

ONE WEEK SHUT DOWN

Super mandatory. Non-negotiable. Very important!

Everywhere gets too many cats returned because their adopters have not properly introduced them to their new home. Failure to follow the one week shut down can cause issues such as going outside the litter box or hiding.

To ensure that your new cat has adequate opportunity to adjust to his/ her new environment and family, please follow the following simple steps in the one week shut down:

1. Set up a "safe room" - a bathroom or small room with food, water, bedding and a litter box!
2. Keep the room safe and quiet - exclude small children and other animals from this room.
3. Allow the cat to come out of the carrier at his own pace in this room only.
4. Quietly and patiently interact with the cat in this room at least twice a day. Providing wet food will help with bonding and adjustment.
5. After one week (maybe longer, depends on the cat/kitten), you may open the door to allow the cat to explore the house at his / her own pace. Allow cat access back to this "safe" room until the cat seems comfortable in all areas of the house.

If you have other pets, please follow the separate introduction instructions, which may be included in your packet or found online by searching for cat-to-cat or cat-to-dog introductions!

If you have any trouble or questions, please don't hesitate to email us at

thefurrypawsfosterinn@gmail.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR ADOPTED CAT!



We want our rescued cats placed in homes where they will be treated as a member of the family for the rest of their lives, which, with proper care, can be for 15 - 20 years or longer. Your cat is a member of your family and should share the house with you. Kitty should not be locked in a room or a cage for any extended period of time. Conversely, your cat should not be left outside for long periods of time.

- Cats and kittens need to have **access to clean, fresh water at all times**. Cats need to be **fed two or three times a day**, but they are grazers so you may want to leave hard food out all the time. Read the ingredients of whatever food you purchase and try to **avoid by-products and animal or bone meals** of any kind. Cats and kittens should also be **given wet food at least once a day**. Young kittens should be fed more frequently. Kittens must eat food specifically designed for kittens until they are about one year old. Cats will get very sick if you feed them dog food or only give them tuna; cat food is specially formulated to contain taurine, a vital nutrient for cats.
- **"People food" can be dangerous to pets**. Chocolate, garlic and onions can be fatal. Do not give your cat milk or other dairy products except for those specifically formulated for cats, as it can cause diarrhea. Some plants can also be toxic to pets. Never give your pet aspirin or other human medications. If you think your pet has ingested something toxic, call your veterinarian immediately.
- If your cat has problems with using the litter box, please contact your veterinarian immediately to rule out a urinary tract infection and then contact us for guidance. Make sure you **keep the litter box clean and fresh** to encourage her to use it. Some cats prefer to use one litter box for each function. If you have issues and there is no medical reason, experiment with different litter boxes, types of litter, etcetera, to try to find a combination that your cat approves of. If you continue to have problems with litter box usage, contact The Furry Paws Foster Inn so we can help. **Don't wait for the situation to become unbearable!**
- Your cat needs **annual veterinary check-ups** throughout its lifetime. Preventative care can save your cat a lot of distress and save you a lot of money later on.
- Cats and kittens should have access to a nice, **sturdy scratching post**. This helps satisfy the need to scratch (and will help save your furniture) and helps kitty keep his/her claws clean. The scratching post needs to be tall enough for the cat to stretch out fully (about 3 feet tall or more).
- The Furry Paws Rescue offers trimming nail service for all adopters and willing to show you how you can trim your kitty's nails at home.
- All cats and kittens should **have a tag on their break-away collar with your phone number** and address on at all times. If your kitty does not like the collar. That is totally reasonable but having a collar is good. You can get a tag that slides right on the collar instead of it hanging.

Your cat may have been microchipped when he/she went to get spayed/neutered. Please make sure to update the information if it changes, and inform Furry Paws of any phone number, email or address changes. Adjust the collar to fit your cat's size as he grows or it will cut into his neck. You should be able to get two fingers between the collar and kitty's neck. **Make sure only to use safety/break-away collars**, which will open if your cat becomes stuck on something.

ADJUSTMENT

- Please give your new kitty plenty of time to adjust to his new environment and family. This process can take several days to a few months, depending on your new cat's personality. The best way to introduce a cat to a new household is to keep him/her in a bathroom or small, quiet room away from other animals for one to two weeks, or until comfortable. The room should be equipped with food, water, litter and bedding, and your cat should be able to venture into the rest of the house slowly once adjusting to that small space.
- Make sure to give your current pets a chance to adjust to the new kitty! It is a good idea to start your newly adopted cat off in his own room for a few days away from the other animals. His food, water and a litter box, should be in there. Slowly introduce him to your current animals by letting them play with each other under the door. Once introduced, your pets may fight at first. This is normal and OK as long as no one is being seriously hurt. Your new cat might even find a nice hiding spot and stay there. Don't be too concerned about this unless she is not eating, drinking, or using the litter box.

