

# Tips and advice for cat owners!

The West Coast Environmental Units welfare veterinarian would like to remind you of which things a cat owner should consider while there are a lot of cats in the neighborhood.

## Health and veterinary care, for out-and indoor cats

- **Castration/spaying**

If you own an outdoor cat you have got to have it castrated/spayed. It reduces the risk for undesired kittens/uncontrolled breeding, fights, diseases and prevents the cat from taking long walkabouts. If you own a lot of indoor cats it is preferable that they also are castrated/spayed if it isn't possible to keep them separated to avoid uncontrolled breeding. You don't have to castrate/spay indoor cats used for controlled breeding.

- **Vaccinations**

Core vaccinations (feline panleukopenia, feline upper respiratory infection) is very important when you own an outdoor cat.

- **Cat deworming & ticks**

An outdoor cat needs to be dewormed regularly. Ticks are common from early spring to autumn – use a medication against ticks suitable for cats.

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## Weather & seasons

- **Winter**

Cold weather, ice, and snow increase the risk of frostbite and traffic accidents. Many people choose to keep their cats indoors during the winter.

- **Shelter & routines.** Make sure that the cat can get shelter or keep it indoors during the night.

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## Nature & environment

- **Hunting small animals**

Cats affect birds and other small animals. As an example can a bell on the neck reduce the cat's hunting luck.

- **Neighbors.** Make sure the cat does not cause problems to your neighbors (sandboxes, garden). A good relationship with neighbors is important. Do not feed other cats, just your own.

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**You must report to the welfare veterinarian if you notice wild cats close to your property.** You can make the report online: <https://en.korsholm.fi/housing-and-environment/west-coast-environmental-unit/veterinary-care/animal-welfare> You find contact details there too.

**Nature and the cats will thank you!**  