



New Kitten Care

Thank you for choosing Bigger Road Vet; We look forward to partnering with you in the care of your new kitten!





BIGGER ROAD VETERINARY CENTER

www.biggervet.com

"Two Locations, One Passionate Team."



BIGGER ROAD VETERINARY CENTER: KETTERING

(937) 435-3262

5655 Bigger Rd.
Kettering, OH 45440

HOURS: PHONE LINES OPEN AT 7:30AM

Monday - Friday: 7am - 6pm
Saturday: 7:45am - 1pm
Sunday: Closed

BIGGER ROAD VETERINARY CENTER: SPRINGBORO

(937) 514-7702

718 North Main St
Springboro, OH 45066

HOURS: PHONE LINES OPEN AT 7:30AM

Monday - Friday: 7am - 6pm
Saturday: 7:45am - 1pm
Sunday: Closed

DAYTON CARE CENTER

(937) 428-0911

6421 Clio Rd.
Centerville, OH 45459

HOURS:

24 hours a day
7 days a week

MEDVET DAYTON EMERGENCY

(937) 293-2714

2714 Springboro West Rd
Moraine, OH 45439

HOURS:

24 hours a day
7 days a week

PET POISON HELPLINE

(855) 764-7661

Poison control services for pet owners and veterinarians. A credit card will be required for consult.

HOURS:

24 hours a day
7 days a week

WE OFFER MANY VALUABLE SERVICES FOR YOUR PET:

- Acupuncture
- Pet Laser Therapy
- Diagnostics
- Dental Care
- Surgery
- Vaccinations
- Spay and Neuter
- Microchipping
- Wellness Exams
- Grooming
- DNA Testing
- Behavior Consults

Scan the QR code to learn more about our team, services, and all things Bigger Road Veterinary Center!

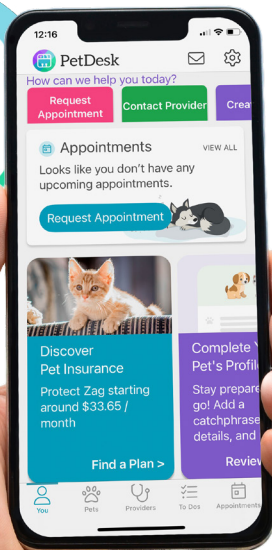
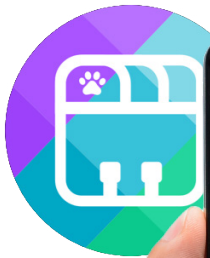


A new kitten is a commitment, emotionally, physically, and financially. We do our best to make our services as accessible as possible by providing a variety of payment options.





SETTING YOUR PET UP FOR SUCCESS



At Bigger Road, we utilized and recommend **PetDesk**, a mobile app that supports client and veterinary provider communication, medication management, appointment requests, and pet health reminders.

To sign up:

- Open the **App Store** on your Mobile Phone
- Type in **"PetDesk"** in the Search Bar
- Install **"PetDesk - Pet Health Reminders"**
- Click **"Create Account"**
- Enter your name, the email you have on file with us, a password and the phone number you have on file with us
- Search **"Bigger Road Veterinary Center"** to link your account to our hospital.

At Bigger Road, we utilized the most up-to-date **Fear Free** practices to ensure your pet is comfortable in our hospital environment.



- If medically appropriate, reduce the amount of food your kitten eats before the visit. This can help prevent nausea with car travel as well as make the treats at the vet visit more appealing.
- Bring your kitten's favorite treats to use during the appointment, especially if your kitten is particular about what treats they enjoy.
- Budget plenty of time to avoid rushing.
- Provide your pet with an opportunity to relieve themselves prior to leaving your home and again before you come into the clinic.



Tabitha Kucera CCBC, RVT, KPA-CTP

Chirrupsandchatter.com

Chirrup and Chatter offers educational lectures, workshops, and behavior consulting

TEACH YOUR CAT TO LOVE THEIR CARRIER

Many cats find traveling in carriers to be an unpleasant experience. Most cats don't leave the house much and when they do, it isn't usually for a happy reason. So it makes sense that many cats are not fans of traveling! Although travel can be stressful, there is a lot you can do to make carriers and vet visits less scary and even enjoyable for your cat.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CARRIER



Entry and exit: Choose a carrier with both top and front openings, or one with a large round opening. This allows you to easily put your cat in and take them out if they are not trained to enter the carrier on their own.

Easily taken apart: It is helpful to have a carrier that can be taken apart in the middle so the top half can be removed. This way, your cat can remain in the bottom of their carrier during a check-up by their veterinarian. Many cats feel more secure and experience less anxiety when they can remain in their carrier during an exam.

Size matters: Make sure your cat can walk easily in and out of the carrier and has plenty of room to move and turn around.

Privacy, Ventilation and Visual Shield: Visual shields can help prevent motion sickness and provide your cat with privacy. Alternatively, you can place a towel that has been sprayed with a synthetic feline pheromone over the carrier. This helps minimize visual stimuli. And most importantly, make sure the carrier is well ventilated.



SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

LEAVE THE CARRIER OUT IN A PLACE YOUR CAT LIKES TO SPEND TIME: Chances are, this is also where you spend your time! By integrating the carrier into your home, it becomes a resting area instead of a scary traveling cage. If your cat is afraid to go inside, start with just the bottom of the carrier and slowly add the top and the cage door.

PLACE TREATS, CATNIP, AND TOYS IN THE CARRIER: This will encourage your cat to enter the carrier while they're still at home and teach them it is a fun place!

PLACE FAMILIAR BEDDING IN THE CARRIER: All the smells of home will be in the carrier, which will make it feel like a safe space.

REWARD YOUR CAT FOR GOING INTO THE CARRIER: Make sure to have your cat's favorite treats nearby so you can give one to them as soon as they go into the carrier on their own.

BE PATIENT: Do not force or chase your cat into the carrier. Allow the cat to choose to go into the carrier on their own and reward that behavior.

TRAVEL TIPS

Play classical music specifically composed for cats, and/or purring sounds

Spray Feliway in your car and/or carrier 10-15 minutes prior to your cat entering

Be calm and remember: "shh!" sounds a lot like hissing, so try to avoid that

Cool or warm the car to a comfortable temperature





KITTEN VACCINE INFORMATION

RABIES

Rabies is a very serious viral disease that can not only affect animals but can also affect humans. Rabies causes inflammation in the brain which can cause changes in behavior, paralysis, and even death in all mammals. Rabies is most commonly spread by a bite from an infected animal through their saliva. Animals that are likely to carry this disease include, but are not limited to: fox, wild canines, raccoons, and bats. If your animal has exposure to or has been bitten by a wild animal of any type, it is very important that you take your pet to see the veterinarian immediately regardless of vaccination status. Because rabies can be spread from animals to humans, it is required by law that pets be vaccinated.

FVRCP

The FVRCP vaccine is a core vaccine that helps protect your kitten from some serious infectious diseases.

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR) can cause relatively severe upper respiratory tract disease. It can cause congestion, sneezing and inflammation or discharge from the eyes. Many kittens in the United States are exposed to this virus at a young age. Once infected, the kitten may have flare ups causing recurrent symptoms for the rest of their life. Stress can be a contributing factor to the flare ups. The vaccine can help reduce severity of these symptoms.