- If your cat **doesn't eat for more than a day or two contact Furry Paws and we might suggest taking her to your veterinarian** to see if she has an underlying medical issue. It is very important that kitty eats and drinks plenty of water.
- Digestive issues are common in newly adopted cats. Your cat may be adjusting to a new diet. Sometimes, while their **stomachs are getting used to having a different type of food, cats will have diarrhea or even throw up**. This can last for a few days. To avoid this, either continue feeding the food that your cat had when he was with us or gradually mix in different concentrations of the new food until kitty has had time to adjust. Another reason for these symptoms might be parasites. Our cats are all treated with a broad-spectrum de-wormer, but sometimes certain parasites might have been missed. Please bring your veterinarian a stool sample if you believe your cat has untreated parasites. **If your cat seems ill, please bring her to the vet immediately!**

GENERAL INFORMATION

DECLAWING: Cats claw for specific physiological and psychological reasons. Frequent nail clipping can help alleviate scratching problems. Your vet can show you how to do this. It is **cruel and inhumane to remove the cat's claws**, which function as part of his/her fingers and toes. Think about how you would feel if someone amputated your fingers down to the first joint! **Declawing is a mutilation** that is illegal in many countries due to being inhumane. As part of the adoption process, you have signed an agreement stipulating that you will never declaw your Furry Paws cat.

GOING OUTSIDE: **You should keep your cat indoors** for her health and safety. If you have a fenced-in yard, you can purchase or build cat fencing to keep the cat inside it. Domestic cats left outdoors without supervision face many dangers from people, vehicles and other animals. It is vital that cats always have access to their home such as through a cat door so they can escape from danger and/or the elements.

DO NOT USE ADAMS OR HARTZ PRODUCTS

COLLARS AND FLEA PREVENTION: Please **do not use flea collars**. They are generally ineffective and hazardous to cats - the cat wearing the flea collar is constantly surrounded by toxins and the collars pose a strangulation hazard. Please consult with your veterinarian about using a product such as Frontline or Revolution to manage fleas. Be careful in administering these products because overdosing your cat can cause death or illness. Please use a safety/break-away collar with a tag for identification purposes. Do not use over-the-counter flea remedies.

FOREVER: We hope that our adoptions will last a lifetime, but if you must give up your cat, he or she may be returned to the The Furry Paws Foster Inn at any time. You must not turn the cat over to a shelter or stranger without talking to Furry Paws. Furry Paws will accept your cat at any time if you must give her up. We want to know that our cats are cared for all their lives, so we will take them back and find a new home if needed. Do not, for any reason, leave one of our cats at an animal shelter without talking to us first. They may be killed before we can rescue them.

SHOULD YOUR CAT BECOME LOST: Should your cat become lost, please contact us so we can help you find him. First, please search in hiding places closest to your house (under cars, in storm drains, and in trees). Many cats who are not used to going outside will find the closest place to hide and stay there. Put your cat's litter box outside so he can smell his way home and keep a good eye on it! Put out a feast of smelly cat food and tuna to lure your kitty back. Make sure you post descriptive flyers around the neighborhood for at least a few blocks from where the cat went missing. Report your cat as missing to Furry Paws and to local animal control agencies (we can help you with this). If your cat goes missing, please contact us! We will help you.

CONTACT US!

We want to hear about your new kitty! Please feel free to send us an email, Facebook message, or leave us a text/voicemail regarding your new kitty's adjustment into your family. We would also love to see pictures throughout the months and years!

We wish you a long and healthy relationship with your new forever friend!

Please consider further support of our foster inn in order to help more cats like the one you adopted. We rely on the generosity of the public to rescue cats and kittens from the streets.

Please consider donating. You can find our Amazon & Chewy wish-list and PayPal donation button on our website.

www.thefurypawsfosterinn.com

Your Cat's Vet Care

We recommend that you **bring your new cat to your vet for a thorough exam within two weeks of spay/neuter**. Make sure you bring your cat's health record and rabies certificate (if applicable). Feel free to contact us for vet recommendations!

Until you and your veterinarian are confident that your new cat is healthy, **we advise you to keep him separate from any other cats in your household**.

Your cat may have tested negative for Feline Leukemia on the date indicated on her paperwork. Your veterinarian may recommend retesting the cat to be sure of that result within the next 6 months. Your cat may need an **FVRCP (distemper) shot** or two to complete her vaccination series. Please confer with your veterinarian about this. This is of particular importance to kittens. Kittens should get a series of 3 distemper shots approximately 4 weeks apart, after that, yearly.

Kittens adopted at less than 4 months of age may be due soon for a rabies shot. Please provide your cat's records to your veterinarian.

Your cat has been treated with at least one of several broad-spectrum deworming agents, which are indicated on your cat's health record. However, these agents do not treat all possible parasites, so should you notice any abnormalities in your cat's feces, you should bring a sample to your veterinarian for review.

Your cat may have been treated with a topical anti-flea agent. Please discuss continuing treatment with your veterinarian. Please wait until 30 days have passed since the last topical flea product application before reapplying.

