

Laguna Woods Cat Club

Guidelines for Foster Parents



#1 Job—Build trust and create a cat that likes and trusts humans. Cats often arrive scared and confused. They need security. Start the cat out in a small space, which it can check out for threats. Leave it alone. If there are no threats, the cat will relax. Then you can check in.

#2—Observe the cat's health and habits. It's very typical for a cat to eat very little for the first few days in a new environment. Add some ice cubes to their water dish. If the cat stops eating, drinking, or pooping for two full days, call the Foster Director.

We can provide for anxiety: Gabapentin for pain or stress, and Feliway Spray, a relaxant to spray on their bedding or carrier.

To stimulate appetite: Rescue Remedy (a few drops in the water bowl) or Mirataz (rub it on the ear.)

#3—Do not allow the cat to spend hours in closets or under beds. Keep them out of the bedroom during the day. The less reclusive they are, the more adoptable they are. Please play with them. We'll provide lots of toys.

#4—Discourage aggressive/prey behaviors, like biting and scratching, through distancing and distraction with toys, such as wand toys and pacifiers. Do not yell at or strike cats. Your goal is to improve behavior without making the cat afraid of you in the process. See the enclosed article, "Why Cats Bite and How to Stop It."

#5--Follow our food guidelines regarding the type and amount of food per day. Treats are not food—they are only to be used as training tools.

#6—You are expected to assist in preparing the cat for a showing. If we arrange a photo shoot or a visit with a prospective adopter, the cat should be in an area where it can be seen and interacted with, even a bathroom or a carrier. If you cannot do this, we will arrange to send over someone who can help with corralling the kitty or take it somewhere else for the showing.

#7—If the cat is being photographed, please clear anything out of its eyes and brush it before the photographer arrives. The kitty should be in show form.

#8—If you're good with a camera, take pictures. You have the unique advantage of catching the kitty in moments of sheer adorableness. Try videos. We may not have to send a photographer over.

#9—If you have other pets in the house, you must follow our guidelines for slowly introducing the new cat to the house pets. The objective is to create a situation in which they can see each other, but not get at each other. This usually only takes a few days. We can provide a baby gate for this purpose.

#10—Foster cats must be indoor only. Be very attentive when bringing in the groceries. Cats are fast and clever little escape artists.

Also beware of recliners (cats can be crushed in them).

Do not leave plastic bags on the floor. Some cats just like to eat plastic, which is not highly digestible and may require surgery to remove.

A note to Foster Parents:

You are the most important people in our organization, and we are extremely grateful to you for selflessly volunteering to help us in our mission to find safe, loving homes for relinquished or abandoned Village cats.

Our Rescue is unique in that we cover all costs associated with foster care. If you do incur expenses, please turn in the receipts to the Foster Director for reimbursement. Some of our Foster Parents prefer to cover certain supplies as an added donation to our Foster Program. We deeply appreciate that, but do not expect or require it.

For other helpful articles on cats, go to lagunawoodscatclub.com and click on “Cat Talk.”

Sincerely,

Beverly Elwell, President (215) 896-7054

Jody Powers, Foster Director (832) 540-1063



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