

Cat Rescue and Adoption Services

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SaFeMEOW



You're approved to Foster.... Now What?!

Some House Keeping.....

Well first and foremost- THANK YOU! Having you as a foster home will greatly help SaFeMEOW in being able to rescue and provide safe forever homes to more kittens.

We ask that you keep us up to date about your foster experience and if, at anytime, you are feeling overwhelmed please communicate this with us!

We will attempt to give you advanced notice to fostering, however sometimes foster arrangements are needed to be made promptly and quickly.

Understand, that when we ask you to foster you always have the right to say 'no' / 'not right now'- and we respect your decision and honesty!

Some Fun Stuff....

It is time to start preparing for the arrival of your new foster (s) and there are a few things you can do ahead of time to prepare for your new foster friend (s). You will find a list of recommended purchases that will help you out during your foster period (these are suggestions and not required, should you need something and be unable to provide it please let us know):

Food and Water Dish – something non-plastic is recommended (plastic bowls can be a cause of acne in cats)

Bed - you can find some pretty great cat beds at the dollar store!

Carrier - you will need this to transport to and from the vet and for any other travelling.

Scratching Post and/or Mat- When picking a scratching outlet consider getting a horizontal/post and a vertical/mat in addition to offering different materials (ie. cardboard vs. rope), We want to teach foster cats the appropriate out.let for scratching. Cats each have their own surface and directional preference when it comes to scratching- it is important to meet this need to prevent unwanted scratching of furniture. Scratching is a way for cats to mark their surroundings (they have scent glands between their toes), it is a natural behaviour that WILL occur, but it is possible to direct and train to scratch on appropriate surfaces.

Litter Box- Select a litter box that will be large enough, usually adult size but with lower edges for small kittens.

Litter – For kittens under 4 weeks of age we recommend ‘Yesterdays News’ (pelleted, recycled news paper), Kitten over 4 weeks we use Clumping Clay Litter. You are welcome to use your preferred brand, we recommend unscented and a low dust formula because kitten noses are sensitive. We personally use “Fresh for Life” brand available at Pet Valu.

Nail Clippers- It will be important to trim your kittens nails on a regular basis (every 1-2 weeks), not only to keep their nails manageable and short but to get them used to being trimmed.

Toys! Try to avoid strings and ribbons, but have fun shopping for your new foster(s)! You can find cat toys anywhere from a pet store, dollar store to online! Kittens are extremely playful and will provide endless entertainment in their play. It would be ideal to expose them to a variety of toys, this enriches their day and also allows you to identify their ‘favorite toys’ to share with future adopter.

Grooming Brush- grooming and brushing is a great way to bond and teach kittens the joys of being brushed/groomed, our potential adopters will appreciate this. (Some kittens are more receptive to grooming than others!).

Food- For bottle fed kittens you will need ‘Kitten Milk Replacer’. Weaned kittens eat a combination of wet and dry food. If you are purchasing food we are very grateful for this and will support feeding which ever diet you purchase- our suggestion would be to purchase at least a medium quality food and it must be a food that is formulated for kittens. It is so important to address the nutritional needs of kittens during their growth phase.

Recommended food: Royal Canin Kitten or Baby Cat Formula (pet store)

Scale- a baby or food scale would be great to have, this wil allow us to monitor weights as the kittens grow

The Days/ First Weeks

- provide kitten(s) with a warm, comfortable and secure location of their own for the first weeks (eg. A bedroom or limiting access to only one floor at a time) Ensure they know where their litter box and food/water bowls are. You can do this by physically placing kitten in the litter box and in front of their bowls. Be sure to separate their litter and feeding areas.
- allow your kitten to explore and come out of the secluded area on their own terms, this can take hours to a few days (depending on the kittens personality)
- be sure to interact with your foster kitten in a calm and positive manner. Bond with them through feeding, play and grooming time.

'Kitten-Proofing' your home

- cover trash cans (many kittens are tempted to play in open garbage cans)
- put down the toilet seat, some kittens are attracted to water and you don't want your kitten taking a bath in the toilet!
- remove plants, they can be tempting for kittens to chew and play with and can potentially be toxic. Some common plants toxic to cats include: Lily, Crocus, Rhododendron, Azaleas, Amaryllis, Castor Bean and Ivy. * this is not a complete list, if you require further information on this please ask SaFeMEOW
- secure electrical cords to your wall or hide them out of sight
- ensure windows, doors and screens are secure and won't allow escape
- store household chemicals in a secure area that your kitten cannot access
- pick up loose items (kittens are known to like: string, twist ties, rubber bands, hair elastics, sewing supplies and erasers. They are likely to eat these items which can cause more problems than the fun they offer)

Consideration of Other Animals in the Home

Be sure to set up a secluded area for your foster kittens. We recommend keeping kitten(s) separated from other animals in the home for 2 weeks minimum, if not completely separated. This gives all animals in the home time to become accustomed to each other, r show that they would like to remain separate. Remember your resident animals take precedence and we d not want to upset them- you are bringing fosters into THEIR home and this can be intimidating or upsetting to resident animals. Taking time in the beginning makes for better introductions and lasting relationships in the long run.