Please make sure to have your vet scan your adopted cat to ensure that their microchip (if they have one) is in place and readable. The microchip is usually readable with any universal scanner.

**THE
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**ADOPT
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The Litter Box From Your Cat's Point of View

Lisa A. Pierson, DVM

Urinating and defecating outside of the litter box, also known as “inappropriate elimination,” is one of the most common reasons for a cat to be relinquished to a shelter or, in some cases, abused. **Sadly, in most cases it is the fault of the human in charge of the litter box duties** making this an ‘appropriate elimination’ issue because who would want to walk in their own urine and feces?

The “fault” usually involves a dirty box or one that is too small and it is perfectly appropriate for a cat to seek out a cleaner place to do his or her elimination. Wouldn't you consider doing the same thing if you were not offered a clean bathroom?

Punishing these cats is not only **inhumane** but is ineffective and will often make things worse.

When asked how often a person flushes their toilet, the answer is usually, “every time it is used, of course!” We all know how repulsive ‘porta-potties’ are and we are not even asked to walk around in our own waste like humans often ask of their cats!

So why do we expect our cats to use dirty litter boxes instead of just going someplace else?

Humans seem to forget that **a cat's sense of smell is infinitely more sensitive than our own**. Add to this the instinctive nature of the cat to be **clean** and it is easy to see how a dirty litter box often spells disaster.

Think about how a wild cat would handle his bathroom duties. He would not be confined to a 1' x 2' bathroom. **He would not choose to walk around in his own waste**. He would simply choose another plot of land and that “plot of land” could be behind your sofa or in another area of your home.

Top reasons for a cat to stop using the litter box:

- **Dirty** litter box(es)
- Poor **choice of litter** form (using pellets/crystals/non-clumping litter which are uncomfortable to walk on and do not allow for complete urine removal)
- Poor **location** of litter box(es)
- Blocked from the box by a **dominant feline housemate**
- Unable to relax and get to the box, or use it, due to fear of a strange human, dog, active child, loud noise, etc., in the **house environment**
- Box size is **too small**
- **Too few** boxes
- *Medical problem(s)* – **This should always be a serious consideration.**

Many medical issues such as diabetes, cystitis (painful bladder inflammation), bladder stones, and a partial urethral blockage (**always an emergency!**) can cause a cat to stop using his litter box. Please see [Feline Urinary Tract Health](#) for more information.

Please also note that most urinary tract problems can be avoided by feeding **canned** food – not dry food. The increased **water** content and the decreased **carbohydrate** content of canned food are healthier for your cat than dry food. Please see my [Feeding Your Cat](#) and [Feline Diabetes](#) articles on this site.

Do:

- Scoop the litter box twice daily – at a minimum.
- Use clumping litter – except for kittens younger than 6 – 7 weeks of age.
- Use unscented litter.
- Keep the litter deep enough.
- Use large litter boxes.
- Have enough litter boxes available.
- Have litter boxes placed in a quiet area.
- Use a litter mat that is comfortable for your cat to walk on.
- Seek veterinary attention if your cat stops using the litter box.

The Danger of String

By Ilene Springer

A cat and a ball of yarn is an adorable picture, but the hazards aren't worth it. Same goes for holiday ribbon and tinsel.



Bev Caldwell, Bonnie Baker

Be careful when it comes time to unwrap presents. Ribbon can be very enticing to the playful cat.

Brooke Remy of Boston, MA, was delighted to watch her cat Puddles play with a long, pink ribbon she had just taken off a gift box. He twirled around and around and rolled over on the floor. Brooke tired before Puddles did, and left the room for about five minutes.

When she returned, the ribbon was gone — except for about two inches sticking out of Puddles's mouth. He was coughing and drooling. Running over to him, Brooke began slowly pulling the ribbon out of his mouth, watching in terror and amazement as she removed eight inches of wet pink ribbon from his throat.

Puddles was lucky that Brooke had returned in time. If he had swallowed the ribbon without Brooke's quick intervention, he could have suffered very serious, even life-threatening, damage to his intestinal tract.

Why Cats Eat Strange Things

The tendency of some cats, dogs and even humans to consume odd, nonfood objects is a condition called pica. "Swallowing ribbon, string and other objects is not uncommon in cats," says Joann Young, DVM, of The Cat Doctor in Dover, New Hampshire. "This is more likely to occur in younger cats, but I've seen older cats that swallow such things."

Besides eating ribbons and string, cats will go after any number of weird objects: yarn, fishing line, rubber bands, tinsel, Easter grass, needles and thread, window-blind pulls, feather cat toys, dental floss and even rubber tubing. String-like objects, when swallowed by a cat, are known as linear foreign bodies, according to Dr. Young.

