



CAT CARE EXPLAINED

BRING YOUR TALENTS. FIND YOUR PURPOSE. CHANGE LIVES.

Volunteers help in providing socialization for the many cats and kittens at the shelter. Even though we have cats that are extremely social, always keep in mind that the cats at the shelter are in a stressful environment and some may not always be willing to be social.

If for any reason you are fearful or uncertain of how a cat will react, please do not attempt to handle the cat.

Cat Handling Procedures

- When handling cats in kennels, read the cat's body language. Never force a cat out of the kennel, or interact with it, if they appear stressed. If you want to spend time with a kennel cat, interact inside their kennel. If they don't appear to be enjoying the attention, leave some tasty treats and try again later.
- Avoid loud noises and quick movements. Never chase the cats. If you want a cat to come over to you, entice them with a tasty treat or a toy!
- If there are small kittens at the shelter, be very gentle with them. If they have a heating pad, make sure that it is on during Shelter Operation Hours.
- Avoid picking up a cat. They may scratch or bite.
- Cat grooming consists of brushing and is a way of socialization and enrichment, as long as it's something they enjoy.
- As you get to know and work with each cat, you will learn about their personalities and what each cat likes and dislikes. Socialization and enrichment helps cats get adopted. Petting, grooming, and playing are all important components of socialization, but only if they're enjoying it. If we overlook their body language, it could have the opposite effect.
- Please alert our Staff to any medical issues you may notice with a cat or kitten. Immediately report any accidents, injuries and bites involving you and/or the public, to shelter Staff. There are first aid supplies available in the Food Prep Room and a report may have to be filed. This is not to get them in trouble, it's to have a better idea of what type of home is the best fit for them!
- Report any undesirable behaviors you notice or medical issues in the room's white board.
- Sometimes there is a cat in the shelter that needs to be quarantined if there has been a medical or behavioral issue. Please do not open their kennel if they are marked this way.
- Protect animals at home from any diseases that could be spread from the shelter to your home. If there is an outbreak of a disease at the shelter, make sure you bring a change of clothes to put on before you re-enter your own home, change or remove your shoes and always wash your hands thoroughly.



Morning Cat Care

- Morning shift starts between 7:30 am and 8:00 am every day. It is always best to work with a partner but if you are working by yourself, you could come a little later.
- Upon arrival, ask the Kennel Manager or Staff Lead:
 - if they need the Volunteers to refill all the dry food and water dishes for all cats
 - if there are any cats that require special food, food and water withheld, special litter, etc
 - if there are any cats with behavioral or medical issues to be aware of or that Staff will manage themselves.
 - if there is anything additional that they need assistance with.
- Check the Cat Board in Food Prep to see how many cats are at the shelter that day. There could be 30-60 cats in the shelter!
- Cats will be housed in several areas: Free Roam (cats are loose in the room), Free Roam Kennels, Meet and Greet, Retro Room, Kitten Room, Cat Med, and Dog Med. There might be cats housed on the second floor. There are litter scoops, dust pans, brooms, Rescue disinfectant and other supplies available in each room.
- Perform a wellness check on all cats prior to starting Cat Care and report any issues to the Kennel Manager or Staff.
- Locate the Cat Cart in the service hallway. If you are refilling food, gather enough kitten and adult dry food from the Food Prep Room, blankets and beds from the Kennel A shelves or Free Roam hallway shelves. Cats at Animal Protectors receive only Hills brand dry food. If the cat food reservoirs in Food Prep are low or empty, please ask Staff to refill them. Staff is in charge of dispensing wet food. Make sure litter reservoirs in each cat room are full. There's extra litter in the pantry room or you may ask Staff for help.
- While you are in the Food Prep Room, check to see if there is a load in the washer and dryer! If you are able to, please run a load. Towels and blankets get folded and placed on the Kennel A shelves and/or in the Free Roam hallway shelves. There should always be a load running in the washer!
- Thoroughly scoop the Free Roam litter pans (can be done multiple times a day) and refill as needed. Litter is at a premium at Animal Protectors; use only the necessary amount to refill the pans.
- If requested by the Kennel Manager, replace the community water dishes with clean ones and refill with fresh water.
- Refill the community kitten and adult food dishes and reservoirs.
- Remove all toys and sweep the room thoroughly. Clean any kitty "accidents" with Rescue disinfectant. If there's any unusual blood, vomit, etc on the floor please write it on the Volunteer Comments white board and report it to Staff.
- Read the 'cage cards' on each kennel to review information about each cat and determine what food they receive (kitten, adult, etc).
- Check all kennels in each room and clean what is needed- scoop and refresh litter pans (replace if needed), sweep the kennel, wipe any "accidents" with Rescue disinfectant, provide a clean blanket and toys. Refill food dishes, dump the water dish and clean/replace before refilling with fresh water.
- Carefully observe each cat for any medical and/or behavioral issues (cough, eye secretions, behavior change, etc). Also take notice of any soft stool, bloody stool or urine or diarrhea.
- FIV+ and FeLV+. Cats that test positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus and/or Feline Leukemia Virus will be placed in isolation in the Retro Room or Kitten Room. Please tend to their kennels last (within each room) and use the dedicated scoop. Do not share any tools or used towels. Use hand sanitizer immediately after.
- Only authorized Volunteers are permitted in Cat Medical and Dog Medical.
- Spend quality time with each kennel cat! They need it the most. If possible, you can let one cat out at a time to stretch their legs.



Afternoon Cat Care

Our afternoon cat shifts are focused on enrichment and socialization. Our cats rely on our volunteers to have socializations throughout the day. This can include but is not limited to passing out treats, playing with toys, allowing cats time to be lap cats, and more!

Evening/Closing Shift Cat Care

Our evening cat shifts help clean and make sure each cat is set up for the night. This includes ensuring each cat has dry food, water, and a clean litter box. We encourage you to spend quality time with each cat in the process.

Daily Schedule - Cat

8:00 am - 11:00 am: Morning Cat Care

Our cat volunteers clean, scoop litterboxed, socialize, and provide enrichment to each cat

9:00 am: Breakfast

If wet food is part of their diet

11:00 am - 6 pm: Socialization

Our staff and volunteers provide socialization and enrichment throughout the day

6:00 pm- 7:00 pm: Final Checks

Each cat is checked on to ensure they have food, water, and a clean litterbox before staff leaves for the night

