



Guidance: Medical summary for Homing form

This guidance refers to the Cats Protection (CP) Medical Summary for Homing form; a blank version can be found in the 'for vets and nurses' section of the main CP website and is also available on CatNav [here](#). Branches and centres can obtain a form pre-filled with the cat's details by logging on to Cat-a-Log, going in to the cat's record and selecting 'print form'.

What is the Medical Summary for Homing form used for?

The Medical Summary for Homing form is designed to ensure that all potential adopters are fully informed of any treatment that has been given to the cat while the cat has been in CP's care. It also provides a summary of information on any pre-existing health conditions, including any known sign of illness or injury the cat has shown before or during their time in CP care.

CP volunteers and employees will use the Medical Summary for Homing form to communicate the cat's medical history to potential adopters. The form will also be given to adopters for their information at the time of adoption. It is therefore important that the Medical Summary for Homing form is completed using wording that a variety of people will understand.

Any previous conditions noted in either the Medical Summary for Homing form or the vet's clinical notes will be excluded from a future insurance policy. Adopters must understand this so their decision to adopt is as informed as possible. Although the vet's clinical notes will be provided for any cats with non-routine medical history, the content of these may not be clear for an adopter, so a medical summary that is easy to understand along with clear verbal communication will help prevent misunderstandings.

Who should complete the Medical Summary for Homing form?

A veterinary surgeon should complete the Medical Summary for Homing form. It must not be completed by CP volunteers or employees, with the exception of the section marked 'To be completed by CP rep.' The form should take around five minutes to complete.

If the Medical Summary for Homing form is completed by a CP representative rather than by a vet, this can make it much more difficult to defend any potential post-adoption disputes about the health status of the cat, should this circumstance arise.

When should the Medical Summary for Homing form be completed?

The Medical Summary for Homing form is issued the first time a cat is deemed 'fit to home' by the attending vet. Branch fosterers and centres may wish to take a Medical Summary for Homing form to each consultation with the vet, so that the form is ready and available to be completed should the vet deem the cat 'fit to home' at that consultation.

Vets are asked to note in their clinical records that the cat has been deemed 'fit to home' and that a Medical Summary for Homing form has been completed.

What about if the cat was 'fit to home' but then becomes no longer 'fit to home'?

The form should be reviewed by the attending vet at any subsequent check-ups to ensure it is still valid, and amended/reissued accordingly.

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Completing the section 'To be completed by the vet'

The section titled 'To be completed by the vet' must be filled out by the vet that deems the cat 'fit to home'. Vets are asked to ensure all sections numbered 1-6 are completed.

In section 6, the summary table of known medical history should be completed.

6. Summary of known medical history before and whilst with CP:						
Excluding dental status below, nothing abnormal has been detected <input type="checkbox"/> Or condition Please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any previous or current condition especially those that could recur • Recommended recheck frequency if relevant • Current medication if ongoing condition • Any dental work performed 	Currently		Recurrence/ Connected problems			See attached info
	Ongoing	Resolved	Likely	Possible	Unlikely	
Current dental status:						

For those cats that have not had any known medical issues, either while in CP care or prior to coming into CP care, please tick the box marked 'Excluding dental status, nothing abnormal has been detected'.

If clinical conditions have been noted in the cat's current or previous medical history, vets should use the space provided in the table to briefly record these and place ticks in appropriate boxes as to the current situation and possible future outcomes. This summary should be written in layman's terms to ensure the wording is clear for the CP representative and adopter to interpret.

If there has been medical treatment beyond vaccinations and neutering a copy of the clinical records should accompany the cat upon homing.

If further information is required on a condition, vets may tick the 'see attached info' box and provide this information in the form of an appropriate handout or leaflet, a letter explaining the condition, or if preferred, the contact details of the vet involved may be provided to allow direct discussion of the cat's medical status with the prospective owner. Information for adopters is available from CP in the form of handouts, leaflets and booklets covering conditions such as dental disease, heart murmurs and neutering. See the CP website's 'Help and advice' area for downloadable leaflets or the 'advice for adopters' section [here](#).

The final part of section 6 asks the attending vet to state the cat's current dental status. CP asks that vets state a dental grade based on the Bristol Dental Chart. Branches and centres are asked to provide a copy of the chart to potential adopters to provide further information on the cat's dental assessment. Cats should not be made 'fit to home' if they have dental disease at grade 3 or above or if they have any evidence of fractured teeth, resorptive lesions, retained deciduous teeth or stomatitis that has not resolved. We recommend suggesting a dental reassessment date here (for example, 'a recheck is recommended every six months').

Guidance on using the Bristol Dental Chart can be found [here](#).

Below the table, there is a space for the veterinary practice contact details to be added:

Full clinical notes/laboratory work can be obtained by your vet from the CP vet on:



Completing the section 'To be completed by CP rep'

Branch and centre representatives may fill out the section at the bottom of the Medical Summary for Homing form labelled 'To be completed by CP rep.'

The CP branch or centre representative should complete the fields for microchip number, flea treatment, worming treatment, current diet, and last recorded weight. The weight recorded should be from within the last month, otherwise the cat should be re-weighed prior to completion of the form. The 'Next vaccination due' section may be completed using information recorded in the cat's vaccination card.

