

Three pearls of wisdom...

Even if you choose not to board your cat(s) here at the Cozy Cat Inn, I would like to offer three things to help keep your cats safe and healthy. Years of working in veterinary environments has afforded me to see many awesome situations as well as many devastating ones.

Quality foods makes all the difference to the health of cats. Many problems could possibly be avoided by feeding foods produced by any of the following three companies. They each have the veterinary research and testing behind their products... Hill's Science Diet, Royal Canin or Purina Proplan. If a grocery store diet is desired, the best quality cat formula may be found in Purina ONE. Even tho cats are carnivores, fish is generally not advised for the canned or dry formulas. Fish may contribute to urinary and digestive difficulties. Canned foods are especially helpful to maintain good hair coat, lessen constipation, increase moisture for efficient kidney function, and reduce body weight and diabetic risk. Ask your veterinarian for their opinion for feline appropriate diets. Prescription diets may be indicated for specific conditions.

Microchips are a permanent identification that is barely detectable to the touch. Microchips have helped many cats and their frantic families members be reunited. Unfortunately, many cats remain lost even with a microchip because over time pet owners forget that the only way a microchip can work is if the contact information that correlates with the microchip is correct. If your phone numbers have changed since the time your pet was adopted from a shelter, or has changed since a microchip was purchased, you will not be able to be notified if your pet is found. Check that your contact information is current with your veterinarian, adoption agency, microchip company, and the animal services for your county. Many heartbroken owners over the years have regretted declining to microchip their cat "because it did not go outside". The circumstance for the lost cats vary...workers in the home, robbery, storm damage, children at play not paying attention, irresponsible caretaker, or carriers falling apart while transporting. The best chance you have to be reunited with a lost pet is a microchip ID.

The most common microchip companies...24 Pet Watch 866-597-2424, Avid 800-336-2843, Home Again 888-466-3242, AKC 800-252-7894

Lastly, and unfortunately a true story... A very good client that truly loved his cat, collapsed one day in front of his home. He was hospitalized and unable too communicate for an extended period of time. Because their was no easily accessible family contact information for emergency personnel to find, his cat was presented for safekeeping to the county shelter in which the client resided (not Pinellas) until family could be identified and notified of the emergency situation. It is unclear why it took so long, but by the time a family member was able to reclaim the cat, he was in such poor health that he could not be saved. Emergency personnel generally check the refrigerator for emergency information about the residence, home owners and the pets in the home. If posted in your home, you may spare your pet(s) from spending hours, days, weeks or even longer in a county shelter waiting for the proper person to be notified that there is an emergency involving you or your home. This may also avoid conflict between family/friends and avoid delaying placing the pet(s) with the person of your choice. Consider for a moment who you would desire to be a temporary or permanent guardian for your pet(s) if you suffered an emergency. Discuss the matter with your family or friend. Document the information and leave it where it is easily accessible, and provide a copy to the other person and your veterinarian. Pet

Power of Attorney On-line forms are readily available or can be supplied upon request by the Cozy Cat Inn.