Calicivirus (C) is another highly infectious disease that also causes upper respiratory disease symptoms such as congestion, sneezing and eye inflammation or discharge. Inflammation of the mouth/gums or oral ulceration may also be noted. In more severe cases, swelling, jaundice, skin lesions or lameness can be seen.

Panleukopenia (P) is a highly contagious, severe infection that causes gastrointestinal, immune system, and nervous system disease in cats. It is caused by feline parvovirus (FPV). The virus can live in the environment for up to a year, making it highly possible for cats to be exposed to it in their lifetime. Panleukopenia can be life threatening in kittens and unfortunately, there is no cure. Vaccinating is the best way to prevent your kitten from contracting this potentially fatal disease.

FELV

Feline leukemia is a retrovirus that causes a weakened immune system in cats. The virus can be spread from mother to kittens or among cats that fight. However, it is more commonly known as the “friendly cat disease” because it is mainly spread through saliva when cats groom each other, and when food and water bowls are shared. Some infected cats will live asymptotically for their entire life, while others will be more prone to developing certain types of cancers and blood diseases. Not every cat will necessarily need this vaccine due to their lifestyle. Please discuss with your veterinarian if it is recommended for your kitten.

FECAL (INTESTINAL PARASITE TEST) AND DEWORMING

A fresh stool sample is evaluated to detect the presence and type of parasite infection by microscopic evaluation and the detection of parasite antigens. Over 95% of kittens have parasites (whether we see them or not), many of which they get from their mother (sometimes through her milk), and some of these parasites can be spread to humans, especially children. For this reason, we need to check several fecal samples to determine if any parasites are present and treat your kitten, if needed. In addition, we commonly do preventative deworming during kitten vaccine visits for some of the more common parasites found in kittens. due to their lifestyle. Please discuss with your veterinarian if it is recommended for your kitten.



VACCINE REACTIONS



After vaccination it is common to have the following symptoms. These signs are common and usually resolve within **24 HOURS**.

- Mild Lethargy
- Reduced Appetite
- Soreness/Swelling at the injection site.

Please contact us if any of the reactions below occur:

- Generalized Weakness
- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Hives
- Facial Swelling

*It is recommended to watch your feline companion for these reactions for up to **48 HOURS** after vaccinations.*

HARMFUL HUMAN FOODS for PETS



PET POISON HELPLINE: 855.764.7661 | ASPCA POISON CONTROL: 888.426.4435

MEATS & FISH

- Fatty/Junk Foods
- Fat Trimmings
- Fish & Poultry Bones
- Raw Meat
- Raw Fish
- Raw Eggs

FRUITS

- Avocado
- Grapes/Raisins
- Grapefruit
- Citrus Rinds (Skin)
- Currants
- Rhubarb
- Fruit Pits: Apricots, Peaches, Plums, Cherries, Nectarines

DRINKS

- Alcohol (Beer, Wine, Liquor)
- Coffee, Tea
- Energy Drinks

VEGGIES

- Garlic
- Onions
- Chives
- Leeks
- Mushrooms
- Tomatoes

NUTS, SWEETS & SPICES

- Salty Foods (Large Amounts)
- Sugary Foods (Large Amounts)
- Artificial Sweeteners: Aspartame or Xylitol
- Chocolate
- Nutmeg
- Nuts: Macadamia, Almonds, Walnuts, Pistachios, Pecans
- Seeds: Sunflower, Pumpkin, Fruit
- Gum
- Candy

STARCHES & GRAINS

- Yeast Dough
- Moldy Bread or Food
- Homemade Play or Salt Dough
- Potato Skins
- Raw Potatoes
- Popcorn Kernels (Choking Hazard)

DAIRY

- Milk, Cream, Half & Half
- Butter, Butter Spread
- Ice Cream, Whipped Cream





No Lilies for Kitties

Many cat lovers don't realize the danger of these common flowers. Protect your feline friends and don't bring these lilies indoors or gift them to homes with cats.

Cats & Lilies Don't Mix



TIGER LILY



ASIATIC LILY



DAYLILY



JAPANESE SHOW LILY



EASTER LILY

True lilies (*Lilium* species) and daylilies (*Hemerocallis* species) are **extremely toxic** to cats. Ingestion of **petals, leaves, or pollen** can result in **kidney failure and death**. If your cat eats any part of these lilies, call Pet Poison Helpline or your veterinarian immediately.

Early treatment is imperative!

(855) 764-7661

Not all plants called "lilies" are highly toxic. Some, such as Peace (*Spathiphyllum*), Peruvian (*Alstroemeria*) and Calla (*Zantedeschia*) are less dangerous and typically cause only minor signs when eaten.

Safer cut flower choices include: Roses, sunflowers, tulips, irises, carnations, mums, cosmos, orchids, and baby's breath. These flowers may cause vomiting and diarrhea, but are not life threatening.



**PET
POISON
HELPLINE®**



MVMA
Minnesota Veterinary
Medical Association

NOLILIESFORKITTIES.COM

How to Brush Your Cat's Teeth

We recommend brushing your cat's teeth daily, starting slowly with the steps below and moving to the next step only after the cat is comfortable with the current step. Toothpaste must be made for dog/cats as it does not contain fluoride or xylitol which are highly toxic.

BRUSHING IN 4 EASY STEPS



Step 1
Handle cat's mouth by lifting lips, touching gums and teeth with your finger



Step 3
Introduce toothpaste, by placing a small amount on your finger and then the gums



Step 2
Introduce soft toothbrush, concentrating on canines and upper molars (you do not need to brush inside of teeth)



Step 4
Brush teeth with toothpaste on toothbrush

Cat Food Brands We Recommend!



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CAT'S BODY LANGUAGE

Your cat is communicating with you all the time. It's important for you to listen. They use their body to show you when they're feeling calm and relaxed, and when they're feeling stressed out and anxious. Try to avoid labels like "fractious or grumpy" and instead describe the behavior and body language you are seeing. Labels don't describe behavior, can't be tested, gives a false understanding of the problem, increases the use of ineffective training and not addressing the function of the behavior, provides excuses for people to get rid of their animals, and more.



THE GREEN ZONE

When your cat is in this zone, they're feeling calm and secure. They're likely resting or exploring an environment they feel comfortable in.



SLEEPING / RESTING

EYES: Closed to open
HEAD: On surface or over body
TAIL: Extended or loosely wrapped
EARS: Normal or forward
SOUNDS: None or purr



RESTING

EYES: Open, relaxed
BODY: Lying on belly or sitting
HEAD: On surface or over body
TAIL: Extended or loosely wrapped
EARS: Normal or forward
SOUNDS: None or purr



PERKED AND INTERESTED

EYES: Looking directly but not intensely
BODY: Back is horizontal
HEAD: Head slightly down
TAIL: Closer to body, may flicker slightly
EARS: Perked forward
EYES: Pupils slightly dilated



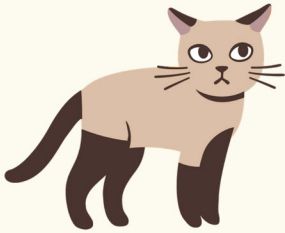
EXPLORING

EYES: Open, staring but not intensely
BODY: Back is horizontal
HEAD: Over body
TAIL: Up and winding or loosely down
EARS: Normal or perked
SOUNDS: None or "meow"



THE CAUTION ZONE

When your cat is in this zone, they're feeling moderately anxious and stressed. While in this zone, they're alert and likely uncomfortable in their current environment. When your cat is in this zone, consider whether you can remove or redirect them.



