Edu.Cat

Program Introductory Overview



Inspiring students with Australian Curriculum V9.0 based activities.

TenLives

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Kinder to Year 6

Why are they aligned to STEM?

Background Information: Foundations of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)

STEM education is a term used to refer collectively to the teaching of the disciplines within its umbrella – Science, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics.

Todays' students need to acquire core curriculum knowledge as well as the skills of collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and problem solving – and STEM education has a crucial role in achieving this.

International research shows that building STEM capacity across the population is critical in helping to support innovation and productivity regardless of occupation or industry. Consistent with this research, industry surveys show that STEM literacy is increasingly becoming part of the core capabilities that Australian employers need. (National STEM School Education Strategy 2016 - 2026)

STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply Science, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community and work. (Tsupros, N., R. Kohler, and J. Hallinen, 2009)

A quote from the new Australian Curriculum, Technologies, Version 9.0 says:

Australia needs enterprising individuals who can make discerning decisions about the development and use of technologies, develop solutions to complex challenges and contribute to sustainable patterns of living. Therefore, all young Australians should develop capacity for action and a critical appreciation of how technologies are developed and can contribute to societies. (ACARA, v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/teacher-resources/understand-this-learning-area/technologies)

Edu.Cat is committed to contributing to the way in which Tasmanian students experience STEM. The Edu.Cat program paves the way for students to collaborate, inquire and problem solve.

About Ten Lives

The Big Question: What is responsible cat ownership? (Welfare, Environment and Community)

Ten Lives is a leader in cat management and operates Tasmania's largest cat shelter taking into our care lost, stray, unwanted, wild and feral cats. Ten Lives receives no government funding and relies on funds generated from our own operations and the support of the general community through donations and bequests.

Operating for over seventy years, Ten Lives has cared for tens of thousands of cats and kittens.

By changing the way we collectively care for cats, we are benefiting not only cats but also our environment.

Ten Lives has an independent board and has a professional and dedicated team that ensure Ten Lives is a sustainable organisation for the long term.

Ten Lives objectives are:

- To promote and improve the welfare of cats and kittens.
- To promote responsible cat ownership and humane animal welfare principles.
- To shift public attitude towards the welfare of their cats in order to reduce the number of stray, abandoned, lost, unwanted or feral cats.
- To provide education throughout the community, including schools and the general public to create positive outcomes for cats, the environment and communities.
- To reduce unnecessary euthanasia of cats and kittens.

Ten Lives promotes responsible cat ownership and all cats adopted are microchipped, de-sexed, vaccinated and have received all necessary veterinary care.

Ten Lives plays a leading role in cat management and works with all levels of government, community groups, education and research institutions, conservation groups and business.

Ten Lives believes that education is key to creating long term social change in the way we care for our cats, the community and our environment.

Ten Lives

About Edu.Cat

Edu.Cat is an Australian-first education program, focusing on issues of caring for cats, such as needs and wants of cats, vaccination, microchipping and desexing (Level 1). In Level 2, the issues involve cat welfare, cat management and the positive and negative impact cats have on individuals, communities and wildlife. The subject matter of the program (cats) is tangible and appealing to students whilst the presentations, STEM challenges and additional workbook activities engage students in areas of Science, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics, inspiring students in these professional fields and empowering them to make positive choices in cat ownership.

Edu.Cat has been developed in Tasmania by Ten Lives and trained teachers and is available to all schools. The program includes suggested Australian Version 9.0 Curriculum links and STEM challenges for Kinder to Year 6. As students' progress through the program, they engage in new and exciting inquiry-based learning to build on information they have learnt in previous years.

Ten Lives can provide teachers with supporting resources: Teacher Guides, Students Books and STEM Challenges linked to the Australian Curriculum and the Early Years Learning Framework.

All Edu.Cat curriculum-linked presentations come in two levels: Level 1A and 1B are for classes from Kindergarten to Years 2/3. Level 2 caters for Years 3-6.

Enquiries can be made for kittens to attend Edu.Cat sessions as an additional component to the program, subject to availability and suitable conditions for the kittens.

Ten Lives has a diverse range of educational experiences on offer. These offerings include in school presentations, in house presentations and behind the scenes tours of Ten Lives. (Please note: our in house presentations will be available from 2025. Please enquire with our office staff).

