name) when booking appointments or talking to the staff.

Samantha Brumpton is the Practice Manager of Sanford and is our MWCS liaison. Mel Salter is our liaison whilst Samantha is on maternity leave.

For after-hours vet emergencies, please call Casey Fiorenza on 0481 123 416



City of Greater Geraldton
 a vibrant future



CGG Ranger Services - 9956 6600

www.cgg.wa.gov.au/pound/



FREE VS ADOPTION

KNOW YOUR FACTS



CAT OR KITTEN	DESEXING	F3 VACCINATION	MICROCHIP	INITIAL FLEA & WORMING	TOTAL COST
FREE / PRIVATE	\$174 M \$277 F	\$102	\$61	\$32	\$369 M \$472 F
ADOPTED FROM MWCS 	INCLUDED	 INCLUDED	 INCLUDED	 INCLUDED	\$200-\$250

* FIGURES ARE PRICES FROM A GERALDTON VET CLINIC AS AT OCTOBER 2020
 * F3 VACCINATIONS ARE FOR INDOOR-ONLY CATS. YOUR KITTEN WILL NEED MORE THAN ONE, AS WELL AS FURTHER VACCINATIONS SHOULD YOU WISH FOR KITTY TO GO OUTDOORS
 * FLEA AND WORM TREATMENTS ARE USUALLY SOLD IN PACKS OF 3 OR 6, THIS PRICE REFLECTS ON INITIAL DOSE AND NOT A PACK

FOUND A STRAY?

Mid West Cat Shelter can only intake from the CGG Animal Management Facility or the RSPCA. We sadly cannot help with dumped kittens, strays or cats needing a new home. Please direct any inquiries to rangers on 9956 6600. We can then assess the cats/kittens in the pound.



Found a litter of kittens?

Before jumping in...

- ♥ Observe quietly from a distance to see if the mother returns
- ♥ If the kittens are clean and curled up together, the mother is most likely out hunting and will return
- ♥ If the kittens are in immediate danger, try to move them to a safer spot nearby so the mother can still find them
- ♥ If the mother is around, contact Ranger Services on 9956 6600
- ♥ If the mother has not returned within 12 hours, move the kittens to a box under shelter with some old towels. You can then contact Ranger Services



Mid West Cat Shelter, Inc. is unable to take direct surrenders from the public. We can only take in unclaimed cats from the pound.



MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Vaccinations and sterilisations are covered by MWCS and you will receive notifications of due dates in the MWCS Facebook group. We've also set up a trial automated email that will hopefully help! You'll need to call Sanford and check for availability around that date. You'll need to advise them it's a MWCS cat and of your cat's number. Kitty will need to be dropped off at 8am that day and collected around 4pm same day. Remember for sterilisation that kitty cannot eat past 8pm the night prior to surgery, and no water after 6am on the day of surgery.

CARE OF YOUR FOSTER

After the initial vet check, you are required to provide care and most importantly love to your foster. All foster cats must be confined to strictly indoors or within an appropriately sized enclosure. They are not to go outside unless on a supervised leash walk and not able to make nose-to-nose contact with any other neighbourhood cats. Whenever donations of food\litter\toys\etc are received, they are stored in the very back shed at Catopia Boarding Cattery (23b Ridley Road) and can be collected during their business hours listed below. Please introduce yourself to the staff on arrival, and then browse the labelled donation area. Please be mindful our staff have a very heavy task load, so try not to take up too much of their time!

Monday:	09:30 - 11:30, 13:30 - 15:00
Tuesday:	09:30 - 11:30, 13:30 - 15:00
Wednesday:	09:30 - 11:30, 13:30 - 15:00
Thursday:	09:30 - 11:30, 13:30 - 15:00
Friday:	09:30 - 11:30, 13:30 - 15:00
Saturday:	09:30 - 11:30
Sunday:	CLOSED

In the best interests of your own cats, we recommend keeping your own cats and fosters separated for as long as possible. In the perfect world, a foster carer would have enough space to keep their own cats and their foster cats separated permanently for the health and safety of all cats involved. If you are going to integrate your own cats and your foster cats, your own cats must be kept up to date with appropriate annual vaccinations. For the safety of your own cats, we recommend they are covered with a F6 vaccination. Your vet can provide you with more information.

