



CAT CARE ON SYROS

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PDF 1: Reading Passage + Comprehension

Title: Cat Care on Syros – Reading & Comprehension

Level: Pre-Intermediate to Intermediate (A2–B1)



Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Sounds like
stray	an animal with no home	STRAY
volunteer	a person who works for free to help others	vol-un-TEER
nonprofit	an organization that does not make profit	non-PRO-fit
sterilization	an operation so animals cannot have babies	ster-i-li-ZAY-shun
socialize	to spend time with animals so they become friendly	SO-shul-ize

Fun Student Activity

1. The "Pack Your Bag" Challenge

- **The Task:** You are going to Syros for two weeks to help the cats. You only have a small suitcase.
- **The List:** Choose **five** items from this list and explain why:
 - A camera, cat treats, a thick pair of gloves, a Greek phrasebook, sunscreen, a toy mouse, a first-aid kit.
- **Student Prompt:** "I am taking the gloves because some stray cats might be nervous or grumpy!"

Reading Passage

Cat Care on Syros

On the beautiful Greek island of Syros, there is a special program that animal lovers dream about. The nonprofit organization **Syros Cats** runs a volunteer program where people can live on the island for free (including accommodation and sometimes meals) in exchange for helping care for the island's many stray cats. There are around 3,000 stray cats on Syros.

Volunteers feed the cats, clean shelters, socialize with the animals, and help with sterilization and basic veterinary care. They usually stay in a shared house near the sea and work several hours a day. The rest of their time is free to explore the charming capital Ermoupoli, enjoy the beaches, and experience authentic Greek island life.

This program is very popular with cat lovers from all over the world. It is a wonderful way to combine volunteering, travel, and a love for animals.

Comprehension Questions

A. True or False

True / False

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Volunteers have to pay to live on the island. | _____ |
| 2. There are about 3,000 stray cats on Syros. | _____ |
| 3. Volunteers only work and have no free time. | _____ |
| 4. The program is only for people from Greece. | _____ |

B. Multiple Choice

- What do volunteers do on Syros?
 - Only take photos of cats
 - Feed cats and help with veterinary care
 - Work in hotels
- Where do volunteers usually stay?
 - In a luxury hotel
 - In a shared house near the sea
 - On a boat

C. Short Answer

- What do you get in exchange for volunteering?
- Would you like to join this program? Why or why not?