AROUSSED / MILDLY ANXIOUS

EYES: Wide open, avoiding eye contact

BODY: Shifted away

HEAD: Turns head away

TAIL: Closer to body, may flicker slightly

EARS: To the side

EYES: Pupils slightly dilated



FRIGHTENED

EYES: Fully open, pupils dilated

HEAD: Little or no movement

TAIL: Tucked, hair standing

EARS: To the side

BODY: Flat, tense / tight

SOUNDS: None



TRYING TO FLEE

EYES: Pupils dilated

HEAD: Turned toward stimulus

TAIL: Close to body, hair standing

BODY: Poised to flee, back arched

SOUNDS: None, meow, hissing



THE RED ZONE

When your cat is in this zone, they're over threshold, they're stressed, terrified and may exhibit offensive or defensive aggressive behavior due to this. It is critical that you remove the trigger and if that isn't possible, remove them (by luring) into a safe, comfortable space to calm.



FIGHT / TERRIFIED

EYES: Fully open, pupils fully dilated

HEAD: Lower than body

TAIL: Tucked, hair standing

EARS: Forward

BODY: Leaning forward, thrashing

SOUNDS: Growling, hissing



FIGHT / TERRIFIED

EYES: Fully open, pupils fully dilated, staring

HEAD: Lower than body

TAIL: Tucked, hair standing

EARS: Forward, back

BODY: Pulled back, arched back

SOUNDS: Growling, hissing



ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT SUGGESTIONS

ENTERTAIN YOUR KITTIES' BRAINS!

We advocate indoor only cats. This lifestyle keeps them healthier, safer and living longer lives. However, cats may get bored or frustrated being kept inside. Below are some suggestions for keeping them active, stimulated and happy. Remember that cats are very prey specific, so trying different varieties of toys is important to find just what your cat likes to hunt.



ALPHABET MAGNETS

Place these on the lower half of the fridge, oven, dishwasher, or on a magnetic board for your cat to bat around. You can find these at most stores with toy sections or order online.



BIRDS AND BEES

For visual entertainment attract birds or squirrels with strategic placement of bird and squirrel feeders outside windows and screened porches. For nighttime viewing, try leaving a porch light on to attract flying insects. This may help you sleep better if your cat is active at night.



BRINGING IN THE OUTSIDE

As long as your cat is current on vaccinations and deworming, bring in tree branches, rocks, leaves, things from the outdoors to pique their senses. Try hiding treats around or under these items for extra fun, or fill a box with leaves and throw a handful of treats in for your cat to forage. Additionally, you may purchase live catnip or grass plants from most PetSmart locations. These plants provide instant gratification and cost about \$5.00 each.



CAT CARRIER

Try leaving your cat's carrier out in the home all the time. Make it inviting by placing bedding and/or treats inside for your cat to enjoy. This will also desensitize your cat to the carrier making trips to the vet easier for both of you. Clicker training is a positive way to train your cat to willingly enter their cat carrier. Teaching this could save their life in case of an emergency!



CATNIP MARINADE

Place all soft fuzzy toys in container with catnip to "marinate". You can do this as often as needed to refresh the scent. This can be financially helpful because you won't have to buy new toys as often.



CHIRPING FUZZY MICE AND BIRDS

There are many versions of these motion activated toys. Some chirp like live mice, some move around and some have flashing lights.

CLICKER TRAINING



Clicker training can be used as both an enrichment tool and as a training aid to fix unwanted behaviors. Cats are incredibly intelligent and trainable we simply have to create that expectation! Clicker training can help control less desirable behaviors such as counter surfing or inappropriate scratching or teach them to run an agility course for fun and exercise! Cats can be trained to sit, come, hi-five, shake even walk on a leash and harness. Much like their canine counterparts, training your cat stimulates the brain, gives them a job to do and gives them a more enriched life. A good reference book is "Training Your Cat" by Dr. Kersti Seksel or "Naughty No More" by Marilyn Krieger. Karen Pryor is also the go to source for all thing clicker related!

DRINKING FOUNTAIN



There are several different water fountains for cats that simulate drinking from a stream or water faucet. The model we prefer is the Drinkwell Pet Fountain. It can be easily taken apart and cleaned, has charcoal filters that can be replaced as needed and you can purchase an optional reservoir which is great for multi-cat households or cats that require lots of fresh water. Retail price starts at approximately \$49.99 and can be ordered directly from the manufacturer at www.vetventures.com or by calling 866-322-2530. We also like the stainless steel fountains as they are not porous, even easier to clean and dishwasher safe! Pioneer Pet makes some nice stainless fountains.

FELINE FURNITURE



Cat Condos will give your cat a place of their own, increase vertical space in your home and create "safe zones" from dogs, children or other cats. Our favorite condos are from www.AngelicalCat.com, they carry a wide array of styles, sizes and colors. You may reach Angelical Cat by phone at 954-747-3629. Some other websites we recommend are www.TrendyCat.com, www.KittyPod.com and www.TheRefinedFeline.com. Scratching posts and horizontal cardboard scratching pads give your cat an appropriate surface to scratch. The "Cat's Meow Scratching Post" is available for retail sale at Paws Whiskers & Claws, The Feline Hospital in Marietta, Ga. Cardboard scratchers are available at most pet retail outlets.

FISH TANKS



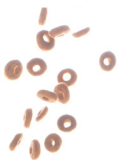
Having a fish tank is an excellent way to keep your cat occupied, especially at night when you are trying to sleep. Obviously, you'll want to make sure to have a secure lid to keep fish safe. Also, make sure you are prepared for the effort of caring for additional pets.

FORAGING TOYS



These are toys that must be manipulated for your cat to obtain a food reward. Unfortunately, there are not nearly as many styles of foraging toys commercially available for cats as there are for their canine counterparts. You can make your own foraging toys by using small plastic household containers and cutting out holes that are slightly larger than the size of the food/treats that you will put inside. Another homemade variation would be a shoebox with holes cut out about the size of a ping pong ball and then fill with treats and a few ping pong balls as an "obstacle". Be sure to tape the lid on. There are a variety of foraging toys available at Paws Whiskers & Claws, The Feline Hospital. To shop for toys and to learn more about foraging visit www.FundamentallyFeline.com

HUNTING



In addition to foraging, satisfy your cat's prey drive, by hiding treats or food around the house, in places your cat frequents such as: on top of their scratching post, cat condos, window seats or anywhere you know they will seek it out or stumble upon it.

INTERACTIVE TOYS



These are toys that allow you and you cat to play together and often provide great exercise for your cat. The Feline Flyer is a feather toy that mimics a bird and the Dragonfly is a toy on a wire creating erratic movement. A good old fashion piece of string works great too-just make sure to always put it away when playtime is over. If ingested, string or



ribbon can cause an intestinal obstruction which is very dangerous. There are a myriad of interactive toys available, find the one that peeks your cat's prey drive! Play with your cat daily!