If you think kitty might be unwell, please do not hesitate to contact Sanford Vet Clinic ASAP for advice during business hours on 9921 1797. If after hours, please contact our Chair Casey on 0481 123 416. Foster carers are always welcome to ask questions and for advice, and must adhere to any medical advice given by Sanford and are not to use medications without direction from the Sanford team.

🚨 IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY FOSTER CAT? 🚨

If your foster cat:

- ✓ Has had soft stool or diarrhoea for more than 2 days
- ✓ Has any hairloss patches
- ✓ Has vomited more than once in 24 hours
- ✓ Hasn't eaten in more than 24 hours
- ✓ Is limping for more than 24 hours
- ✓ Hasn't toileted in more than 24 hours
- ✓ Has eye discharge, nasal discharge or has sneezed more than 3 times in 24 hours

OR

- ✓ You just think something isn't quite right.

➡ Please give the Sanford crew a call on 99211797 during business hours to get them an appointment or myself on 0481123416 after hours ➡

Please also flick an SMS to the adoption coordinator on our public mobile number 0487193244 just to let them know so they can take your foster off the website until all better 🐾

QUARANTINE PERIOD: THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

For our experienced "quarantine" foster carers only: Just a reminder for when you get new kitties from the pound. They need to be kept on a two week quarantine every time, with proper hand hygiene every time you pat them or clean their belongings. Completely separated from any other pets you may have. We do our best to make sure they are healthy when coming your way, but we can never be too sure.

This two week quarantine can be simply keeping kitty separate from others in the laundry, spare bedroom or in a confinement crate where your other kitties can't get to (think sneezing distance minimum). MWCS has crates available to loan upon request.

Please make sure you have good hand and clothes hygiene before and after feeding, toileting and handling your kittens. If you need advice on how to best do this in your home, or are maybe after some easier ways to do things, please ask for advice in our volunteer Facebook group.

Ringworm is the most common issue that may occur, as it's not always visible. If kitty is allowed access to your whole house and just happens to have Ringworm, the spores are then spread across your house, and may infect other kitties and humans. Ringworm is a fungus and will clear up with medication and bathing, but it's a lot of work to clean everything twice daily and much easier to avoid in the first place!

If you don't think you can offer quarantine, but still want to foster that is totally ok. We have many carers that only take cats that have already completed quarantine.

RINGWORM PROTOCOL

Foster carers are to adhere to all advice given from the Sanford Vet Clinic (SVC) team. If a foster carer has a suspected case, they are to contact SVC and make an appointment as soon as possible.

After a confirmed case has cleared up and moved on, the foster carer is to take a minimum 6 week break from fostering. The SVC team can advise a longer break if they feel necessary. Please refer to our separate Ringworm Protocol for more information

KITTY TIMELINE

Flea treatments should be given monthly, worming every 3 months, worming more often when fostering kittens. All MWCS cats receive a flea and worm treatment upon intake, so one month later from that date. If you need advice on what parasite prevention products will suit you best, please feel free to ask for advice in our Facebook group. Remember to read the label carefully for species and age limitations! MWCS can provide these products upon request.

 4 weeks	 6-7 weeks	 8 weeks	 12 weeks	 14-16 weeks	 Adult Cats
Introduce soft mushy food	Kittens can now be advertised and adopted, but cannot yet leave MWCS care	First vaccination	Second vaccination (if still in MWCS care)	Females are speyed and can leave MWCS care once sterilised	Spey/castrate First vaccination Microchip
	Start weaning and separate from mum	Adopted Males can leave MWCS care		2 weeks after sterilisation, stitches need to be taken out	2 weeks after desex, stitches need to be taken out if female.
					4 weeks after intake, second vaccination

OUR ADOPTION PROCESS

Photos and videos of our cats in care are published onto our website and Facebook page. Potential adopters can message the facebook page or phone our coordinator. Our coordinator will contact you and ask for you to arrange a meet and greet as soon as possible that is convenient for you. Please be sure to contact the potential adopter within 24 hours to organize. Please advise the coordinator of the date set for the meet and greet via SMS or facebook message to Missti Eva.

An SMS template you are welcome to use is :

Hello (AdopterName), what time would you like to meet (KittenName) this (DayYouAreAvailable)? Kind regards, (YourName) Foster Carer for Mid West Cat Shelter

Eg. Hello Megan, what time would you like to mee Hayley this Saturday? I’m available any time between 10am-6pm. Kind regards, Casey, Foster Carer for Mid West Cat Shelter

We require a meet and greet for all adoptions and do not allow ‘blind adoptions’. If the meet and greet is deemed successful by both the foster carer and the potential adopter, they must call our coordinator to organize payment and paperwork. You must not let a foster cat leave your care until you have been given the approval from the coordinator.