No one really knows why cats eat unusual things. They may be bored or stressed or looking for attention. Some experts speculate that a cat deficient in a certain nutrient might be drawn to eat an object that might provide the nutrient. No one has proved any of these theories. "It's most likely that your cat is curious and, just like a toddler, likes to taste things," says Dr. Young. "String and ribbons may just taste good."

What happens to the body if a cat ingests string or other linear foreign bodies? "If long enough, the string may become tangled around the base of the tongue and the rest of the string may continue down the throat," says Dr. Young. "Then peristalsis (the wavelike muscular contractions that aid in digestion) can cause the string, which becomes taut, to actually saw through the intestines." This, of course, is a potentially life-threatening condition, often leading to intestinal leakage and peritonitis.

Sometimes you can't be sure that your cat has swallowed anything foreign. You may realize that the needle and thread you were working with are missing, or that your bathroom wastebasket — in which you throw away used dental floss — has been overturned.

The signs that may signal that your cat has swallowed a foreign body include: vomiting, diarrhea or constipation, a painful abdomen, lethargy, not eating or hiding. "Basically, these are the signs of a sick cat that requires immediate veterinary care," says Dr. Young.

Treatment For Swallowed Objects

What should you do if you see that your cat has swallowed a string-like object? Says Dr. Young, "Try pulling it out. But only very slowly and gently. If it does not come out easily, do not yank on it. Call your veterinarian or an emergency clinic immediately."

Don't worry; your cat will not choke or suffocate on the way," continues Dr. Young. "The string is not blocking the airway."

In another scenario, you may first realize that your cat has swallowed a string when you see part of it sticking out of its anus. Again, try pulling very slowly and gently on the string. If it comes out, then your cat is probably okay, but scheduling a veterinary examination as quickly as possible is prudent. If you can only get part of it out, "cut off the section that is visible, and then observe your cat. See if your cat passes the rest of the string in her feces. But if she shows any sign of illness, seek treatment immediately."

Your veterinarian will first do a complete examination, including looking under the tongue to see if anything is wound around the base. If it is obvious that your cat has swallowed something, the veterinarian will try to remove it. Most likely, she will do an X-ray to locate the object or observe the intestinal gas pattern, which can indicate that an object has been swallowed.

Many cases do require surgery to remove the object. Sometimes the veterinarian has to cut away little sections of the intestine if the string has caused leakage. "Surgery is pretty successful — if we perform it early enough," says Dr. Young.

Prevent Swallowing Accidents

It's a lot easier to keep your cat from swallowing an object than to remove one that's already gone down the hatch. Dr. Young offers these suggestions:

- Cover wastebaskets in your bathroom and kitchen. Dr. Young treated one cat that ate an elastic ponytail holder along with a good length of dental floss.
- Keep sewing, knitting and other craft items in a drawer or room that your cat can't explore.
- Store fishing gear away securely. "One of the strangest objects I removed from a cat's intestinal tract was a three-prong fishing hook that he bit off a fishing line," says Dr. Young.
- Don't use tinsel or string-like decorations on the Christmas tree.
- Cover trash cans outside. "I once treated a cat that jumped into a dumpster after Thanksgiving, and retrieved and ate the twine used to truss a turkey," says Dr. Young.
- Supervise your cat when she plays with any string-like toys. Put them away when your cat is finished.
- Watch any cat that has already had a swallowing accident. Many are repeat offenders



One Is the Loneliest Number: Single Kitten “Syndrome” Behaviors

<https://kittencoalition.org/one-is-the-loneliest-number-single-kitten-syndrome-behaviors/>

About the Author: [The National Kitten Coalition](#)

Have you ever heard an animal shelter or rescue organization state, “Two kittens are better than one?” You might initially think this is just a way to get more kittens adopted, but adopters as well as kittens benefit from welcoming pairs as family members.

Many shelters and rescue organizations encourage or require pair adoptions of kittens under 6 months of age, or that you already have young cat, because of the benefits of another kitten in the household. However, these policies should not stand in the way of adoptions, especially while healthy kittens (and cats) are still being euthanized in animal shelters every year.

Although the scientific and medical community doesn’t recognize Single Kitten “Syndrome,” there are behaviors sometimes seen in single-kitten homes, including:

- Clinging behavior towards humans
- Vocalizing excessively and seeking attention
- Suckling obsessively on clothing, blankets and other pets in the household
- Clawing or biting while playing
- Biting ankles, especially when a person starts walking away
- Chewing or scratching objects and other destructive behaviors
- Urinating and defecating outside the litter box and marking

A lack of feedback from littermates can have lasting effects into adulthood. Because this feedback on appropriate and inappropriate behaviors is so critical, the best way to prevent Single Kitten “Syndrome” behaviors is to adopt two kittens, whether litter mates or kittens of similar age.

Two kittens are very entertaining and use up each other’s endless kitten energy. They will teach each other that hard biting, scratching and clawing during play is not appropriate. But don’t worry, during their development, both kittens will also bond to family members in addition to each other.