KEEPIN' IT FRESH

While cats don't like drastic changes to their routine or environment, subtle changes can be good. Moving the furniture around or changing a cat condo from one window to another can be stimulating and create interest instead of stress.



LIGHT-UP LASER BALLS

Just like the chirping fuzzy mice and birds above, there are many different motion activated balls that provide hours of entertainment for cats by flashing when touched or rolled.

MOTORIZED TOYS

There are many motorized toys available on the market. The Panic Mouse has been previously featured in Catnip magazine as "Best Motorized Toy" of the year. It is "...an electronic mouse that randomly waves a wand and attached spider toy through the air for your cat to chase and grab, mimicking a human waving a wand toy. The wand moves in different directions and at different speeds, sometimes pausing. It is also height and speed adjustable." The Panic Mouse as well as other great motorized toys can be ordered at www.PanicMouseInc.com or by calling 951-506-3643 and costs approximately \$30.00. The Fling-a-ma-string, The Undercover Mouse, and many others can provide hours of automatic fun for your feline friend. Remember your cat should always be supervised during play-do not leave these toys turned on when you are not home.



NATURE VIDEOS/MUSIC

Some cats enjoy watching television, especially if it's geared for them. They'll love the sounds and sights of nature videos or try leaving the television tuned to Animal Planet. There are also videos produced for cats that feature aquariums, birds and squirrels. You can purchase DVD's designed exclusively for cats or try leaving classical music playing to soothe your cat when you are not home.



NIGHTLIGHTS

Cats cannot see in the dark, however cats can see well in about 1/8th of the light required by a human. This is why cats are most active and hunt at dawn and dusk (called crepuscular). This lighting can be mimicked at home by placing nightlights by food, litter box or sleeping areas. This will benefit all cats, particularly those who are geriatric, and it may also decrease intercat aggression.



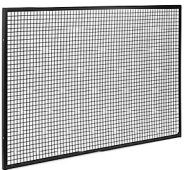
OLD STANDBYS

Cats love investigating things like cardboard boxes, paper bags, newspaper tents and cardboard rolls from paper towels or toilet paper. You can also try putting toys or treats inside the cardboard rolls thus turning them into foraging toys.



OUTDOOR ENCLOSURES

Even indoor cats can enjoy the outdoors safely through screened in porches, screened in decks, window seats, chain link enclosures (www.HabitatHaven.com) or Kitty Walks (877-548-8905 or www.KittyWalkSystems.com). The most important thing is to ensure that the enclosure is secure, covered on all four sides and has a roof or ceiling so that cats can't escape. The Purrfect Fence (www.PurrfectFence.com) does not have a roof but does offer a secure "Houdini-Proof" arch that prevents cats from being able to scale the fence. If you allow your cats outdoor time in an enclosure or on a leash and harness, make sure your cats are current on vaccines, flea control and are dewormed regularly.



PING-PONG BALLS

Try putting 2 or more ping-pong balls in a bathtub. Cats will love jumping in and batting them around. This can be a bit noisy, so if the bathtub is near your bedroom, make sure to take them out before you go to sleep. And put the stopper in the tub so the ball does not get stuck.





STROLLIN'

Have you ever considered taking your cats for walk? A cat stroller is the perfect way to do this! These strollers are 100% screened in with pet proof screening and often have many of the same features as an infant stroller such as: collapsibility for easy storage, cup holders, lightweight, etc. If you walk your dog take kitty with you!



VERTICAL SPACE

Similar to a free standing cat condo, vertical space allows your cat the comfort of navigating their space without having to touch the ground. Cats feel more secure when they are up high. The nice thing about vertical space verses a cat condo is that it does not take up a foot print on your floor. It is a series of runs, perches, and tall scratch poles that allow the cat to cruise from wall to wall and room to room, all with the ability to survey the home from a high vantage point! To learn more visit www.FundamentallyFeline.com



WATER FUN

Place small wind up toys in a sink filled with water; also try any items that float like ping-pong balls, or a large bright marble so they have to "go fishing" for it. You can find wind up toys in the infant bath section of toy or department stores.





Tabitha Kucera CCBC, RVT, KPA-CTP

Chirrupsandchatter.com

Chirrup and Chatters offers education lectures, workshops, and behavior consulting to shelters.

PLAYING WITH YOUR CAT

Exercising your cats prey drive with interactive and solo play is a crucial part of your cat's development and contributes greatly to their quality of life. It provides exercise and mental and physical stimulation. It also allows your cat to express their natural behavior and provides predatory outlets, reduces boredom, helps with weight management, and bonds you and your cat closer to each other.

REMEMBER TO ALWAYS PROVIDE YOUR CATS WITH VARIETY AND CHOICE AND SEE WHAT THEY LIKE BEST.

TYPES OF PLAY

SOLO PLAY: This includes toys your cat can play with on their own. Also, providing your cat with toys they can play with on their own is recommended, everything from ping pong balls, motorized toys and catnip kicker toys, which are great for cats to attack, bunny kick, and snuggle with. Toy rotation is a simple idea that will keep your cat more interested in playing and prevent boredom. A few of my favorite motorized toys are PetFusion ambush interactive electric cattoy, SmartyKat electronic motion cat toy, and FroliCat pounce automatic catteaser

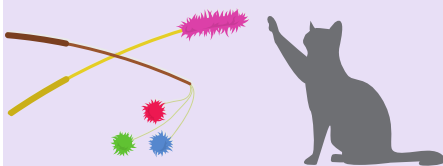
INTERACTIVE PLAY (social with humans): This is when you are playing with your cat. There are various ways to play a part in your cat's play including scheduled playtimes, impromptu play times, clicker training, and playing fetch with your cat. Some of my favorite wand toys are Da Bird, Go Cat Da Bird, Neko Flies toys, and the Cat Dancer toy. When it comes to play sessions with your cat, there are important do's and don'ts's which is listed below.

EXPLORE, SEARCH, FORAGE PLAY: This includes environmental enrichment which allows the cat to perch, hide, search, and forage. See enrichment handout for more!

IT IS IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES AND CHOICES FOR ALL TYPES OF PLAY.

ALWAYS

- **SIMULATE PREY:** When using an interactive toy such as a feather wand or a mouse on a string, move the toy like the prey it's supposed to represent. When birds aren't flying, for example, they hop around on the ground and then flutter off to land somewhere else. Mice and other rodents scurry with sudden starts and stops, keeping to corners and hidden places. If you're really serious about learning to play like prey, watch them at work in your yard or study videos of their behavior.
- **USE A WAND TOY** to play with your cat, avoid using your hands so your cats learn appropriate play.
- **IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO LET YOUR CAT "CATCH" THEIR PREY DURING THE PLAY SESSION.** Make sure the cat gets to catch and bite the toy frequently. Otherwise, they will get frustrated and either stop playing with you or act out in response to their unfulfilled urges.