Edu.Cat paves the way for students to:

inquire
problem solve
design
create
evaluate
work as a team
innovate
be inspired
participate in interactive learning
engage in STEM

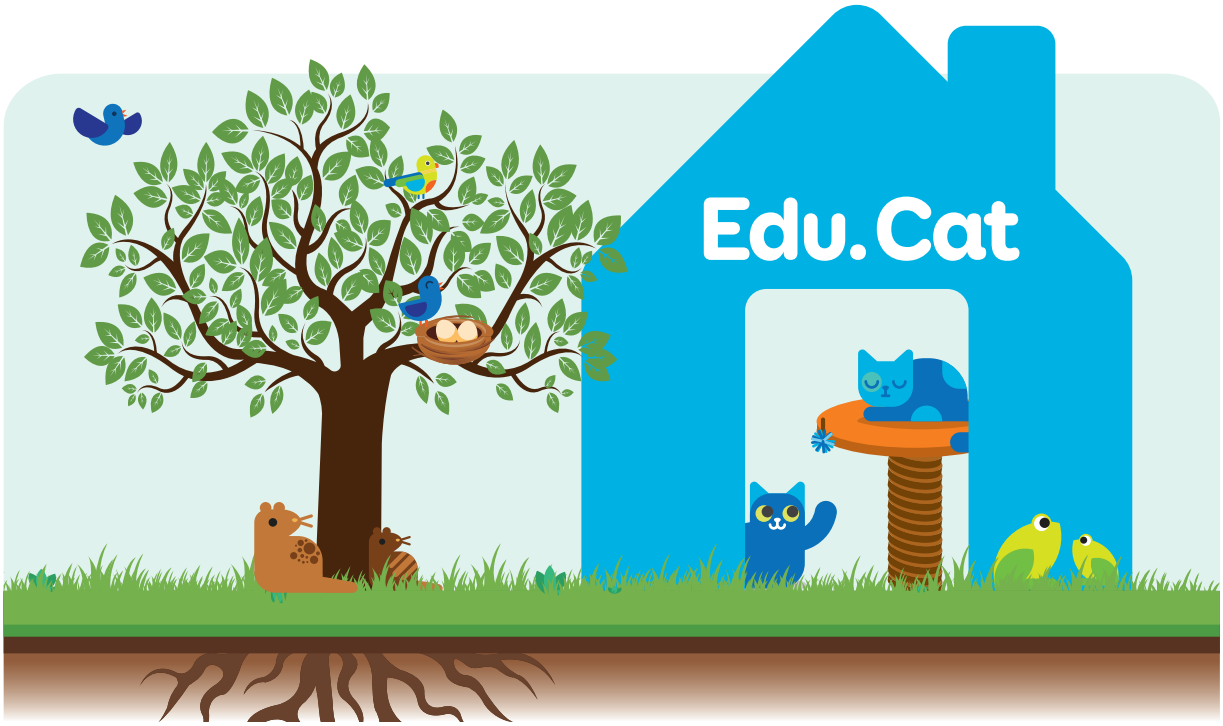


The Edu.Cat Team

The Edu.Cat Team is made of dedicated volunteers in their role as community educators delivering the mission of Ten Lives. They are trained by professional teachers in delivering meaningful learning experiences through interactive presentations for schools .

You may book a presentation at your school and/or in combination with a tour of our centre (this includes looking at our adoption facility, veterinary and nursing areas). Your program may start and finish at Ten Lives as we refine our inhouse educational centre towards the end of 2024/2025. However, your program can start with a school based presentation booked through our Ten Lives staff.

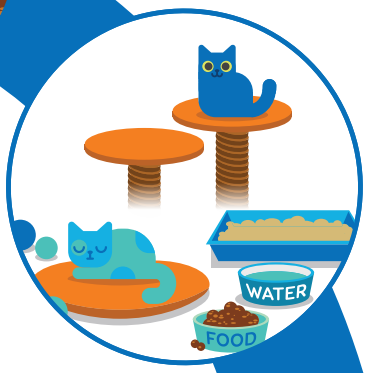
Our community educators work throughout Tasmania. This strives for positive outcomes in creating long-term social change in how people care for cats and enhances the bond between children, animals, the environment and members of our community.



