



# CAT CARE HANDBOOK

**All Information provided by RESCUE Siamese.  
Should you have any questions or concerns,  
please contact us via phone or e-mail:**

  
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The information provided in this booklet is intended as a guide and for general interest.

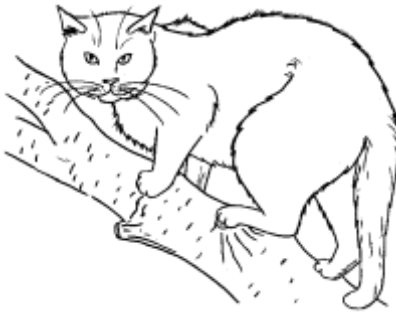
## ABOUT SIAMESE CATS...

Siamese cats are known to be VOCAL, DEMANDING, POSSESSIVE, CLIMBERS, SUSPICIOUS OF STRANGERS, NERVOUS and INTOLERANT OF TEASING. Please consider these aspects before adopting and make sure you are willing to work with undesirable traits as they may appear. At RESCUE Siamese, all our Siamese cats are crossed with other breeds and therefore will not always display all of the above traits. Please discuss your needs and expectations with a RESCUE Adoption Councilor.

**VOCAL:** The voice of the Siamese cat can be harsh and loud. These cats love to talk and complain, they are known for persistently calling their owners. It is for this reason that the breed is not recommended for apartment dwellers.

**DEMANDING and POSSESSIVE:** Siamese are very intelligent and seem to quickly learn how to manipulate their owners. They will usually form a very strong bond with just one or two people in the household.

**CLIMBERS:** The lean and svelte body of the Siamese is perfectly suited to climbing and climb they will! This is a very natural behavior for them so it is important to provide lots of shelving and perches for your Siamese. The Siamese owner's valuable trinkets are best locked in a glass cabinet.



**SUSPICIOUS of STRANGERS:** Siamese are known as the “Dobermans of the Cat World”. They can take their territory very seriously and are not shy about warning off strangers. We suggest if this trait is present in your Siamese that you set up a spare room for the cat if you plan to entertain a lot.

**NERVOUS and INTOLERANT of TEASING:** Some Siamese can be a little nervous and are not suited to busy homes with small children. It is this nature that makes the use of training devices consisting of scare tactics such as “shaker cans”, “shrieking” and sometimes “spray bottles” a problem in some cats.

**REMINDER:** *Your new cat's tattoo and/or microchip identification numbers will register to you at your current address and phone number. If any of this information changes, please remember to contact RESCUE to report your new location and any new phone numbers.*

## HEALTH CONCERNS

**GINGIVITIS:** Siamese cats are often found to have an inappropriate immune response to bacteria and plaque in the mouth. This can cause severe gingivitis, which if left untreated can lead to renal failure, heart disease and even death. We have literally seen cats starve to death because it is too painful to eat. It is speculated that this problem may stem from irresponsible breeding, infection of FIV or FeLV (RESCUE will test all strays prior to adoption) or inappropriate diet. It is imperative that owners check their cat's gums for bleeding or redness on a monthly basis and to carefully monitor the cat's daily food intake and water consumption. Cats in general are also susceptible to tooth caries or lesions (cavities). As in humans, these are painful. Owners should take the cat in for yearly health exams to a licensed veterinarian and address dental issues quickly as they arise.

**HEALTH CHECKS:** Yearly health exams done by your veterinarian are important. These highly skilled professionals know what to look for and are instrumental in pinpointing potential problems. An astute owner is also paramount to a pet's health. Make sure to alert your veterinarian of any peculiar habits or changes occurring in your pet.

**VACCINATION:** Your cat has been immunized against the Panleukopenia Virus and various upper respiratory viruses (Calicivirus, Rhinotracheitis Virus, Panleukopenia Virus, and in some cases Chlamydia Virus), these are known as "core vaccines". Booster of core vaccines should be discussed with your veterinarian. Rescue Siamese does not routinely vaccinate cats against the Rabies Virus; owners are encouraged to discuss future Rabies vaccination with their own vet. Please discuss options such as titer readings with your veterinarian if your cat is sensitive to vaccination. We encourage all owners to research and discuss additional vaccines with your veterinarian based on your present situation and your cat. If your cat will be primarily kept indoors with limited contact with other cats, it may be unnecessary to vaccinate for diseases that your cat will not be at risk for. There are other non-core vaccines available like Feline Leukemia Virus, Feline Infectious Peritonitis Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus to name a few, please discuss the risks and benefits with your veterinarian. *Rescue Siamese does not recommend vaccinating FIV positive cats, therefore if you are adopting a FIV positive cat, it may not have a vaccine history with us.* **According to manufacturer inserts, the animal must be 100% healthy before vaccination and it must be kept in a virus free environment for ten days after the vaccine has been given.**