NEVER

- **TOUCH/PET YOUR CAT** when you are playing with him
- **PLAY USING YOUR HANDS, feet, or any body part** as a toy
- **DANGLE ITEMS** of clothing as play objects
- **WRESTLE** with your cat
- **TEASE** a cat with a toy but never let them catch and bite it
- **LIFT THE CAT** off the ground as they are biting or grabbing a toy- by lifting the toy or the cat
- **SWING OR TOSS A TOY** directly at the cat's head or body



- **PLAY WITH YOUR CAT DAILY** using fishing poll/string type toys that simulate the unpredictable movement of prey.
- **GRADUALLY WIND DOWN EACH PLAY SESSION**, so the cat is not over-excited when you finish. For example, towards end of session, have the bird toy start to slow down and “die”. End each session with a small treat. Remember, for cats when hunting, it includes staring, stalking, pouncing, kill and eat. Giving them a small treat at the end of the session simulates them eating their kill.

- **HIT A CAT** with a toy
- **STOP PLAYING** while the cat is looking at the toy (even if they are not jumping or pouncing) as staring and stalking is a part of your cats natural hunting behavior
- **ABRUPTLY END A PLAY SESSION** without a wind-down period

REWARD POLITE REQUESTS FOR PLAY

We want to reinforce behaviors we like and when a cat asks kindly to play, what better way than to reinforce them with play!

HOW DOES A CAT ASK POLITELY TO PLAY? HERE'S A FEW EXAMPLES:

- If your cat brings you a toy
- If they sit in front of you and look at you with urgency
- If they go to a place where you keep toys or play typically
- When your cat becomes more active
- If the cat squirms adorably on their back or rolls over

HOW TO REACT TO A PLAYFULLY AGGRESSIVE ATTACK: DOS AND DON'TS

YOUR RESPONSE TO AN ATTACK FROM YOUR CAT CAN DETERMINE IF THE ATTACK ESCALATES OR ENDS, AND IF THE BEHAVIOR WILL IMPROVE OR WORSEN. *CONSISTENCY IS IMPORTANT.*

DO

- **GAME OVER.** Stop all play and calmly withdraw from the cat.
- **REDIRECT** your cat to appropriate toys. Use fetch toys or toys on a stick to keep the cat away from the human. If you have a common area your kitten ambushes and attacks, place a basket of toys there so it is easily accessible to you, then toss the toy in front of you prior to walking past common ambush areas.
- **PROVIDE INTERACTIVE PLAY** at least twice per day, preferably morning and evening hours. Good toys include cat-dancers, fishing pole toys, string-toys. Stick to a regular play routine so your cat has appropriate outlets for play and plenty of exercise. Also leave toys that they can play with alone. Try to vary them regularly to ease boredom.
- **LEARN TO RECOGNIZE EARLY SIGNS** of play aggression, such as dilated pupils, hiding around corners, and crouching. Redirect the cat immediately at the first sign of these behaviors.
- **OFFER YOUR CAT MORE MENTAL STIMULATION** with clicker training, harness walks, feeding with puzzle toys, and rotate toys.

DON'T

- **REACT WITH A QUICK JERK AWAY** from the cat because this is how prey responds to an attack and this can trigger continuing aggression.
- **USE PUNISHMENT** including yelling, spraying with water, grabbing, and hitting. Punishment should be avoided because it will escalate the cats behavior often resulting in aggression. Punishment **does not teach the cat the wanted behavior**, can cause fear and anxiety, can break the human animal bond and lastly, your cat deserves better!
- **HAVE A BIG REACTION** such as screaming and jumping because this may make the cat think you just attacked them back, which could increase the aggression.
- **PUT THE CAT IN A "TIME OUT,"** i.e. carry them into a room to confine them, especially if the cat is likely to bite you when you pick them up.
- **REACT IN ANGER** because this can cause fearfulness and stress in your cat, can escalate the attack, and most certainly will not improve the behavior.



SOCIALIZATION & ACCLIMATION

WHAT IS SOCIALIZATION?

Socialization is training a kitten to be comfortable with the people, places, and things she may see in everyday life.

WHY IS SOCIALIZATION IMPORTANT?

It is important that kittens are exposed to a variety of new people, places, and objects when they are young, especially when they are in a safe setting and are getting rewarded. Cats that aren't exposed to these things, or who have a bad experience while they were a kitten, may develop permanent fears which can lead to anxiety and aggression later in life.

WHAT CAN I DO TO SOCIALIZE MY KITTEN?

It is important that your kitten gets used to stimuli in day to day life, as well as stimuli that she won't be seeing on a regular basis. For example, a kitten that has grown up in the country might be scared of the sounds of construction or city traffic. We've included a checklist of the most common people, places, noises, and objects to help guide your training.

HOW DO I MAKE SURE MY KITTEN ISN'T SCARED?

Anytime your kitten is introduced to something new, it is important to reassure the kitten that she is safe. Give the kitten small treats or her favorite toy so she can associate the new experience with a happy feeling. For example, whenever your kitten meets a new person, have that person give the kitten treats or play with her. You can also encourage her with a soothing voice.

If your kitten seems afraid, then stop right away, and try again later. Remember, a kitten that is afraid of something now could be afraid of it for her whole life. Make sure to have very delicious treats on hand, and go very slowly the next time you try to introduce your kitten to something she is scared of. Never push her farther than she is willing to go.

HOW OLD SHOULD MY KITTEN BE?

A kitten is driven to explore and be social in the first three months of life. After this, kittens have a tendency to be more cautious of new experiences.

Most kittens will stay with their mother and littermates until they are 6-8 weeks old, then you should make sure the kitten has regular socialization and exposure to new things. It is important that all kittens continue training and socialization until they are adults, and beyond!

HOW CAN I HELP MY FEARFUL KITTEN?

Chirrup and Chatter has a comprehensive article to reference for recommendations and techniques to help socialize and acclimate a fearful kitten. They explain how to set up a pleasant environment and how to meet your kitten where they're at to socialize or use counter-conditioning techniques to make them more comfortable. Please check it out at:

<https://chirrupandchatter.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FearfulKittenSocialization-2020.pdf>



SOCIALIZATION & ACCLIMATION

KITTEN SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST

This checklist is to help keep track of what your kitten has experienced, and what they may need help getting use to.

For The Vet Visit/Handling

- Checking the ears
- Examining the Mouth
- Handling and squeezing feet, trimming toenails
- Cradling the kitten in your arms
- Putting pressure on toes to extent the nail
- Crate/Carrier
- Pinching Skin
- Holding in your lap
- Putting on collar, harness, leash
- Car ride in carrier

Unfamiliar People

- Women
- Men: tall, deep voice, beard
- Elderly
- Unique clothing: winter clothes, hats, sunglasses, hoodies, backpacks
- Infants, toddlers, children: crawling, standing, playing, walking, making noise
- People running, playing sports
- Teenagers
- People walking with a cane or a walker

Other Animals

- Other kittens or adult cats that play well
- Any species of animal your kitten might interact with

Surfaces

- Stairs
- Metal surfaces (vet hospital scale)
- Slippery floors (Linoleum, hardwood)
- If planning on walking: grass, wet ground

Scary Sounds

- Thunder
- Babies and Children
- Doorbell/knocking on door
- Sirens
- Fireworks
- Alarms (clock, smoke detector)
- Vacuum Cleaner/Broom
- Pots and pans

Objects with Wheels

- Wheelchair
- Baby Stroller
- Passing Cars, buses, motorcycles

Man-Made Objects

- Balloons
- Umbrellas
- Garbage cans
- Garbage bags, plastic bags

Locations

- The Veterinarian's Office
- Groomer (if they need grooming)



DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIORS

WHAT CAN I DO TO STOP MY CAT FROM CHEWING?