If you’re unable to adopt two kittens, providing a safe space, plenty of environmental enrichment and appropriate, interactive play will help prevent the development of Single Kitten “Syndrome” behaviors. If you’re already observing Single Kitten “Syndrome” behaviors, these same strategies can be used to stop the progression of or even reverse the unwanted behaviors.

Young kittens can get into trouble when left unsupervised so using a crate or playpen, which most people traditionally consider for dogs, is a great way to have your kitten close but out of harm’s way. If your kitten is too active at night and tries to wake you up to get your attention, an intense play session followed by a snack

just before bedtime will often help prevent the nighttime crazies and encourage the kitten to sleep. Playing with your kitten is also a great way to strengthen the bond between both of you.

Providing lots of warm, cozy spaces, such as small beds, fleece blankets and stuffed toys that have a heartbeat sound, helps kittens feel safe enough to rest and sleep. Placing these items close to where you sleep may help kittens feel even more secure.

In addition, environmental enrichment is very important for kittens and all cats in general. Kittens can become very bored if alone and without sufficient environmental enrichment. They'll find their own objects to play with, which may not be to your liking or safe, if you don't provide ones. Cat scratchers, cat trees and towers and other safe places to climb are very important.

Another good way to provide enrichment is to feed part of your kitten's daily diet in a puzzle feeder that encourages the kitten to "hunt" for food. Putting a bird feeder outside a window and placing a cat tree or window seat nearby also provide hours of entertainment. If a bird feeder is not an option, there are cat-friendly wildlife videos that you can play for your kitten to enjoy.

Toys are also important for environmental enrichment, and play is an important outlet for excessive energy. One of the most important rules is never allowing a kitten to see any part of your body as a toy. While nibbling or biting on your fingers may be cute while kittens are small, this is much less desirable when they have become full-grown and have their adult teeth.

Always redirect a kitten to play with something else if they start to play with your hands or feet. Pet-safe, stuffed toys that they can bite, kick and flip are very useful as they mimic the size of other kittens or prey animals.

Use gentle touch whenever engaging your kitten in play, and redirect any unwanted biting to toys. When you play with excited kittens, wand toys keep your hands far from their sharp teeth and claws. Toys with ball tracks and mylar crinkle balls that make sounds can be very effective in engaging a kitten.

Toys don't have to be store bought or expensive. An empty tissue box, a small box with some dry food or treats inside, a pingpong ball or even a toilet paper roll can provide kittens with endless entertainment. Just make sure that whatever you provide is large enough that it cannot be swallowed or entangle the kitten.

The most important thing to help keep your kitten engaged with toys is to switch them out every few days. A few "new" toys are more exciting than the same dozen toys day in and day out.

It's important to be aware of Single Kitten "Syndrome" behaviors and how to prevent or address them. Consider two kittens when you adopt; it's double the fun, and you'll save two lives. If you can't adopt two, take appropriate steps to help your kitten mature into a well-adjusted, beloved family member.



Cat to Cat Introductions

Patience is the key to success in pet introductions. Several short introductions (5 - 10 minutes) after a few days of acclimation to the new home are best.

Confine one or both cats and then swap spaces for a little while to get them used to each other's scents. If one cat is to be confined, it should be the new cat. Rubbing one cat with a towel, and then rubbing the other with the same towel is another way to get them used to each other's scents. This needs to be done at minimum daily. One rub of the towel won't do it.

Make sure that whatever space is used for confinement is comfortable, and has all the kitty needs. It is also probably not a good idea to confine the new cat in the resident cat's favorite territory. For example in your resident cat spends all day and half the night in your bedroom, put the new cat in the bathroom, or a spare room.

Another trick, especially in the early introduction phase, is to put the new cat in a carrier, and let them sniff each other.

Never leave new pets alone with each other. Always supervise the interactions until you are sure they are getting along.

Introductions are best done during meal or treat times so that there is a positive association with the newcomer. Use food treats to reward good behavior, but do not "punish" bad behavior. If growling or aggression occur, go back to the previous step for a few days, and then try again.

Hissing is usually okay, as long as it doesn't progress to growling. It usually means back off, I need more space.

Be sure to spend quality time with the resident cat. There is a tendency to want to spend a lot of time with the new cat, but the old cat needs reassurance that he or she is not being replaced.

If a fight should break out, be very careful. Pet guardians (doesn't that sound better than "owner") have been bitten while trying to separate fighting cats. Use a broom to get between them, or throw a towel or water over them. A wet floor is better than a trip to the emergency room for you, and a trip to the vet for the cats.

After they have calmed down, examine each one to be sure there are no bite wounds or severe scratches. Sometimes if cats are having a very hard time adjusting, your vet may prescribe medication or herbal remedies to calm them during this acclimation period. Also, a product called "Feliway", which comes a spray or plug-in air freshener dispenser with natural pheromones can have a calming influence on the cats.

