

CARING FOR YOUR CAT

Learn valuable information about *how to care for your new cat* in this resource guide. ➤

If you have additional questions about the behavior or health of your new pet, or just want to update us with photos of them as they grow, please do not hesitate to contact us at **1.877.580.PETS** or **info@foundanimals.org**



Congratulations on adopting your new cat!

Bringing home a new cat is a joyous and exciting occasion, but it also requires some careful planning and understanding. We have created this guide to help you prepare your home accordingly prior to your new cat's arrival.

New Cat Supply Checklist



- Litter Box and Litter
- Cat food
- Cat Dishes
- Toys
- Bedding
- Grooming tools
- Nail Clippers



Bringing Your Cat Home: The First Few Days

- Pick a quiet room for your cat to stay in for the first 7-10 days. Be sure to include toys, a litter box and bedding. Your cat has been living in an animal care center and she will need time to adjust to her new surroundings.
- Do not be alarmed if your cat is less affectionate, eats and drinks less, hides, or even acts somewhat aggressive when you first bring him home- she is simply stressed.
- Slowly begin opening up your home to your new cat once they seem adjusted to their environment.



Introducing your new cat to other pets

Cats are territorial by nature and stress very easily. Introducing new cats to other cats or dogs should be done carefully.

- Set up a safe and controlled environment during the introduction. Consider using a screen door or baby gate to create a physical barrier that still allows your pets to see and smell each other.
- When introducing your new cat to your dog, be sure your dog is obedient to commands such as “sit”, “come” and “stay”. Also, be sure to keep your dog on a leash and use treats to reward positive behavior.
- Some hissing and growling is normal. Keep in mind that it may take several weeks for your new cat and existing pets to start to get along.



Feline Nutrition

We suggest feeding your cat the same food that she was eating while at the animal care center. Changing a cat's diet suddenly can result in loss of appetite, vomiting or diarrhea. If you wish to change food, slowly mix the new food with the shelter food over a 7 day period.

Suggested Daily Nutritional Guideline



The following guideline will assist you in keeping your cat happy and healthy. Consult with your veterinarian before changing your cat's diet.

Weight	Dry and wet food
4-7 lbs:	1/4 cup + 3 oz. can
7-10 lbs:	1/2 cup + 3 oz. can
10-15 lbs:	2/3 cup + 3 oz. can



Litter Box Problems

Some cats can be very finicky when it comes to litter boxes, so begin with an uncovered, clean litter box. Be sure to clean the box daily and to keep it stocked with enough litter for your cat to appropriately defecate and cover it with litter.

If your cat is defecating outside of her litter box, consider the following:

Medical Problems

The first thing you should do when you notice your cat is soiling outside the litter box is take him to your veterinarian for a health check. Cats can have medical issues that cause painful eliminations.

Location Preference

Be sure your litter box is kept in a quiet place where your cat feels secure and comfortable.

Multiple Cat Households

The general rule of thumb is to keep one litter box per cat. If you have multiple cats sharing a single box, consider purchasing additional litter boxes.



Common Household Hazards

Here are a few simple tips you can follow to keep your cat safe:

- Secure all dangling cords: Cats often like to play with and bite into hanging wires and cord, which can tangle, choke, or electrocute them.
- Pack away any valuables or breakables and remove hanging tablecloths: Cats are curious creatures that are known to get into their share of mischief. Climbing onto tables and pulling out tablecloths are ways that cats can easily destroy your belongings and potentially harm themselves.
- Secure all doors: Cats are not safe when they are outdoors, but they will certainly try to escape. Be sure that doors are secured shut.

Not all food consumed by humans is safe for cats. Here is a list of some of the foods that are hazardous to cats:

- Chocolate
- Tomatoes
- Onion and garlic
- Grapes and raisins
- Alcoholic beverages
- Salt and sugar

If your pet ingests a dangerous substance, don't hesitate. Call the ASPCA's poison hotline at 1-888/426-4435 (some fees may apply).

You will find a wealth of additional information about cats on our website. Be sure to visit www.foundanimals.org to learn about these additional topics:

- Pet-friendly rental housing resources
- Behavior tips
- Training your cat
- Identifying types of cat aggression
- How to choose a veterinarian

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