

# PETTING YOUR CAT



Petting your cat can have beneficial impacts for you and your cat. Follow this information to get the most out of petting sessions with your cat.

Remember, all cats are different and these are basic guidelines!

## PREFERRED PETTING LOCATIONS

- Top of the head
- Area between the eyes and ears
- Cheeks
- Back of the neck
- Not all cats enjoy these areas!



## PETTING TIPS

- Always offer your hand out for them to sniff before petting
- Pet your cat with short, small strokes
- Pet your cat moving from front to back
- Pick appropriate times and places to pet your cat

## EARLY WARNING SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

- Avoidance, may be subtle
- Rapid tail movements
- Skin twitching
- Growling or hissing
- Staring



## POTENTIAL CAUSES OF PETTING-INDUCED AGGRESSION

- Medical conditions
- Overstimulation
- Stress
- Inadequate socialization

## HOW TO IMPROVE PETTING SESSIONS

- Pet in preferred areas
- Set a time limit based on your cat's threshold
- Make it a positive experience by pairing with rewards
- Watch their responses and behaviours
- Never punish your cat for their responses

