



Dear Children,

We are delighted that you would like to take part in the „Kids read to cats“ project and improve your reading skills. Before you can join us, we need to talk to you about our cat rules.

As there are many animals living in the shelter, it is important that you wash your hands with soap and water every time before you go into a cat's room. This will prevent cats from becoming ill. One of the mentors will show you where you can wash your hands.

If your shoes are dirty, please take them off before entering the cat room. You are welcome to bring slippers and wear them in the cat room. This keeps the cats' room nice and clean.

Every cat has a different personality and our shelter cats have also had different experiences with people and children. Some are shy, while others are very trusting.








The cat rooms are our cats' home. We are just visiting them as guests. That's why it's important we behave accordingly and follow the cats' house rules:

No matter how trusting the cats are, it is always important that you keep quiet, don't run around and don't talk too loudly. Normal talking volume is absolutely fine, you don't have to whisper. It's best to take a quick look around when you enter the room and find a place to sit from where you can read to the cats, and if a cat wants to be stroked, it will come to you.

Let them sniff your hand first before you touch them. It's best to only stroke them on the back and behind the ears. Keep taking breaks so that the cat can decide whether it still wants to be

petted or would rather walk away.

Under no circumstances should you:

-  Pick up or hold the cats.
Many cats do not like this and can scratch or bite.
-  Reach into the cats' hiding places.
This is their place of retreat. If you disturb them there, you risk scratches and bites.
-  Follow the cats if they walk away
If a cat doesn't feel like being pet, it will leave. If you stop them, they can get grumpy and scratch.
-  Feed the cats.
Some cats need special food. The wrong snacks can lead to stomach aches and other health problems.
-  Climb on the structures in the cat room.
You are not a cat and are far too big and heavy for the climbing frames.
They could break and you could injure yourself. The ladders are also not for you to climb.
-  Keep the door open for a long time.
Some cats are very curious and want to run around in the corridor so our animal carers have to catch them again.
-  Rearrange things in the cat room.
When setting up the cat rooms, our animal carers have made sure that everything is the way the cats like it and that nobody can get hurt. The cats also don't like it if they suddenly can't find things in their usual place.



Please also leave bags, jackets, food and drink and smartphones in the lounge. You can of course take a cushion and a book with you. That way you can fully concentrate on reading aloud.

Please let a supervisor know if you have noticed anything unusual (for example if a cat has been behaving strangely or has vomited). You should also let us know if a cat has scratched you. That way we can clean the wound and put a plaster on it.

The cats you will be reading to are looking for a new home. We can't say how long it will take to find a new family. It may happen that your favourite cat moves to a new home between your reading appointments. Even if you miss her, you shouldn't be sad. After all, it has now found a nice new home – and that's a reason to be happy.

We also can't guarantee that you'll always be able to read aloud in the same room. So don't be disappointed if you can't visit your favourite cat, even if they're still at the shelter.

Thank you!