Again remember that patience is the key. It may take weeks or even months for cats to acclimate to each other. For some lucky souls, the cats will get along right from the start. However, most of us need to work at getting our feline friends comfortable with each other. Some cats will never like each other, but most will come to a state of peaceful coexistence if they are allowed to acclimate in their own time and their own way.

Please contact us if you have any questions!

thefurrypawsfosterinn@gmail.com



Cat to Dog Introductions

The key to successful cat-dog introductions is to expose them to one another gradually under controlled conditions. You want to avoid creating situations where the cat runs away and the dog's prey chase instinct is activated. If your dog has previously lived with a cat, and your new cat has previously had positive experiences with dogs, they may progress quickly to tolerating one another.

However, if you have an adult dog who has never been socialized

to cats, the introduction should be a very gradual process lasting up to 30 days. In either case, train your dog to sit and stay reliably before bringing your new cat home. This may give you somewhat greater control once the introductions have been made.

Remember that these steps are progressive, so go on the next step only when you feel your dog and cat have "mastered" the previous one.

1. On day 1, confine your new cat to his or her own room at first. After a few hours, confine the dog in a fenced-in yard or basement or separate room, and allow the cat to explore the rest of the house. Then put the cat back in her or her own room, so the dog has an opportunity to become familiar with the cat's scent. Put a baby gate up but leave the door closed.
2. On day 2, crack open the door to the cat's room a couple of inches and allow the dog to sniff and see through the opening for 30 seconds. Reward the dog for appropriate behavior. Repeat this step a couple more times during the day. Continue to give the cat the opportunity to explore the house when the dog is securely confined out of sight.
3. On day 3 and subsequently, increase the "viewing intervals" by short increments until the dog can watch the cat quietly for a few minutes. Reward good behavior.
4. Allow the dog to view the cat with the door completely open, with the baby gate still in place, for a few minutes at a time. If the dog is tolerating the cat, go into another room. Call the dog to you and play a game with him or her. Then ignore both animals (but keep attuned to them!) and engage in some other activity. The dog will start to lose interest in the cat.
5. Eventually work up to leaving the door to the cat's room open, with the bay gate still up, whenever you are home. Always close the door when you are not present! Some pet owners will always need to keep the dog and cat separated with they aren't around to supervise, but others will find that after a couple months' probation, the dog and the cat are OK together by themselves. It's far better to err on the side of caution, however, to prevent tragedy. Even after your dog and cat are peacefully coexisting, make sure that the cat's food bowl and litter box are out of the dog's reach. Keep the cat from approaching the dog when the dog is eating or chewing on a bone.

Managing Your Young Cat's Rough Play

Play-motivated aggressive behaviors are common in young, active cats less than two years of age, and in cats that live in one-cat households who don't have enough mental and physical stimulation. When cats play, they incorporate a variety of behaviors into their play, such as exploratory, investigative, and predatory behaviors. Play provides cats with opportunities to practice skills they would normally need for survival. Cats like to explore new areas and investigate anything that moves, and may bat at, pounce on, and bite objects that resemble prey.

Kittens learn how to inhibit their bite from their littermates and their mother. A kitten that is separated from her family too early may play more roughly than a kitten that has had more valuable family time. In addition, if humans play with a kitten or young cat using their hands and/or feet instead of toys, the cat is liable to learn that rough play with people is okay. In most cases, it is possible to teach your kitten or young cat that rough play isn't acceptable behavior. You can do this by taking your kitten to a kitten socialization class, offered at some local animal shelters and by doing the following things:

Encourage Acceptable Behavior

Redirect your young cat's aggressive behavior onto acceptable objects like toys (see our handout: "Cat Toys and How to Use Them"). Drag a toy along the floor to encourage your cat to pounce on it, or throw a toy away from your cat to give her even more exercise chasing the toy down. Some cats will even bring the toy back to be thrown again! Another good toy is one that your cat can wrestle with, like a soft stuffed toy that's about the size of your cat, so she can grab it with both front feet, bite it, and kick it with her back feet. This is one of the ways cats play with each other, especially when they're young. It's also one of the ways they try to play with human feet and hands, so it's important to provide this type of alternative play target.

Since young cats need a lot of playtime, try to set up three or four consistent times during the day to initiate play with your cat. This will help her understand that she doesn't have to be the one to initiate play by pouncing on you.

Discourage Unacceptable Behavior

You need to set the rules for your young cat's behavior, and every person your cat comes in contact with should reinforce these rules. Your cat can't be expected to learn that it's okay to play rough with Dad, but not with the baby.

- Use aversives to discourage your cat from nipping. You can apply taste aversives to your hands. If you have sensitive skin you may want to wear gloves and put the aversive on the gloves. The possible disadvantage to this method is that your cat may learn that "hands with gloves taste bad and those without gloves don't." For more information on aversives, see our handout "Aversives for Cats." Remember that aversives will only work if you offer your cat acceptable alternatives.

