Our Mission Statement

Cat Café UK is on a mission to make people feel better.

We believe that somehow, cats can help us physically, mentally and emotionally.

Research has shown that hearing a cat purr can lower your blood pressure and stroking a cat can slow your heart rate. So by stopping, resting, and watching, it is Cat Café’s aim to enable people to become more mindful and present in their day-to-day lives. In essence, it is our ambition to encourage the people of Britain’s greatest cities to be more cat.

What do we mean by be more cat?

Cats know how to relax. They sleep for up to eighteen hours a day and while awake live in the moment. Cats put themselves first. They excel at self-love. It seems we could have a lot to learn from our feline friends.

Our aim is to have a Cat Café in every major city of the UK. We want our logo to symbolise a sanctuary, a safe space in an increasingly busy and digital world. In essence, we are creating a symbiotic relationship between feline and human, demonstrating and teaching the highest standards of cat care while helping people with mental illness and autism access animal assisted therapy.

And is there really a need for this?

Yes. Because today people are busier than they ever have been before.

It’s no secret that highly domesticated pets require around the clock care and attention. As people are becoming busier, their pets are becoming bored. House cats need constant stimuli to keep them happy. They need to hunt, to play, and to socialise with other cats and humans to lead truly satisfying feline lives.

Cat Café bridges this gap. Now you can be busy, and share a cat. You can go out every night of the week and your cat will be looked after twenty-four hours of the day. Because our cats are your cats.

Our aim is to create relaxed and peaceful spaces, free from stress, where cats and humans can come alongside each other and rest. We are an escape. A safe haven.

Cat Café can give you a new perspective, it can make you present, and it can refresh and heal an urban soul.

### **Origin of Cat Cafes**

[Cat cafes originated in Taiwan](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/paying-purrs-japans-cat-cafes-180949536/), with one opening in Taipei in 1998.  The cafe became popular with Japanese tourists as well as local visitors, who enjoyed the opportunity to interact with some furry friends.

### **Expansion to Japan**

One of the Japanese tourists took the idea back to Japan, and the first Japanese cat cafe opened its doors in Osaka in 2004.  They’ve become very popular in Japan, with Tokyo home to at least 39.  [Japan as a whole has over 150 cat cafes](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/paying-purrs-japans-cat-cafes-180949536/). Because many apartments in Japan forbid pet ownership, the popularity of the cafes has been attributed to a desire to interact with cats to help relieve the stress of a busy urban life.

Many people attribute the growth of cat cafes to tourists.  But step outside the areas where tourists visit, and you’ll see lots of Japanese businessmen happily playing with cats as a way to relax and forget about work for a while.

### **Growth Throughout the World**

Since then, cat cafes have spread throughout the world.  You can now find them in Korea, Austria, Spain, Hungary, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.  Cat cafes moved into North America in 2014, with the first one opening in Montreal. Oakland was next, and then came to New York. When we opened The Cat Cafe in January 2015, we became the fifth cat cafe in the United States.

### **Cat Cafes in the United States**

Within the United States, compliance with food service regulations has been a challenge.  The Japanese are known for being a very clean society. They allow cat cafes to serve food and drink in the area where the cats are. But sadly, that’s not how it works in the United States.

The Cat Cafe had to separate the cat playpen, where the cats are, from the coffee bar. And that’s why we have a design that we don’t really like. We have multiple doors and a wall separating our coffee bar from the cats.

### **The Cat Playpen at The Cat Cafe**

Once you step inside the cat playpen, however, you’ll forget all about the design challenges as you enjoy your drink with our friendly cats.