The form should be signed by the owner and the CP representative, and dated.

Supplying medical records along with the Medical Summary for Homing form

Every cat, whether in branch or centre care, should be issued with a Medical Summary for Homing form. If there has been any veterinary care given over and above neutering, vaccination, flea and worm treatment, the potential adopter should also be given a copy of the cat's medical records from the vet.

Before supplying medical records to the adopter, please ensure that all personal information including any names and addresses of fosterers and previous owners have been removed for data protection purposes.

How to discuss the Medical Summary for Homing form with the adopter

The CP branch or centre representative should read out each section of the Medical Summary for Homing form to the potential adopter, including any small print. Please ensure that the adopter has read and understood the form before they sign.

Please give the adopter a copy of the completed Medical Summary for Homing form. The branch or centre should keep the original.

If you require further guidance please contact the Cats Protection Veterinary department on veterinary@cats.org.uk



Example 1

Form 13A - Medical Summary for Homing



Cat Name: Harry

Cat ID: 537000

To be completed by the vet

1. Colour: Tabby and White

2. Sex: Male

3. Estimated DoB: 21/05/2018

4. Neuter Status:

Informed neutered by previous owner Neutered by CP

No testicles present, assumed neutered Scar; suggests neutered LH positive, assumed neutered

Exploratory surgery confirmed neutered Not yet neutered

5. FIV/FelV tested Yes: If yes: FIV Result Positive Negative
 No: If yes: FeLV Result Positive Negative

6. Summary of known medical history before and whilst with CP:

Excluding dental status below, nothing abnormal has been detected <input type="checkbox"/>	Currently		Recurrence/ Connected problems			See attached info
	Ongoing	Resolved	Likely	Possible	Unlikely	
Or condition Please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any previous or current condition especially those that could recur Recommended recheck frequency if relevant Current medication if ongoing condition Any dental work performed 						
Cat flu on arrival, sneezing and watery eyes. Treated with antibiotics.		X		X		
Current dental status: Grade 1 dental disease. Recheck every 6 months.				X		

Full clinical notes/laboratory work can be obtained by your vet from the CP vet on: 01825 741330

You should be issued with a Petplan insurance cover note. This will provide vet fees cover for your cat for the first 4 weeks. However, please note Petplan will not cover any pre-existing condition(s). If the cat was ill or injured at any time before the insurance policy started, Petplan will not cover the costs relating to that illness or injury. Cats Protection does not pay the vet bills of homed cats unless arranged prior to homing. Please note, we do what we can, but it is impossible to give a guarantee of good health. Some pre-existing conditions can manifest at a later date, or new conditions can develop. We recommend that you register your cat with a vet as soon as possible. If your cat has an on-going condition, we recommend that (s)he sees your vet within at least two weeks of homing if not otherwise specified.



Examples Section 6

6. Summary of known medical history before and whilst with CP:

Excluding dental status below, nothing abnormal has been detected	Currently		Recurrence/ Connected problems		
	Ongoing	Resolved	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
Or condition Please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any previous or current condition especially those that could recur Recommended recheck frequency if relevant Current medication if ongoing condition Any dental work performed 					
Had dental whilst in CP care to remove diseased teeth. Remaining teeth scaled.		X		X	
Current dental status: 0 – no/minimal gingivitis +/- tartar Advise annual dental checks with vet.					

Full clinical notes/laboratory work can be obtained by your vet from the CP vet on:

6. Summary of known medical history before and whilst with CP:

Excluding dental status below, nothing abnormal has been detected	Currently		Recurrence/ Connected problems		
	Ongoing	Resolved	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
Or condition Please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any previous or current condition especially those that could recur Recommended recheck frequency if relevant Current medication if ongoing condition Any dental work performed 					
June 2021- Dermatitis (suspected flea allergy) and ear infection, treated with steroids and topical ear medication.		X		X	
Treated for cystitis		X		X	
Lump removed from mouth, found to be benign inflammatory tissue		X		X	
Current dental status: 0 – no/minimal gingivitis +/- tartar					

Full clinical notes/laboratory work can be obtained by your vet from the CP vet on:

6. Summary of known medical history before and whilst with CP:

Excluding dental status below, nothing abnormal has been detected	Currently		Recurrence/ Connected problems		
	Ongoing	Resolved	Likely	Possible	Unlikely
Or condition Please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any previous or current condition especially those that could recur Recommended recheck frequency if relevant Current medication if ongoing condition Any dental work performed 					
Previous vet history show treatment for dental disease, skin lesion, cystitis, flu and a grade 2 heart murmur		X		X	
Treated for flu symptoms in CP care		X		X	
Intermittent vomiting, may have been related to thyroid disease		X		X	
Treated for an overactive thyroid by removing both thyroid glands		X		X	
Stage 2 chronic kidney disease. Advise prescription renal diet, and may need ongoing blood and urine tests according to progress	X			X	
Dental treatment, teeth scaled and diseased teeth extracted		X		X	
Current dental status: 0 – no/minimal gingivitis +/- tartar Advise annual dental checks with vet.					

Full clinical notes/laboratory work can be obtained by your vet from the CP vet on: