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Languedoc Living

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Le Jardin des Chats Cattery near Montpellier

The first luxury hotel for cats in France!



Amandine and Arnaud, with clients!

If you've ever had to leave your cat behind when travelling abroad you will have undoubtely wondered how they are getting on. Well, any anxieties you may have had about their welfare can now be laid to rest: just check them into a hotel for their own holiday! And, thanks to the genius of Amandine and Arnaud Zafrilla who run Le Jardin des Chats, if you have any desire to see how much fun your feline is having, then you can - with a webcam feed that brings you live images of Mr Tiddles wherever you are in the world!

Like so many great ideas Le Jardin des Chats was born out of necessity. Amandine and Arnaud have always had a love of cats and when it came to finding an acceptable solution for the care and protection of their own cats while they were away they simply didn't feel they were being adequately catered for. They didn't feel that either small caged accommodation or kennel accommodation shared with dogs was particularly comfortable or calming for a cat. And the alternative of asking friends or relatives to look after them was not always practical: someone popping in for just half an hour at meal times might well not be able to spot any problems.

Their aim was to create a homely environment dedicated to cats whilst also providing the highest form of care when it came to hygiene and medical attention. And it was by no means a straight forward process to get this project off the ground. Firstly, the right property in the right location needed to be found, quiet enough for the cats but close to the motorway between Nimes and Montpellier for easy access. Then they had to draw up plans and get the various permissions for the purpose built hotel that they would construct in their back garden. Finally, a rigourous programme of courses and diplomas in health, hygiene and safety in the professional care of animals had to be taken and passed, as well as setting up links with a professional vet who is always on hand if needed. In all, it took five years from conception to opening in the summer of 2007.



the purpose-built Jardin des Chats



enjoying the grounds

Now the time and investment is beginning to pay off - clients who have already discovered Le Jardin des Chats speak highly of the care of the cats (and their owners), and with good reason. Everything has been thoroughly considered from a cat's point of view: the hotel has been designed so that the garden runs on either side of the building get an equal share of sunshine throughout the day; the runs are secure, have sheltered cabins for shade, toys and some of them even have trees for climbing; the rooms are fully insulated and heated, have different levels for climbing, places to hide in and cat flaps to the runs; there are toys to play with and comfy beds; biscuits and water are available on tap; soothing music plays in the background and the grooming and health care area is pristinely clean. Indeed, the hotel will leave you wondering whether or not your cat might not be happier here than at home! And of course the *piece de resistance*, as mentioned above, is that each room has its own webcam. Owners are supplied with a login code which allows them to watch and keep track of their loved one's antics from any computer in the world. Le Jardin des Chats is equally able to accommodate kittens as well as adult cats, for long or short stays and can also offer quarantine and pet passport services to those clients who require repatriation abroad.



sunny rooms with access to delightful gardens



some very happy clients!

Best of all, despite the luxury, the prices for these lodgings are very competitive. Prices are just €9 per night and first time clients receive a 20% discount, other services include grooming and an animal taxi service. Do bear in mind, though, that Le Jardin des Chats is already doing a roaring trade and popular holiday weeks get booked up very early. If your cat's welfare is of utmost importance then this is the cattery for you and, rest assured, it's quite possible that your furry friend may well have a better holiday than you (it will certainly be cheaper)!

Le Jardin des Chats is located in the village of Aubais between Montpellier and Nimes, easily accessed via the A9 motorway. For more information please visit the Le Jardin des Chats website, or contact Armandine or Arnaud, who speak English, on +33 (0)4 66 38 28 67. Please note that the reception desk opening times are:

Monday - Saturday: 10:00 - 12:00 and 15:00 - 18:00
Sundays: closed

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