- Redirect the behavior after using the aversive. Once your cat has tasted the aversive and pulls back, IMMEDIATELY offer her a toy to wrestle with or chase. This will encourage her to direct her rough play onto a toy instead of a person. We recommend that you keep a stash of toys hidden in each room specifically for this purpose.
- Withdraw attention when your cat starts to play too roughly. If the distraction and redirection techniques don't seem to be working, the most drastic thing you can do to discourage your cat from her rough play is to withdraw all attention when she starts playing too roughly. She wants to play with you, so eventually she'll figure out how far she can go if you keep this limit consistent. The best way to withdraw your attention is to walk away to another room, and close the door long enough for her to calm down. If you pick her up to put her in another room, then you're possibly rewarding her by touching her. You should be the one to leave the room.

Please Note: None of these methods will be very effective unless you also give your young cat acceptable outlets for her energy, by playing with her regularly and using appropriate toys.

What Not To Do

- Attempts to tap, flick, or hit your cat for rough play is almost guaranteed to backfire. Your cat could become afraid of your hands, or she could interpret those flicks as playful moves by you and play even more roughly as a result.

Aggression: Cats can bite or scratch through the skin. In these cases it's best to seek help from a behavior specialist to work with your young cat's behavior. Be sure to keep your cat confined until you can get professional help. Also, be sure to thoroughly clean all bites and scratches and consult your physician, as cat scratches and bites can easily become infected (see our handouts: "When the Behavior Helpline Can't Help" and "Understanding Cat Aggression Towards People.")

Why you should adopt TWO kittens

Most cats, despite their age, are highly social and are happier living with other cat companions. This makes them better pets, which results in happier owners. Kittens are no exception.

- **Kittens are curious and crave constant stimulation.** A single kitten may become bored and entertain itself by chewing on plants, climbing drapes and furniture, unrolling toilet paper, or exploring electrical cords and sockets. It is less likely that kittens who live with other kittens will engage in these dangerous and destructive behaviors.
- **Kittens are active at night.** A single kitten may awaken you with jumping, pouncing and other hunting behavior. However, two kittens will occupy each other by finding interesting shadows to chase and games to play until they finally tire and fall asleep, too.
- **It's normal and appropriate for kittens to "play bite" and wrestle with each other.** Without a litter mate or other kitten to play with, a kitten will bite and wrestle with you, which is unacceptable. Even if you allow this behavior from your kitten when it's small, once the kitten matures, your adult cat will have learned these bad habits. If your kitten grows up with another kitten, this negative behavior is minimized.
- **Even if you are fortunate enough to be home during the day, the attention a single kitten demands may occupy all your waking hours.** A pair of kittens will also want to interact with you, but they can occupy each other while you are carrying on daily activities.

Kittens want and need interaction with other kittens for healthy social development.

A kitten learns from its mother and littermates. Separating a kitten from its mother is often necessary for adoption. But taking a kitten away from its littermates can delay his development emotionally, socially and physically. Kittens who remain with a littermate or a similarly-aged companion are healthier, happier and better socialized.

- **Think twice about bringing a kitten home to a senior feline resident.** A kitten may have too much energy for an older cat. Kittens want to play and run constantly and require a lot of interaction. This may overwhelm and irritate an older cat, and the kitten may be frustrated her elderly companion doesn't have her energy level. This makes two very unhappy cats, and behavior problems, such as litter box avoidance or destructive scratching. Long-term, the two may never have a close relationship because their initial experience with one another was negative. An older cat is better matched with someone of her own age and temperament.

Adopting a single kitten or young cat is not a good idea. Trying to keep a single kitten occupied, stimulated, safe and happy while also going about the business of everyday life is much more of a challenge than it may seem upon first consideration.

Our goal is to ensure we are adopting our cats and kittens into a loving home for life. Please realize that bringing a new pet into your home creates big changes.

We want you to be happy with the animal you adopt from the



It is equally important to us that the animal you adopt also is happy and healthy, so please think carefully about your choices.



AFFORDABLE SPAY/NEUTER/ VETERINARY SERVICES



Please check the website if they do spay/neuter and/or have vaccine clinics

Anne Arundel County

Animal Birth Control

8424 Veterans Highway Millersville, MD 21108
410-729-4342
animalbirthcontrolllc.com/

Animal Control

411 Maxwell Frye Road Millersville, MD 21108
410-222-8900
aacounty.org/animalcontrol

The Pet Wellness Clinic

5017 Ritchie Highway
Brooklyn, MD 21225
410-636-0044

The SPCA of Anne Arundel County

1815 Bay Ridge Avenue Annapolis, MD 21403
410-268-4388 ext. 123
aacspca.org

Spay Spa and Neuter Nook

1251 West Central Avenue
Davidsonville, MD 21035
443-607-6496
spayspa.org

Baltimore City

BARCS (Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter)

301 Stockholm Street Baltimore, MD 21230
410-396-4694
baltimoreanimalshelter.org/

Falls Road Animal Hospital

6314 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21209
(410) 825-9100
Fallsroad.com

Maryland SPCA Wellness Clinic

4007 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21211
410-400-WELL (9355)
mdspca.org

Maryland SPCA Spay & Neuter Clinic

3300 Falls Road
Baltimore, MD 21211
410-888-7729
mdspca.org

Baltimore County

Baltimore County Humane Society

1601 Nicodemus Road Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-833-8848 ext. 209
Bmorehumane.org

Baltimore County Animal Services

13800 Manor Rd, Baldwin, MD 21013
(410) 887-7297
baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/animalservices/

Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc.

