

ADOPTING A CAT



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN ADOPTING

- Do all the adults in your household know that you plan to adopt?
- If you are renting, do you have permission from the landlord or rental company to have a cat?
- Is anyone in your house allergic to cats? If so, what is your plan to mitigate any possible allergies?
- Do you have any other pets in the house? Read on for tips to successfully introduce your pets.
- * Can you afford to provide the basic things your cat needs - food, litter, scratching posts or pads, toys and veterinary care as needed?

Here are more tips to creating a cat-friendly home:

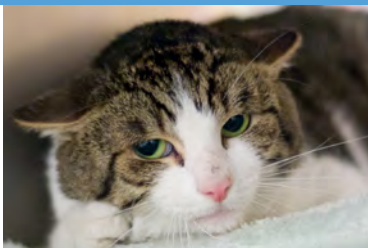
<https://www.laanimalservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Cat-Friendly-Home.pdf>

BRINGING YOUR CAT HOME - THE RULE OF 3'S AND INTRODUCTIONS

The 3/3/3 rule is a general guideline for the adjustment period of a pet after adoption. Every pet is unique and will adjust differently. Please have patience and allow your new pet time to settle in.

3 Days

To Decompress



- Feeling overwhelmed
- May feel scared or unsure of what's going on
- Not yet comfortable to be "himself"
- May not want to eat or drink
- Shuts down and/or hides under furniture
- Tests the boundaries

3 Weeks

To Learn Your Routine



- Starts settling in
- Feels more comfortable
- Realizes this could be his forever home
- Figures out his environment
- Gets into a routine
- Lets his guard down: beginning to show his true personality
- Behavior issues may appear

3 Months

To Start to Feel at Home



- Finally feels completely comfortable in his home
- Begins to build trust and a true bond
- Gains a complete sense of security with his new family
- Sets into a routine

Tips for helping shy cats adjust: <https://www.laanimalservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Shy-Cat-Adjust-New-Home.pdf>
<https://www.laanimalservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Cats-Hiding-Home.pdf>

INTRODUCING YOUR CAT TO PEOPLE & PETS

PEOPLE

There is a joke that cats will go to the one person in the room who doesn't like cats. There is a reason for this- that person is not focused on the cat so the cat feels no pressure! When you meet a cat, let them come to you in their own time. Let them sniff you, and they will let you know if they want more attention by either moving away or 'asking' for more petting.

DOGS

The most important thing to keep in mind when introducing your new cat to your dog is safety. Be sure they are both getting plenty of rewards (treats) when they interact in either a positive or neutral way with each other!

- To start, keep the cat in a secure room, and let them sniff each other through the door
- Trade items between them that have their scent, like their blankets.
- After they're used to that, set up a gate where they can see each other but not have contact.
- When it comes time to introduce them, keep the dog on a leash and make sure the cat has somewhere to get up high, out of the dog's reach, if needed.

It's okay if they're not best friends right away, or ever - be patient and make everyone's safety the priority!

OTHER CATS

LA Animal Services has a comprehensive article about introducing cats to each other which can be accessed on our website or the links below:

<https://www.laanimalservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/How-to-Introduce-Cats.pdf>

<https://www.laanimalservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Help-Cats-Get-Along.pdf>

TO BUY FOR YOUR CAT

LITTER BOX (if you have multiple cats, you need one more litter box than you have cats - for instance, 3 cats = 4 litter boxes)

LITTER

SCOOP TO CLEAN LITTER BOX

WET AND/OR DRY FOOD

FRESH WATER EVERY DAY - many cats especially love running water and you can buy cat fountains

FOOD DISH AND WATER DISH

TOYS

Places where they can get up high - bonus if it's in front of a window!