During exploration and play, kittens (and some adult cats), will chew on a variety of objects. Not only can this lead to damage or destruction of the owner's possessions, but some chewing can be dangerous to the cat. The first step is to ensure that the cat has appropriate opportunities and outlets for play, scratching, climbing, chewing and exploration. (See our handout on Feline play and investigative behaviors). Next, potential targets of the cat's chewing should be kept out of reach. When this is not possible the cat may need to be confined to a cat proof room, or the problem areas may have to be booby trapped. String and thread, electric cords, plastic bags, twist ties, "hair ties" and pins and needles are just a few of the objects that cats may chew or swallow resulting in intestinal foreign bodies and possibly the need for surgery.

Another common target of feline chewing is houseplants. The best solution is to keep the cat away from household plants whenever the cat cannot be supervised. Booby traps may also be effective. Placing rocks or gravel in the soil, mothballs, or a maze of wooden skewers can help to keep the cat from climbing on, digging in, or eliminating in the soil. Some cats may be interested in chewing on dog toys or biscuits, and feeding a dry cat food may help satisfy some cats need to chew. In some cats the desire for chewing plant material can best be satisfied by providing some greens (e.g. lettuce, parsley) in the food, or by planting a small kitty herb garden for chewing.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY CAT THAT SUCKS ON WOOL AND FABRICS?

Although sucking on wool or other fabrics may be seen occasionally in any cat, the problem is most commonly seen in Burmese and Siamese cats, or Oriental mix breeds. Although some cats do grow out of the problem within a few years, the problem may remain for life. The first step in correction is to provide alternative objects for chewing and sucking. Some cats may be interested in one of the many chew toys or chew treats designed primarily for dogs. Feeding dry and high fiber foods may also be helpful or making food more difficult to obtain by placing large rocks in the food dish, which encourage the cat to "forage". You may also want to use feeding puzzles or feeding toys. Second, be certain that the cat has plenty of play periods with the owners, or even a playmate to keep it exercised and occupied. This may require the owner not only to schedule play time, but to control the cat toys and every 1 - 3 days provide a rotating inventory of toys to stimulate usage. Other cats will respond well to training interactions with their owner, and cats can be taught tricks. Finally, cat proofing techniques or booby traps will likely be required whenever the owner cannot supervise.

Some cats are so persistent in their desire to suck wool that more drastic measures may be required. Covering chew toys with a small amount of a product containing lanolin (such as hand cream) for licking is occasionally helpful. For some cats, it may be necessary to leave the cat with one or two woolen objects to suck on, provided no significant amounts are swallowed. If these techniques do not help, then it may be necessary to use a cat cage with perches when the cat is unsupervised to avoid continued ingestion of material.

Some cats have such a strong and seemingly uncontrollable desire to suck that the condition has been compared to compulsive disorders in people. The same drugs used for human compulsive disorders may be useful for some of these cases. If your cat shows persistent efforts to suck, chew or ingest material, a consultation with a veterinary behaviorist, or applied animal behaviorist may be necessary to control the behavior.



AAHA DECLAWING

THE AMERICAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION STRONGLY OPPOSES THE ELECTIVE DECLAWING OF DOMESTIC CATS.

Scratching is a normal feline behavior. Cats scratch to: Condition their claws by removing old nail sheaths Stretch and exercise their bodies Communicate visually and through scent left behind from glands on the paws

Veterinarians and cat owners must work together to establish appropriate scratching behaviors by: Providing suitable implements for normal scratching behavior, such as scratching posts (many varieties available), cardboard, wood, carpet, or fabric remnants affixed to stationary objects. Implements should be tall or long enough to allow full stretching and be firmly anchored to provide necessary resistance to scratching.

Making appropriate scratching objects more attractive than furniture, which often includes placement near the current object being used and in favorite resting areas.

Training cats through positive reinforcement to use appropriate scratching sites by employing treats, catnip, verbal praise, and/or hormone attractants.

Trimming cats' nails often.

Considering artificial nail caps.

Avoiding rough play; owners should not use their own body parts (feet, hands) as play toys.

Using furniture protectors as needed to deter unwanted scratching.

The following points are integral to understanding why declawing is no longer viewed as a reasonable procedure:

- Declawing is not just removal of the claw; it is an amputation of the third bone in each toe.
- There are inherent risks and complications with any surgical procedure including, but not limited to anesthetic complications, analgesic side effects, hemorrhage, infection, and pain.
- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not list declawing as a means of preventing disease in either healthy or immunocompromised individuals.
- Recent retrospective studies have found significant increase (three to seven times more likely) of the following in declawed compared to non-declawed cats: chronic back pain, inappropriate urination, biting, and overgrooming.



Tabitha Kucera CCBC, RVT, KPA-CTP

Chirrupsandchatter.com

Chirrup and Chatter offers educational lectures, workshops, and behavior consulting to shelters, veterinary hospitals, and animal organizations

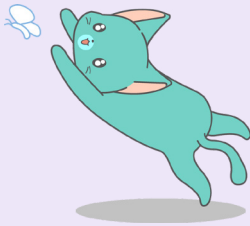
HOW TO STOP DESTRUCTIVE SCRATCHING IN CATS

Cats causing damage by scratching furniture and other household items is a common complaint among cat owners. Although this can be frustrating, it is important to remember that scratching is a normal and natural behavior for cats. Even though the urge for cats to scratch is normal, scratching places we feel are inappropriate, such as our couches and stairway posts, makes it a destructive behavior. Luckily, this is one that can be easily prevented and managed.

WHY DO CATS SCRATCH?

Scratching is an instinctive cat behavior, and it's vital for their physical and mental needs. By understanding your cat's scratching behavior, you can prevent damage to your home. There are various reasons why cats scratch including mobility, balance, and more:

TO MAINTAIN NECESSARY CLAW MOTION USED IN HUNTING AND CLIMBING



Cats are natural hunters and they use their claws to capture and hold prey. They also use this motion to exercise the forelimb muscles and spine to keep them in good condition for hunting.

EMOTIONAL OUTLET



Cats scratch to relieve stress and scratch when they become excited or aroused. Have you ever seen your cat slowly walk by another cat in your home and then begin scratching? They are releasing their frustration. Or, has your cat ever started scratching as soon as you come home from work? Your cat is excited to see you!

EXERCISE THAT STRENGTHENS AND STRETCHES THEIR MUSCLES



Scratching is a good form of exercise and helps to keep your cats in shape. They get to stretch out their bodies and extend and retract their nails. Just like many of us, cats like to stretch when they first wake up.

MARKING BEHAVIOR AND COMMUNICATION



Cats scratch to communicate with other cats. Their paw pads have scent glands, which leave odors behind when they scratch so that other cats know that they have been in the area. Scratching also leaves small gouges or tears, which are visual signals to other cats in the area.