**FEEDING:** Cats are obligate carnivores! Superior protein sources are a must for your cat. Do not skimp on the quality of their food, this will lead to costly health problems. Generally, cheaper grocery or department store pet foods are loaded with grains and inferior fats and proteins. Many veterinarians are recommending a canned food diet over a dry food diet, to ensure the cat is receiving adequate water intake and fewer grains. Many vets now advocate commercial grain-free diets or a natural, homemade diet, free of preservatives and grains entirely. These diets are now becoming commercially available (RESCUE Raw Food Pet Diets available at RESCUE Siamese). To combat obesity or food issues arising from a multiple cat home, it may be beneficial for your cat to be on a feeding schedule rather than the "free feed". Provide plenty of fresh water daily. Occasional treats and scraps in moderation are OK if you are sensible about it. Scraps should consist of unprocessed, protein foods like meats, and if they are cooked, they should be de-boned before serving. Some cats will have different nutritional requirements; discuss your cat's diet with your veterinarian.

**GROOMING:** A cat's tongue is rough and specially designed for cleaning. It is not necessary to bathe your cat. If you choose to do so, please remember to clip the cat's nails first and don't bathe them more than once or twice in a year. Make sure to use a gentle "pet" shampoo and rinse well (residue can make your cat ill as it licks its fur dry!). We recommend that you clip your cat's nails 1-2 times per month and spend time training your cat to scratch on its designated scratching post. The Rescue Siamese Adoption Contract you have signed forbids declawing procedures on the cat you have adopted. The declawing procedure is a full amputation of the first knuckle in each toe. The cats must learn to walk again on extremely tender amputations. We have also found this procedure to dramatically alter the behavior of many cats, making them aggressive, timid or developing litter box issues. Please respect our contract and contact a RESCUE volunteer if you need help with a scratching problem. If the cat does not take to a conventional scratching post, try leaving a cut log (with lots of bark on it) on the porch or basement floor, as this is a most natural scratching surface for a cat.

**EXCERSISE and PLAY:** Obesity can dramatically reduce the lifespan of our pets. Siamese cats are known to be the longest living breed, easily reaching ages of 18-25 years! Exercise is important to keep the body and mind healthy. Try to spend at least 15 minutes per day, playing with your cat. Create a play area for the indoor cat or provide an outdoor enclosed run for fresh air and environmental stimulation. Siamese cats are easily trained to walk on a harness or ride in a wagon (honest, we have pictures!). **CAUTION: *Do not leave your cat tied up outdoors unattended!* They can easily hurt themselves or fall victim to an unfriendly visitor such as a dog or another cat. (They are literally "sitting ducks", unable to get out of harm's way.)**

**TOILETTING:** It is important to keep your cat's litter box clean. We recommend scooping the litter box daily and to completely empty and wash the box every week or two depending on the type of litter you choose to use. Clumping litter controls odor a little better and is easier to scoop. After disinfecting the box, make sure to rinse the cleaning residue from the box, avoid strong cleaning products as they are often toxic to cats. Make sure the litter box is put in a quiet and private location, well away from other animals and people. Refrain from frequently changing the location of the box. If you need to move the box, remember to show kitty where you have moved it to. If kitty objects, put it back to its original location and move it very slowly, over a period of time, to the desired location. If your cat is not using the box, a urinalysis should be done. Bladder and urinary tract infections can be very painful and may cause the cat to urinate elsewhere if he associates the pain of urination with the litter box. If your cat is not urinating at all, take it to a vet IMMEDIATELY; this is life threatening!



***Remember that the ownership of a cat is not to be taken lightly. There is considerable expense, time, devotion and responsibility required in owning a pet. All of these issues should be considered carefully before acquiring a new family member. Please feel free to contact one of our RESCUE volunteers to discuss any questions or concerns. We have successfully found homes for many cats. We know you will cherish your newly adopted friend for years to come! THANK-YOU FROM RESCUE Siamese!***