The 1, 2, 3... of Edu.Cat



1. Engaging and interactive curriculum linked presentations run by Edu.Cat presenters in school or at the Ten Lives Cat Centre.



2. Edu.Cat Teacher Guides, Student Workbooks and certificates provided to classroom teachers.

An Edu.Cat Experience

edu.cat@tenlives.com.au
Ph: 6278 2111



3. STEM Challenges - Post presentation, students can complete the workbook activities and challenges with their classroom teacher.



4. Optional - Book a behind the scenes tour of Ten Lives



5. Rebook Edu.Cat for the following year

What Edu.Cat provides to teachers and students

The Edu.Cat presentation is a core element of this program, allowing the flow on of STEM activities and further inquiry expanded from the information gained. The presentations include engaging and meaningful activities. They incorporate information delivered in a variety of ways to allow for differentiation. Presentations differ between year levels, allowing knowledge to be built on as students' progress through school.

Kinder: 30 minutes per class

Prep - Year 2/3: 45 minutes per class

Years 3-6: 60 minutes per class

Teacher Guides

These guidebooks include activity planning; suggested Curriculum Links; Learning Intentions; Success Criteria suggestions and 'Key Inquiry' questions.

Level 1A (Kinder/Prep) Program Overview

Presentation Overview:

Learning Intentions: Students will learn what things are safe and unsafe for cats, what the needs and wants of a cat are and how to tell if a cat is unwell.

Success Criteria: Students will have developed an understanding that not all things are safe for cats and that cats have specific needs to keep them healthy and happy.

Time: 30 minutes



Introduction about Ten Lives and what we do.

Activities:

- Sensory bag - Students use their senses to describe and identify objects hidden in a sack.
- Students play Pet Detective: a game which helps students identify safe and unsafe things for a cat.
- Students learn how to tell if their cat is unwell.
- Student have a story read to them that links the concepts of safety and care.

Resources provided - Teacher Guide linked to the EYLF and the ACF

Post Presentation Activity: Students can create a sock puppet individually or with the class.

Students can create a diorama around the needs, wants and safety of a cat. This will involve several design steps.