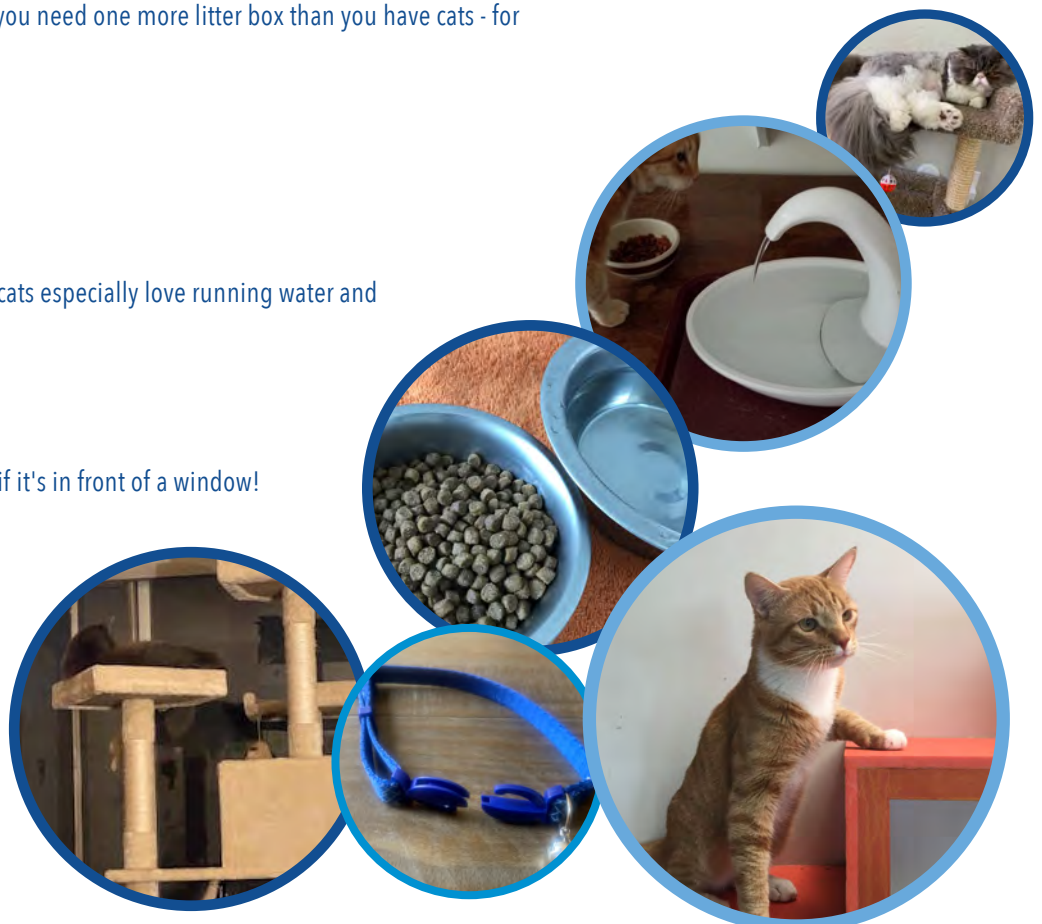
SOMETHING TO SCRATCH ON

BREAKAWAY COLLAR

FLEA MEDICATION

A CAT TREE OR SHELF SO THEY CAN GET UP HIGH

(this is especially important if you have small children or dogs)



KEEPING YOUR KITTY SAFE AND HEALTHY

- If you can, make your cat an indoor cat.
Cats are safer, and have a longer life expectancy, if they live indoors. Some cats, who have already been outdoors, may really want to go outdoors, and whether or not to allow it will be a quality of life decision for you as a cat guardian. If your cat has never been outside, they are safest to remain inside
- Take your cat for a yearly veterinary check-up. Cats will need vaccinations throughout their lives, and catching any health problems early will mean less suffering for your kitty, and less cost for you!
- Foods and Plants that are poisonous or unhealthy for your cat: other than obvious items, such as poisonous household chemicals, there are other foods which we eat, but which are poisonous for your cat - anything in the onion or garlic family, especially concentrated doses in things like onion salt and garlic salt, grapes and raisins, raw meat or fish, caffeine, alcohol, marijuana, chocolate. Also, some cats might like to snack on your houseplants - if you have lilies, amaryllis, tulips, keep them out of your cat's reach. If your cat is interested in eating plants, consider buying or growing them some safe cat grass!
- FYI, declawing a cat is illegal in Los Angeles. It is not a 'nail trim' - it is an inhumane practice which can cause long-term pain and difficulty walking for the cat. Declawing also takes away a cat's main way of defending themselves. A declawed cat is easily hurt by other animals, and much more likely to bite you, since it has no other way to defend itself if frightened.



