

## CASE STUDY: A BIG PROJECT!



Organisation: Cats Protection National Cat Centre  
 Location: UK, West Sussex  
 Cattery Type: Indoor  
 Cattery Function: Rescue etc  
 Number of Units: 202  
 Unit Size Sleep: 0.7m<sup>2</sup>/7.5ft<sup>2</sup>  
 Unit Size Exercise: 2.94m<sup>2</sup>/31.5ft<sup>2</sup>  
 Date Built: 2004

[www.cats.org.uk](http://www.cats.org.uk)

THIS CATTERY IS CAPABLE OF HOUSING  
 UP TO 350 CATS AND KITTENS, BUILT BY  
 CATS PROTECTION TO ADDRESS THE NEED  
 TO COPE WITH THE BURGEONING CAT  
 POPULATION, AND SUBSEQUENT NEED TO  
 CARE AND REHOME MORE CATS

## CATS PROTECTION, NATIONAL CAT CENTRE

### UK'S LARGEST CAT WELFARE CHARITY

**C**ats Protection is the UK's largest and oldest feline welfare charity, dedicated to rehoming 60,000 cats a year through its nationwide network of 29 Adoption Centres and 260 voluntary run Branches, as well as promoting responsible ownership. As a charity, they rely solely on the generosity and kindness of the public to enable them to continue caring for cats and kittens, of which there are a 7,000 in their care at any one time. Cats Protection built their National Cat Centre in 2004 for the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of cats from all over the country. With the capability of housing up to 350 cats and kittens within 202 pens, this was a BIG project!

The centre has state of the art veterinary facilities on site, with fully employed veterinary support team. The self-contained cabin units have underfloor heating and individual air ventilation. The total of 202 pens is broken down as follows: 52 rehoming, 30 pre homing, 32 family/multi-cat, 32 maternity, 30 admissions, and 26 for isolation. Each exercise run includes a ladder and shelving, and opaque glass screens with viewing areas into adjacent cabins. Since opening, there has been a steady increase in homing figures. Open days and other events have raised the profile of the cattery, coupled with a carefully phased advertising programme, they are gaining more visitors.

There is still some work to do to raise public awareness of the site, and future development will include an Education and Training Centre.

No one likes to see cats penned for any length of time, and whilst it is recognised that some cats are harder to home than others, there are a number of different methods used by our centres and branches to improve rehoming opportunities, such as moving cats to different sites, publicity, advertising and providing photographs and detailed background information on the cats. No healthy cat is euthanised and we just have to work that bit harder to home some of our longer-stay cats.

### THE CHANGING WORLD OF CATS

There are six million cat owning households in the UK that provide homes for 9.2 million felines. Cats are the UK's favourite pet – they fit in well with our busy lifestyles and their winning blend of independence and affection also makes them the ideal choice of pet for many older people.

The UK cat population has steadily risen – there were 4.5 million cats in the UK in 1975, rising to 9.2 million in 2004.

The existence of greater number of cats equals greater demand for feline rescue and rehoming services – and the Cats Protection National Cat Centre is a huge step forward in addressing the need to help more cats.



### What are you most pleased with?

We are very happy with the design – particularly the negative air pressure system which is very effective in preventing the spread of disease. On-site veterinary facilities provide immediate treatment and care, and it also saves our cats the additional stress of transportation.

### What would you do differently?

If we looked at a similar design in the future we would include more storage space, more socialisation rooms, and increase the corridor width to make it easier to move trolleys through the self-closing doors.



CATS PROTECTION:  
NATIONAL CAT CENTRE





## CATS PROTECTION: NATIONAL CAT CENTRE

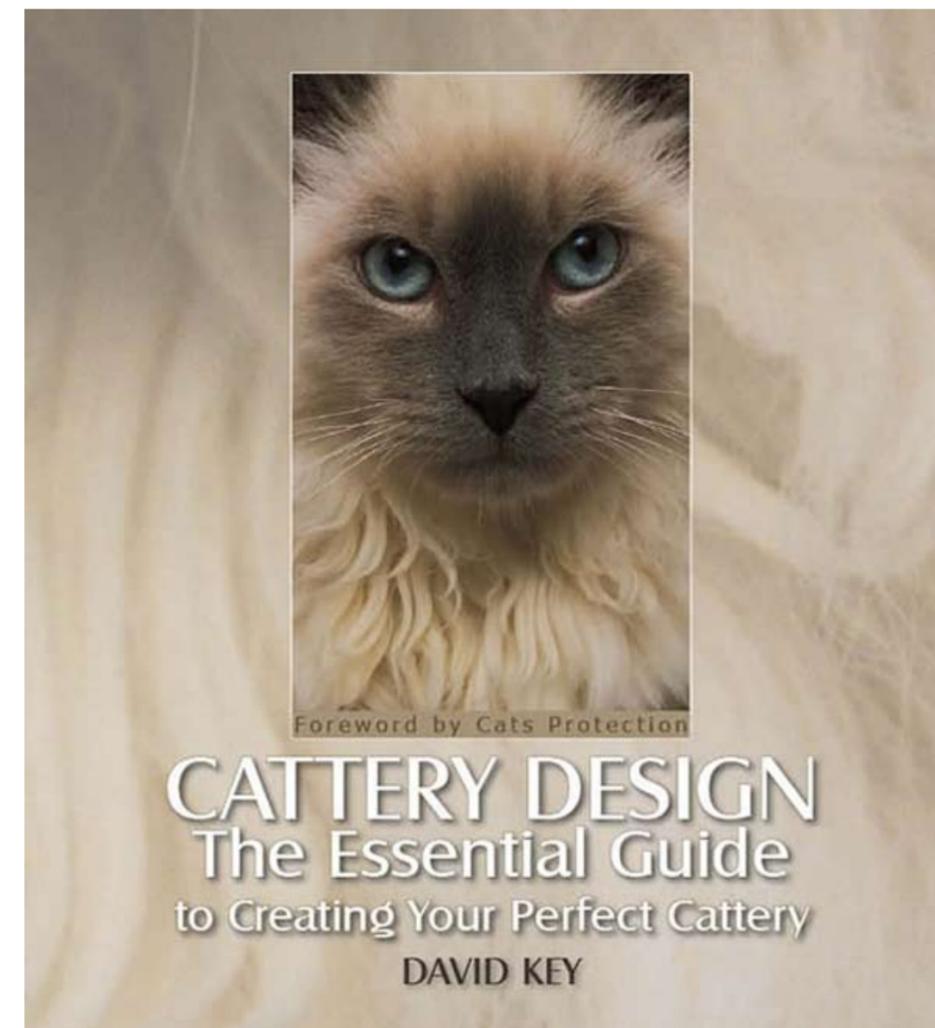
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THIS IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE CATTERY DESIGN BOOK.



## EXPERT CATTERY-BUILDING ADVICE

### The essential guide

This essential guide will provide you with an easy to read, encouraging and inspirational overview of cattery systems, equipment and materials. With step-by-step guidance for creating your perfect cattery design at your fingertips, and real life case studies, this book will help you understand how catteries can be improved with cat welfare knowledge.

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### 400+ colour photos Inspiration and ideas

Lavishly packed with over 400 large colour photographs, many of which are full or double-page spreads showing lots of detail – just like looking through a window!

[www.catterydesign.com](http://www.catterydesign.com)