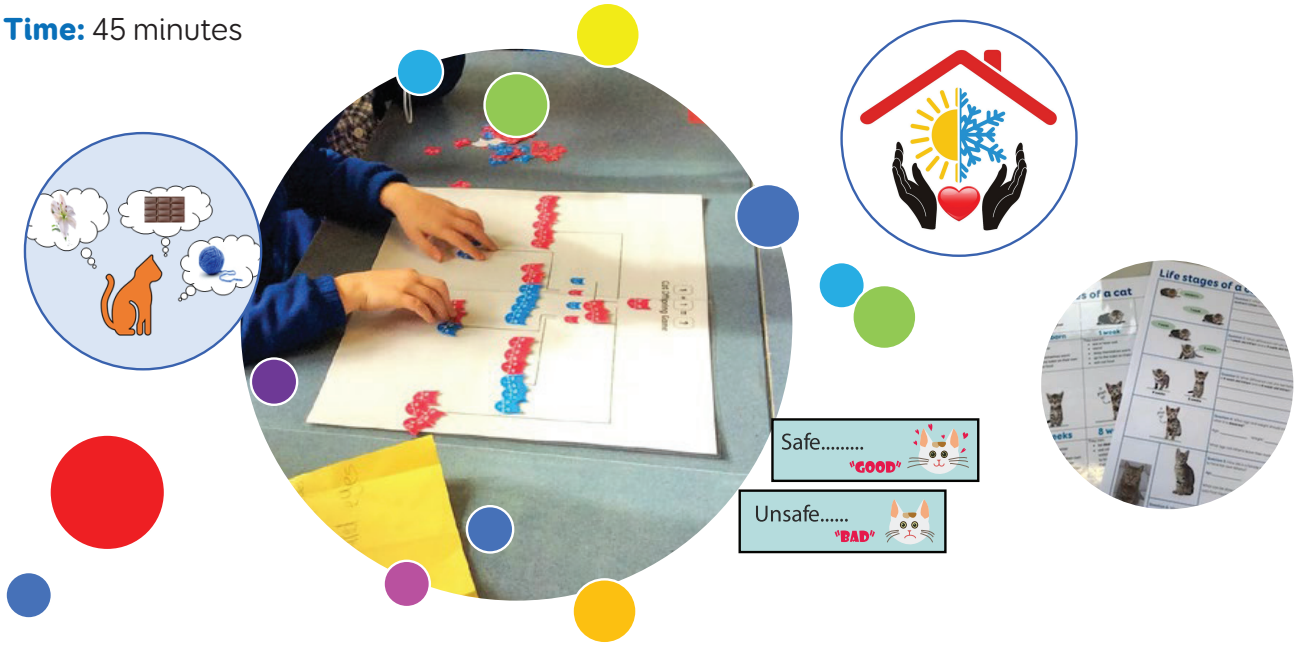
Level 1B (Years 1/2) Program Overview

Presentation Overview:

Learning Intentions: Students will learn what the basic elements are to keep a cat safe and happy. Vaccination, desexing and microchipping.

Success Criteria: Students will have developed an understanding of what a growing cat needs to keep it safe at home, not have kittens and how to keep it healthy.

Time: 45 minutes



Introduction about Ten Lives and what we do. How many cats and kittens are surrendered to Ten Lives and why. The importance of desexing, microchipping and vaccinations are discussed at age appropriate level for students.

Activities:

- Show calendar of cat surrenders per week and discuss
- Kitten Madness activity
- Discuss desexing information
- Discuss vaccination information
- Discuss and show microchip information
- Read: Its Raining Cats & Dogs

Resources provided - Teacher Guide and student workbooks linked to Australian Curriculum, certificates of achievements and bookmarks.

Post Challenge: Post presentation Challenge with classroom teacher: Students produce a scientific diagram of a cat, in 3 stages in order to develop a scientific drawing.

Level 2A
Program Overview

Presentation Overview: Cats need to be at home

This Level is suitable for Years 3 /4 students or those who have had previous presentations with Levels 1A and 1B. The presentation consists of the following:

Learning Intentions: What is Ten Lives, its' function and where it is. A summary of what Ten Lives does: vaccinations, desexing, adopting, boarding and microchipping. Why do we need a Cat Shelter? The reasons cats need to be at home. *10 minutes approximately.*

Success Criteria: Students will have an understanding of the functions of Ten Lives, of the food chain and the dangers of cats roaming.

Time: 1 hour



Activity One: Life Stages Bingo: Students learn about the life cycle of cats.

Activity Two: Purrmaster Quiz game: Students learn about what happens to cats when they are allowed to roam.

Second activity: To replace the Game: A Day in the **Life of a Cat - Purr master Quiz OR BINGO** (depending on the needs of students after discussion with the class teacher).

Purr Master Quiz focuses on questions for teams learning about what can happen when cats roam and what can happen in a food chain with feral cats. Students work in two teams.

Bingo focuses on students working together in pairs or threes to find pictures that match questions around cats, the food chain and what happens when they're allowed to roam. *30 minutes approx.*

Short summary: *5 minutes approx.*

Resources provided: Teacher Guide and Student Workbook

Post Challenge: Design a cat playground to scale and construct it.

Level 2B
Program Overview

How have cats adapted to live either in domestic homes or in the bush?

This Level is suitable for Years 5/6 student who have previously had the Levels 1A, 1B and 2A presentations. It consists of the following activities:

Time: 1 hour

Learning Intentions: What is Ten Lives, its' function and where it is. A summary of what Ten Lives does: vaccinations, desexing, adopting, boarding and microchipping. Why do we need a Cat Shelter? How have cats adapted to live either in domestic homes or in the bush. *10 minutes approximately.*

Success Criteria: Students will have developed an understanding of the adaptions that cats have made over the years to survive.



Activity One: Oxford Debate: Students will be asked to go into the middle of the room. Statements will be read out one at a time. They will have to go to either side of the room to agree or disagree (point out direction, e.g. move to the windows if you agree, the opposite way if you disagree). The statements will be around the adaptations that cats have made to survive in all areas. *15 minutes approx.*

Activity Two: Purr Master Quiz: The students will be divided into teams, starting with two teams and each having a button. Other students are in the audience and will take over halfway through. Presenter asks a series of questions around cat adaptations. As students answer, presenter will describe why the answer is what it is. *This should take about 20-25 minutes approx.*

Summary: The presenter will summarise with students the main functions of Ten Lives shelter. The 4 main things that they need to do to keep a pet cat healthy, safe and the environment safe (desexing, microchipping, vaccination and containment). Also briefly summarise some of the adaptations that cats have made to survive in various places. *5-10 minutes approx.*

Resources provided: Teacher Guide and Student Workbook

Post Challenge: List features of a cat toy, design and construct.