CAT BODY LANGUAGE



INTERESTED



FRIENDLY



ATTENTIVE



RELAXED



TRUSTING



FRIENDLY, RELAXED



CONTENT



CONFLICTED, CAUTIOUS



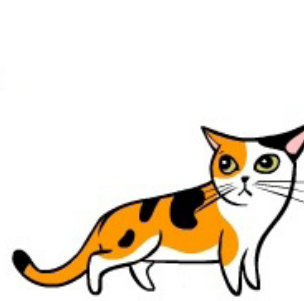
PLAYFUL



EXCITED



"THIS IS MINE"

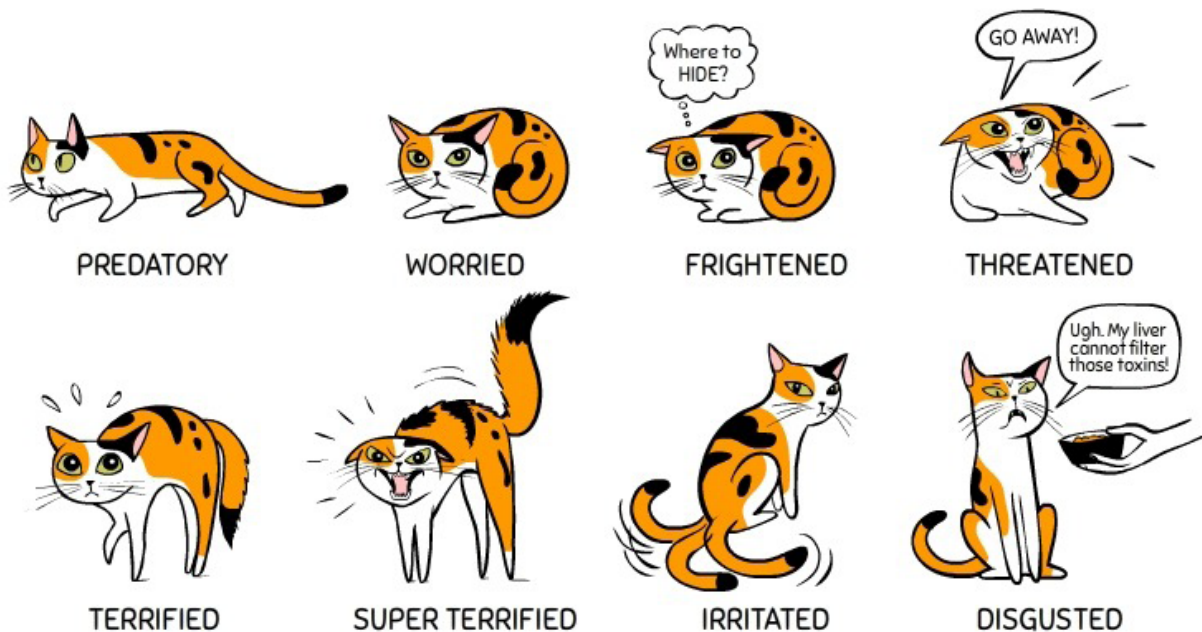


ANXIOUS

Why does my cat want to be pet sometimes, and then suddenly doesn't want to be pet?

Cats can be overstimulated by petting - read this handout to learn more and recognize when your cat is getting too excited and needs a break!

<https://www.laanimalservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Petting-Induced-Overstimulation.pdf>



©2015 Lili Chin - doggiedrawings.net - Creative Commons Licence BY-NC-ND

YOUR CAT NEEDS TO SCRATCH!

Your cat is not being 'bad' when they scratch their nails on your stuff - it is in a cat's nature to scratch, and it keeps their nails trimmed! If they are scratching on something they shouldn't be, you can try these strategies:

- This is a must - give them things they are allowed to scratch on.
- Catnip can be sprayed or sprinkled on the scratcher to attract them.
- To keep them away from a piece of furniture they like to scratch on, you can apply double-stick tape to the furniture - they won't like it and will look for a less sticky scratching spot. If they want something they can't have, be sure to offer an acceptable alternative!



HAVING FUN WITH YOUR CAT!

Your cat is a hunter, and will enjoy playing 'games' that resemble hunting. Playing with your cat will also deepen your bond and give them physical and mental exercise. You can play with a laser pointer with your cat, but be sure to end with a toy or treat, so your hunter gets a chance to catch their prey!

Join in
to the monthly
Cat Chat
with a direct link!

<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=19560903&appointmentType=14604547>

Pet Care/Cats

<https://www.laanimalservices.com/about-animals/?cats>

Fear Free Homes

<https://www.laanimalservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Cat-Friendly-Home.pdf>