FELINE NAIL CARE



When your cat scratches on an object, it removes the outer dead sheath of the nail and exposes the healthy new growth underneath. It is not uncommon to find crescent moon shaped nail sheaths around your cat's favorite scratching spots.

FUN



Cats love to stretch, scratch, and play!

Claws are important for mobility. Cats are digitigrade which means they walk on their toes. All of the cat's joints and muscles are designed to distribute weight onto the toes at a walk or a run. Claws are important for climbing, play or escape, and are important for cats to feel safe. Claws are useful for balance and cats use their claws to defend themselves during conflicts.

HOW CAN I PREVENT MY CAT FROM SCRATCHING?

The short answer is you can't. Scratching is a normal behavior for your cat. It is unreasonable to expect this behavior to simply not exist. Cats are going to scratch, and we need to provide appropriate outlets for them to express and experience this natural and instinctive behavior. **Do not** punish your cat for scratching. Punishment **does not** teach the cat the wanted behavior and **does not** effectively communicate with your cat what you do want, can increase fear, anxiety, and stress, and could damage the bond between you and your cat.



Work with your cat's current behavior to figure out what scratcher would be best. Study where your cat scratches. Is it horizontal? Vertical? What substrate is it most similar to? Cardboard? Wood? Sisal rope? Experiment with a variety of substrates and types of scratchers to determine which your cat prefers. Use catnip, silvervine, Feliscratch, or fun hanging toys to make their new scratchers extra appealing!



Scratchers should be sturdy and not wobbly or fall over when your cat is scratching them. Cat scratching posts need to be tall so your cat can stand on their hind legs and fully extend their body up the side of the post.



Our cats like to be with us, so place scratchers in areas where you spend time as well as where your cats spend their time. Cats often stretch or scratch when they wake up, so consider placing one near where your cats sleep. Cats also scratch when in a tense situation or as a way to displace anxiety. Locate and place scratchers in all the areas where you think your cats would appreciate it most.

The best way to stop your cat from scratching your belongings is not to fight against their very nature to stop them scratching at all, but to provide them with their own things to scratch! Have fun figuring out what works, provide lots of positive reinforcement with treats and pets when they scratch appropriately, and enjoy a peaceful happy household!



PAWS NEED CLAWS!

Scratching is a normal & instinctive behavior that is vital for their physical and mental needs.





HOUSE TRAINING

DO I NEED TO TRAIN MY NEW KITTEN TO USE A LITTER BOX?

Cats by nature use a soil type surface for elimination. By providing a litter box with an appropriate and appealing substrate (material), most cats do not need to be trained to use it. At about 30–36 days of age kittens leave the nest to search out a loose substrate for elimination. The kitten learns specific areas and substrates to use by observation of the queen (mother). Kittens dig in the substrate and bury their stools and urine. Kittens develop a substrate preference (what they prefer to scratch in) by 10 weeks of age. A kitten found as a stray or adopted from an outside environment, such as a barn, may need more patience and time to litter box train.

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT I NEED TO DO TO AID THIS PROCESS?

Initially it is important that the kitten be confined to a small area with an appropriate sized litter box. This allows you to take advantage of a cat's tendency to eliminate in a loose material. As long as the kitty litter is the only loose substrate available, and especially if it is the same type of substrate that it is used to from its previous home, very little effort should be required to litter box train the kitten. About the only other indoor area that might appeal to a number of cats is the soil around houseplants. Ensuring that the cat is prevented from getting into houseplants, except when you are around to supervise deals with this problem. Kittens, like dogs, will need to eliminate after they eat, after they wake up and after play. At those times place the kitten in its litterbox and praise her for elimination. A kitten does not need to be confined continuously, but should be supervised to prevent accidents and frequently brought back to the appropriate elimination location.

WHAT TYPE OF LITTER MATERIAL SHOULD I USE?

There are many types of litter materials available today. These include plain clay litters, fine "clumping" litters, recycled newspapers and many others. Some have materials added to control odor. The type you choose is up to you. Since the kitten will first start eliminating by following the cues of the queen, continuing with the same litter as used in the first home is helpful.

WHAT SIZE AND TYPE OF LITTER BOX SHOULD I BUY?

Initially, the size of the litter box should be determined by the size of the kitten or cat. A very small kitten may need a box with shorter sides for easier access. As the kitten grows, a larger box may be more appropriate. As a reference, the litter box should be 1.5 times the length of your cat. This will give ample room for them to turn around and comfortably position to relieve themselves. Some owners prefer litter boxes with covers on them. This is acceptable if it is acceptable to the cat. You need to be sure that the cat can negotiate the opening by stepping into it and that the cat is not too large to fit into the opening.

WHERE SHOULD I PUT THE LITTER BOX?

The litter box should be placed in a location that is easily accessed by the cat, yet out of the way. Try to avoid congested household areas. The cat should have some privacy and quiet to eliminate. We don't recommend placing the litterbox in a laundry room or furnace room since the unpredictable noise can be disruptive and aversive to your cat. Try to put the litter box in an area that is convenient for you to check on and keep clean. Do not put food and water bowls right next to the litter box. If there are dogs in the home, then the litter box should be located where the cat can eliminate without being bothered by them. "In a multi-cat home, litter boxes should be spaced around the home instead of clustering them in one area.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I CLEAN THE LITTER BOX?

One of the most important factors in continued litter box usage by house cats is cleanliness. Cats are very fastidious animals, and spend time each day making sure their coat, feet and face are clean. One can assume that they would like a clean place to eliminate. The number of cats in the home and litter usage determines the time between litter cleaning. Fecal material should be removed on a daily basis, whether the litter material type is clumping or plain. For clumping materials daily or every other day removal of urine material is recommended. For other litter material types, cleaning and removal of litter material should be done every 3-7 days. Remember, each cat is an individual, your cat may like more frequent cleaning of the litter box to maintain good usage patterns. Some cats dislike the odor of the cleansers used to clean litter boxes, so rinse the box thoroughly after each cleaning.

HOW MANY LITTER BOXES DO I NEED IN MY HOME?

The number of litter boxes needed depends on the number of cats, the size of the home, the temperament of the cat, and other pets in the home. When there are multiple cats, multiple pans should be available in different locations, not all side-by-side in one place. Because there can be varied interactions between individuals, multiple boxes in multiple locations allow house-mates to avoid one another if they so choose. Even for only one cat, two boxes may be appropriate depending on the layout of the home and the individual preferences of the cat. Some cats prefer one box for urine and one for stool. Some physical limitation may prevent a cat from climbing stairs and so a box in the location the cat frequents is needed. As a good rule of thumb, there should at least one more litter box than cats in your home. For example, if there are two cats, there should be at least three litter boxes.

WHAT IF THE KITTEN DOES NOT USE ITS LITTER BOX?

Should the kitten begin to eliminate in locations other than its litter box, first review the steps above. Is the litter in an area that is appealing and easily accessed by the cat? Is there anything in the area that may be a deterrent? Is the litter box being cleaned often enough? Are there enough litter boxes for the number of cats? To determine the most appealing litter for your cat, offer two or more different litters in the same type of box, side-by-side and see which one, if any, the cat uses most frequently. Next, determine the type of litter box the cat prefers by offering two or more litter box types side-by-side (each with the preferred type of litter). You can determine the cat's preferred location by offering the preferred litter box with the preferred litter in two or more locations and determining which one, if any, the cat uses more frequently. If litter box problems then persist, additional guidance and perhaps a behavior consultation might be required. For more information and creative litterbox ideas, please check out the ABC's of Litterboxes at: <https://chirrupsandchatter.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/LitterboxABCs-2020.pdf>.





