

Review: Caring for a Blind Cat

Fiona Marsden RVN

This book is one of a series aimed at clients who are coping with chronic illness or disability in their pets. As such they provide an invaluable aid for veterinary staff when advising on the care of these patients.

Caring for a Blind Cat was a pleasure to read; I found the positive reassurance that this book can give to owners of blind or partially sighted cats quite uplifting.

From the outset and throughout the text, there is emotional support for those involved in caring for a blind cat; the author is clearly aware of the concerns and indecision some owners may face when coming to terms with their cat losing its sight, or indeed adopting an already blind cat.

There are clear descriptions and explanations of anatomy, medical conditions and veterinary terminology together with an overview of treatment options and medications, which may help some cats. The colour photographs are excellent, some showing diseases and injuries of the eye and others of cats in their home environment enjoying life despite their lack of sight.

The book offers practical advice on how small adaptations to the cat's environment can keep it safe yet help it lead an active life, and I found the question and answer section especially useful. Here a number of questions ranging from 'Is it possible for my blind cat to spend time outdoors?' to 'Should I get another cat to keep my blind cat company?' are answered in a supportive and concise manner.

This book is essential reading for practice staff who have to advise and support owners, due in part to its capacity to deal with a difficult issue in a compassionate but not overly emotional way. This is highlighted by the inclusion at the end of the book of a number of stories from owners of blind cats describing how they have come to terms with their cats losing their sight, or in two cases, have adopted a blind cat. These accounts give a slightly different perspective, but serve to



Caring for a blind cat

by Natasha Mitchell

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demonstrate just how much a cat can adapt and enjoy life despite not being able to see.

I would be happy to recommend this book to anyone in the pet support industry; vets, nurses and other practice staff, animal care staff or pet store personnel, who may be involved in caring for a partially sighted feline, or discussing the issues surrounding blindness or impaired vision with cat owners. Without doubt, I would recommend the book to the owners of cats affected; I believe it could save the unnecessary euthanasia of some cats who still have the potential for a full and rewarding life and it will reassure owners that this is not the only or indeed the best option for their pet.

Caring for a Blind Cat is available from Cat Professional Ltd (www.catprofessional.com) and Lifelearn Limited (www.lifelearn.co.uk) priced £9.99 (softback) and £7.00 (electronic book).

Cat Professional Ltd currently have this book and Caring for a Cat with Kidney Failure by Dr Sarah Caney available to order from its website. A third book, Caring for a Cat with Lower Urinary Tract Disease by Professor Danielle Gunn-Moore will be available shortly.

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