14412 Old York Road Phoenix, MD 21131
410-527-1466
adopt-a-pet.org

Calvert County

Calvert Well Pet Clinic

2240 Solomons Island Rd Huntingtown, MD 20639
443-295-7873
calvertwpc.org

Caroline County

Caroline County Humane Society

407 WEST BELL ST. RIDGELY, MD 21660
410-820-1600
MUST LIVE IN COUNTY
www.carolinehumane.org

Cecil County

All Paws Animal Wellness Clinic

1098 Principio Furnace Rd Perryville, MD 21903
410-642-6396
allpawsawc.net

Chesapeake Feline Association

North East, 210901
410-507-0664
chesapeakefelineassociation.org

Charles County

Humane Society of Charles County

71 Industrial Park Drive
Waldorf, MD 20604
301-645-8181
humanesocietycc.org

Paws Print Animal Hospital

4499 Leonardtown Road Waldorf, MD 20602
301-885-0263
lastchanceanimalrescue.org

Garrett County

Hart Spay/Neuter Clinic

1265 Bumble Bee Road Accident, MD 21520
301-387-7729
hartforanimals.org

Howard County

Animal Advocates of Howard County

Ellicott City, MD 21041
410-880-2488 (choose option 2)
animal-advocates.org

Prince George's County

Humane Society of Prince George's County

PO Box 925 Bowie, MD 20718
301-262-5625 (24 Hour Emergency Hotline)
pgspca.org

Spay Now, Inc.

7401 Van Dusen Road Laurel, MD 20707
301-483-7080
spaynow.com

Spay Spot

3750 Brown Station Road Upper Marlboro, MD
301-254-8151
to make an appointment
thespayspot.org/

SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County, Inc

8210 D'arcy Rd. Forestville, MD 20718
301-262-5625
pgspca.org

Queen Anne's County

Spay Now, Inc.

125 Pullman Crossing Road
Grasonville, MD 21638
410-827-6464
spaynow.com

St. Mary's County

St. Mary's Animal Welfare League (SMAWL)

Post Office Box 1232
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650
www.smawl.org

The Well Pet Clinic

21800 N. Shangri-La Drive Unit 16
Lexington Park, Maryland 20653
301-866-0303
thewellpetclinic.com

Talbot County

Talbot Human Society

7894 Ocean gateway Easton, MD 21061
410-822-0107
talbothumane.org

Washington D.C.

Washington Animal Rescue League
71 OGELTHORPE ST Washington DC 20011
202-723-5730
humanerescuealliance.org

Washington County
PROMISE ANIMAL LEAGUE
7728 OLD NATIONAL PIKE Boonsboro, MD 21713
301-465-9473
apromise.org

Wicomico County

Humane Society Of Wicomico County
5130 CITATION DR. SALISBURY, MD 21804
410-749-7603
OPEN TO ALL
wicomicohumane.org

More Low cost Vaccine Clinics

ShotVet
www.shotvet.com/

PetVet
petvet.vippetcare.com/

Vetco
www.vetcoclinics.com



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CATALYST

SOFT WOOD CAT LITTER

Why Catalyst? Here are 5 Reasons Why:

- Better for the environment: Every year, 5 billion pounds of clay are stripmined in the US for cat litter, causing ecological harm. Not only that, clay litter does not decompose, staying in landfills for thousands of years! Catalyst Pet is engineered from upcycled soft wood fiber—no clay allowed!
- Great clumping: Thanks to our patent-protected formula, our wood litter clumps better than traditional clay options. Experience the next level of clumping efficiency, powered by nature and perfected by science.
- Healthier for your cat – and you too: Bentonite-based clay litters can release harmful silica dust. When inhaled, this dust can lead to respiratory issues. On top of that, clay litter can expand up to 15x when it gets wet, causing stomach problems when ingested. Catalyst litter is free from silica dust and safe for ingestion, supporting better health.
- Amazing odor control: This is one of the things our customers consistently rave about, and why you'll never have to worry about smell again.
- Affordable: We get it. At first, we seem a bit pricier than other brands. But don't be fooled! On average, when you subscribe, Catalyst is 43% cheaper than other litters, making us the most affordable on the market! That's because we're so absorbent that 1 pound of Catalyst does the work of 4 pounds of clay.

CatalystPet.com