LOST PET

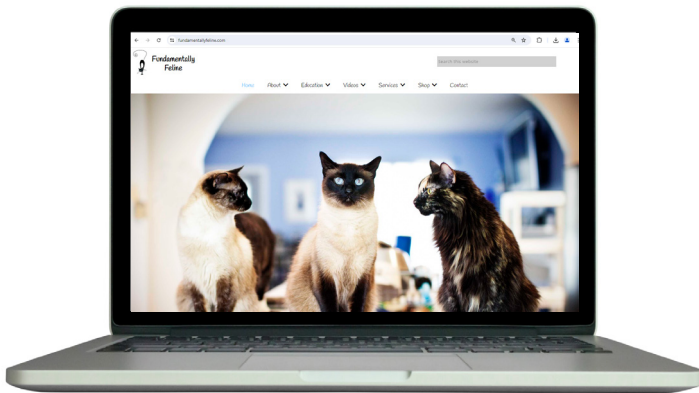
11 THINGS TO DO IF YOUR PET IS LOST

Nearly one in five lost pets goes missing after being scared by the sound of fireworks, thunderstorms or other loud noises, according to a survey by The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. And, while losing your pet can be a traumatic experience for both you and your pet, have hope as 93 percent of dogs and 75 percent of cats reported lost are returned safely to their homes, according to another survey. If you do lose your pet, here are 10 top tips to help reunite you with your furry friend as quickly as possible:

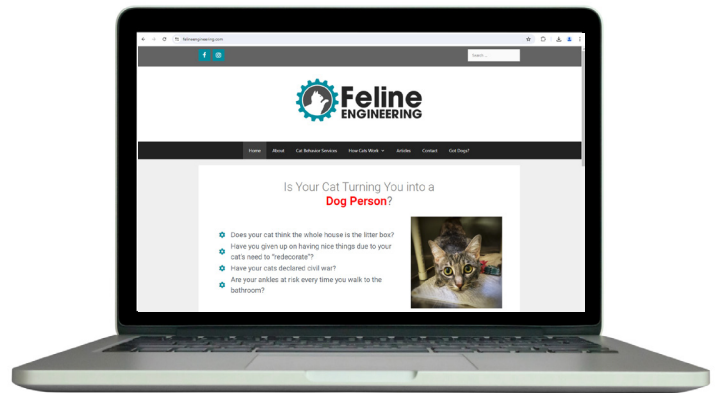
1. Microchip your pets and make sure to keep your information current any time you move or change phone numbers.
2. File a lost pet report with every shelter and animal control office within a 60-mile radius of your home and visit the nearest shelters daily, if possible.
3. Get the word out to all veterinarians in the area. Sometimes people pick up a stray and drive it to a distant clinic.
4. Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. Enlist friends and family to help. Hand out a recent photograph of your pet and your contact information.
5. Speak with your neighbors. The more people know you have lost a pet and that you are desperately trying to find your pet, the more people will call you if they see a loose animal.
6. Place flyers in the neighborhood and public places. To avoid scams, when describing your pet, leave out one characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.
7. Post about your pet on all pet recovery websites and services. Sites such as [Craigslist.org](https://www.craigslist.org), Facebook Pages: Dayton, Ohio and Surrounding Area Lost and Found Pets, [TheCenterForLostPets.com](https://www.thecenterforlostpets.com) and [FidoFinder.com](https://www.fidofinder.com) broadcast your missing pet quickly.
8. Consider a lost pet recovery service. There are numerous lost pet alert services that will contact homes, veterinarians, shelters and animal control organizations for a reasonable fee.
9. Place food and water outside your home. Your pets may return to your home when they get hungry or thirsty. Consider placing food in a humane pet trap to capture them.
10. Tell everyone you see about your pet and ask them to keep their eyes open. The more people you alert, the greater the chance someone will recollect seeing your pet in their area.
11. Don't give up. Be aggressive in your search, get lots of help and get the word out right away. You need those early hours to put up posters and start your search.



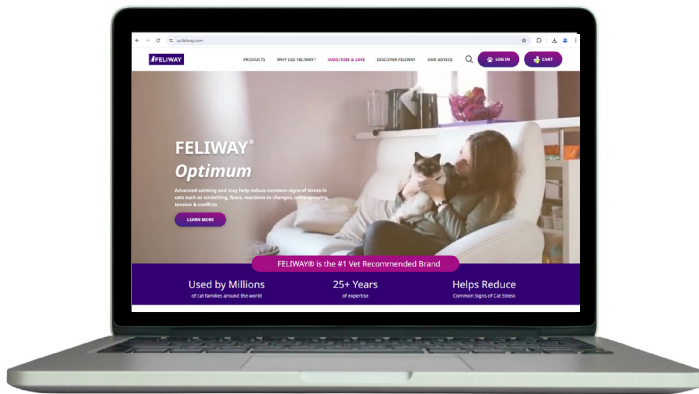
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



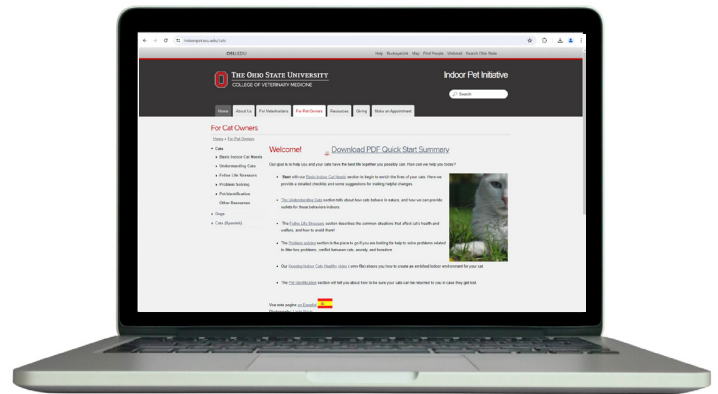
fundamentallyfeline.com



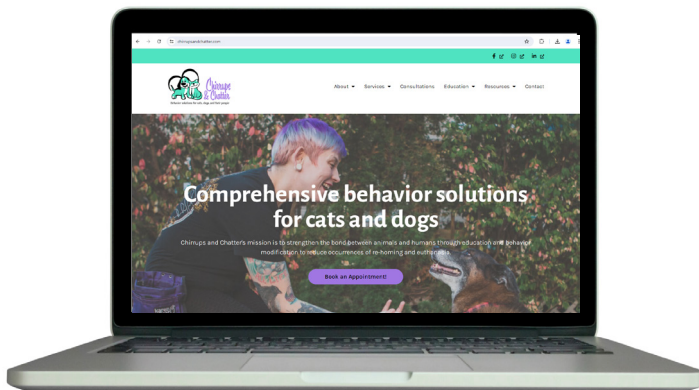
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