MEDIA - PHOTOS & VIDEOS

Photos and videos of your foster cats are important, so we can get them advertised and finding their new home.

Media for the advertising of any kittens and cats need to be shared to our private Facebook group as soon as possible. Please feel free to continue to submit fresh media of your foster cat every few weeks or so, and don't forget to provide a description of their purrsonality!

Please make sure the media is focused and presentable (no bucket collar on their head, no dirty litter in background) You are more than welcome to post media on your own Facebook, just please remember that we do not offer holds for carers, friends or family if they spot your cute pics and want first option. If any family or friends wish to adopt, they must follow the same steps that the public do and call our adoption coordinator. Cats are available to adopt at any time after 7 weeks, however all cats must pass their quarantine and age restrictions (8 weeks old for males, 12 weeks old for females) before being able to leave MWCS care.

SHELTER MANAGER FOR FOSTER CARERS

All foster carers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with our database software Shelter Manager. You'll be able to see when your foster cat is due for vaccinations and sterilisation, their date of birth, their cat number and anything you'll need to know as their foster carer.

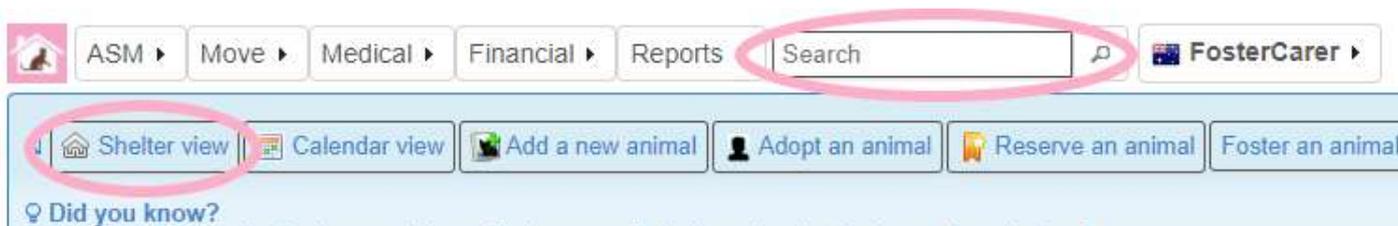
URL to bookmark: mwcs.sheltermanager.com

Username: FosterCarer

Password: ThanksSanford!

This log in is Read Only, so you are safe to look around and click, without the fear of breaking it. Feel free to have a play and ask any questions.

The easiest way to use it, is to click **Shelter View** at the top, in the middle of the screen. Scroll down to find your name in the list of carers. Then click on your kitty. Or you can type their name in the search box (but just be mindful that your kitty's name may have been used before, so make sure to select the right one!)



Once you have clicked on your kitty, the screen will look like the below. The list points out the key things to know.

Miranda - 20-2112

Female Feline aged 8 weeks.
Brought into TAFE Wed 21/10 by Ranger Lauren to place into bottle feeding care.
Casey had checked ...

Location: Foster →
Entered shelter: 23/10/2020
Hold until: 31/01/2021
Left shelter:
Time on shelter: 8 weeks. (56 days)

Added by Suellen on 23/10/2020
Last changed by Casey on 18/12/2020

Available for adoption

Animal | **Vaccination** | Test | **Medical** | Media | Diary | Movements

Littermates **3**

▼ Details

Code	20-2112	Species	Feline
Name	Miranda	Breed	Domestic Short Hair
Sex	Female	Crossbreed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic Short Hair
Type	Feline	Last Location	Catopia
Colour	Black	Flags	Select
Weight	0.207 kg	Date of Birth	23/10/2020 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimate
		Adoption Fee	\$0.00

1. Your cat's number. Remove the first two digits as this is the year. So this kitty is number 2112.
2. Sterilisation and microchip icons. This means these two important vet visits haven't yet been done. (These icons will not be shown here if kitty is sterilised and/or micro-chipped). Your kitty might be too young to have these done, so this is a reminder not to forget.
3. This is where you click to see when your kitty's next vaccination is due.
4. This is where your kitty's approximate sterilisation date will be shown, if kitty has not yet been sterilised.
5. Kitty's approximate date of birth.