Ten Lives Tours

Tour Overview: (this can also incorporate a Ten Lives inhouse presentation)
Tours for school groups are free from charge.
Bookings by appointment only edu.cat@tenlives.com.au

Learning Intentions: Students and teachers learn what goes on behind the scenes in a shelter for the cats, staff and volunteers. Some of these elements will be how and where to surrender a cat at Ten Lives, looking at the hospital and vet clinic. Students will also come to understand some basic elements of the Ten Lives Foster Care program, the need for media, marketing and having a retail arm to the shelter.

Success Criteria: Students and teachers will have developed an understanding of the workings of a cat shelter, the challenges and day to day work involved.

Time: 50 minutes



Can be linked with a short presentation from Levels 1 or 2.

FAQ

Q. Why is Edu.Cat right for my students?

- Edu.Cat activities are designed to fit into existing Science and Mathematical understandings.
- They will extend known concepts and increase student skills in all areas of the curriculum, including teamwork, problem-solving and innovative thinking. The student challenges, in addition to the knowledge consolidation activities, have been developed in accordance with the Australian Curriculum and STEM.
- The Ten Lives Community Education Team understands that all schools are different, as are all learners. We aim to adapt our teaching style and where necessary, our lesson structure to suit individual class needs where possible.

Q. Which schools are eligible for the Edu.Cat program and presentations?

- Edu.Cat is able to visit ALL Government, Independent and Catholic K-6 schools throughout Tasmania.

Q. What if I have a composite class?

- No worries! Our Edu.Cat staff can assist you with deciding which Edu. Cat presentation is best suited for your class.

Q. What is included in the Edu.Cat program?

- 30 to 60 minute interactive presentations delivered by our Community education, Edu.Cat presenters.
- Teacher guides that include curriculum linked challenges, useful resources and additional curriculum linked activities.
- Student workbooks for learners to demonstrate and consolidate their understanding with additional information from other curriculum areas.
- Certificates of Achievement and Book Marks

Q. How many classes can attend a session?

- We like to limit sessions to single classes for optimal learning opportunities.
- We can deliver 2- 3 classes per day, depending on your school's timetable, allowing for sufficient time for setting up and packing up presentation activities.

Q. Do I need to prepare my class and classroom for a visit?

- When multiple classes are booked, we encourage schools to select one classroom or common space for Edu. Cat facilitators to set up. This helps with smooth transitions between groups. A whiteboard is also required.

Q. Do cats come on school visits?

- As part of the Edu.Cat program we have wonderful cat puppets for students to engage with, along with a range of fun and engaging cat-based activities.
- On occasion we can organise kittens to attend Edu.Cat sessions, depending on availability. Options can be discussed further at the time of booking. However, we are very mindful that bringing young kittens into a busy classroom can be very stressful for them. We can discuss this individually with teachers.

Q. How can your school help to make a difference for cats in our community?

You can help by:

- Booking an Edu.Cat presentation for your classroom or school or inhouse at Ten Lives.
- Showcasing students completed work and learning at assemblies and school community events.
- Fundraising event - E.g. Hold a cupcake or free dress day to help raise funds for an animal shelter.
- Spreading the word - Tell your colleagues, planning networks and friends about the Edu.Cat Program.
- Providing feedback - Let us know what you think! Get in touch by email if you wish to ask a question or make a comment to us.
- Share students work - We would love to see photos of students completing the Edu.Cat Challenges. Ten Lives will not use these photos for any purpose without written consent from the school.

Q. Where can I get more information or make a booking?

e-mail: **edu.cat@tenlives.com.au**

or call us on **(03) 6278 2111**



Promoting responsible cat ownership to create lasting social change in how people care for cats and protect wildlife. It all begins with education!

BOOK NOW!

edu.cat@tenlives.com.au

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