



**Maricopa County**  
*Animal Care and Control*

# THINKING OF ADOPTING A CAT?



## **Cats are loveable, charming pets that offer endless fun and entertainment. If you're thinking of adopting a cat, keep in mind these tips on how to keep her healthy and happy.**

- Feed them good, nutritious food regularly, at least once a day.
- Cats need plenty of cool, clean fresh water. Adult cats do NOT need milk, which might make them fat and give them diarrhea.
- Do NOT automatically have your cat declawed. Declawing has been compared to removing your fingernails. To prevent your cat from scratching or tearing your furniture, trim her claws regularly and provide her with a scratching post. Verbal scolding can also work wonders.
- Unlike dogs, cats do NOT need to be bathed. A healthy cat keeps herself clean and well groomed. An occasional grooming is all she may need.
- Make sure your cat gets good veterinary care, including all necessary examinations and shots.

- Unlike dogs, cats do NOT need to go outside. Cats will use a litter box even at an early age. Allowed outside alone, cats often get lost, hurt, or even killed.
- Make sure your cat always wears identification. Provide her with a comfortable, expandable collar. Attach an id tag with your name, address and phone number on it.
- Have your cat spayed or neutered by a veterinarian as soon as possible. Your cat will enjoy a longer, healthier life, there'll be fewer strays on the streets and you'll be spared the hassles of a cat in heat.
- Give your cat plenty of love and affection. Though cats are more independent than dogs, they thrive on your companionship.

Cats make great companion animals. Follow the above tips, give them lots of love, and you'll have a wonderful, long-term relationship. Come on in to one of MCACC's Animal Care Centers – 2500 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Phoenix or 2630 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Mesa.

For more information, visit [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)