VACCINATIONS

By clicking on the Vaccination tab, you can see in this example that Miranda is due for her vaccination on the 21/12. It is up to you as the foster carer to make this appointment with the Sanford team around that date, no longer than 7 days past the due date (unless advised by the Sanford team for medical reasons)

Miranda - 20-2112

Female Feline aged 8 weeks.
Brought into TAFE Wed 21/10 by Ranger Lauren to place into bottle feeding care.
Casey had checked ...

Animal | **Vaccination** | Test | Medical

New Vaccination | Delete | Give

Type	Required	Give
<input type="checkbox"/> F3 Vacc	21/12/2020	

STERILISATION

By clicking on the Medical tab, you can see in this example that Miranda is due to be sterilised on the 18/02. This date is only approximate. It is up to you to make the appointment, and also check with the Sanford team if this date is suitable for kitty's age and weight. Don't forget to take away all food from 8pm the night prior, and water at 6am at the latest.

**Miranda - 20-2112**

Female Feline aged 8 weeks.
Brought into TAFE Wed 21/10 by Ranger
Lauren to place into bottle feeding care.
Casey had checked ...

Location: Foster → Q - Casey Fiorenza
Entered shelter: 23/10/2020
Hold until: 31/01/2021
Left shelter:
Time on shelter: 8 weeks. (56 days)

Added by Suellen on .
Last changed by Case

Available for ad

Animal	Vaccination	Test	Medical	Diet	Costs	Payments	Media	Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> New Regimen	<input type="checkbox"/> Delete Regimen	<input type="checkbox"/> Delete Treatments	<input type="checkbox"/> Give	<input type="checkbox"/> Undo	<input type="checkbox"/> Change Date Required			
Name	Dosage	Started	Status	Required				
<input type="checkbox"/> Sterilisation	Starve from 8pm prior night	18/02/2021	Active, One Off → 1 treatment (1/1)	18/02/2021				

TOXICITIES IN THE HOME

Items in your home can be toxic and fatal to cats and kittens. The below is not a comprehensive list but includes common items that must be kept away from your foster cat. A cat may not show any of the signs listed below and can still have a fatal toxicity.

-  Himalayan Salt lamps – Vomiting, seizures & death
-  Essential oils (topical or diffused) – Respiratory issues, liver damage & death
-  Rat baits and other poisons – Vomiting, seizures & death
-  Indoor plants & flowers (there are some that are safe, but MANY are toxic) – Vomiting, seizures & death

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CAT TO OTHER PETS - FOR NEW ADOPTERS

This guide assumes that kitty has already sat through two weeks quarantine successfully, and can also be used for giving advice when people are adopting your foster.

In the best interests of your own cats, we recommend keeping your own cats and fosters separated for as long as possible. In the perfect world, a foster carer would have enough space to keep their own cats and their foster cats separated permanently for the health and safety of all cats involved.

WEEK ONE AND TWO:

It is essential to keep your new cat separated from your existing pets for two weeks minimum. Best if in a separate room or cage, to keep them safe, stop them from running away and give them the chance to settle and feel secure in their new surroundings.

Your pets will be able to get used to new kitty's smell in the house, and vice versa.

Spend as much time with kitty as you can to develop trust.

Feed pets on either side of the closed door so they associate the smell of the new cat with a positive experience. Again, this can only be done after kitty has been through a minimum of two weeks quarantine.

Please be patient and do not attempt to introduce other animals any earlier.

WEEK THREE:

The introduction can begin in week three – fully supervised.

Day 15 - For two days, while you are present to supervise, prop the door partially open and allow kitty to see the other pets in safety. Ensure the door cannot be pushed open.

Day 17 – for the next two days - lock away your other pets for an hour at a time and let kitty find their way around your house in safety.

Day 19 - Under your supervision bring in one pet at a time to meet kitty for short periods of time. You will need to do this for a few days.

Day 22 - When all appear to be tolerating each other they can stay in the same room but when you go out, you should continue to separate the adopted cat for a few more days allowing them to interact when you are there.

Continue to provide separate litter trays (plus one extra) until all cats are socializing.

Try using Feliway, Sentry or similar products to reduce the stress of the introductions.

It is very difficult to undo issues created by a bad introduction. SLOWLY SLOWLY is the key.

For fosters carers needing more advice, contact a MWCS volunteer via our Facebook group. For members of the public whom have adopted, this guide can be found on our website, and can call our coordinator on 0487 193 244 for more advice.