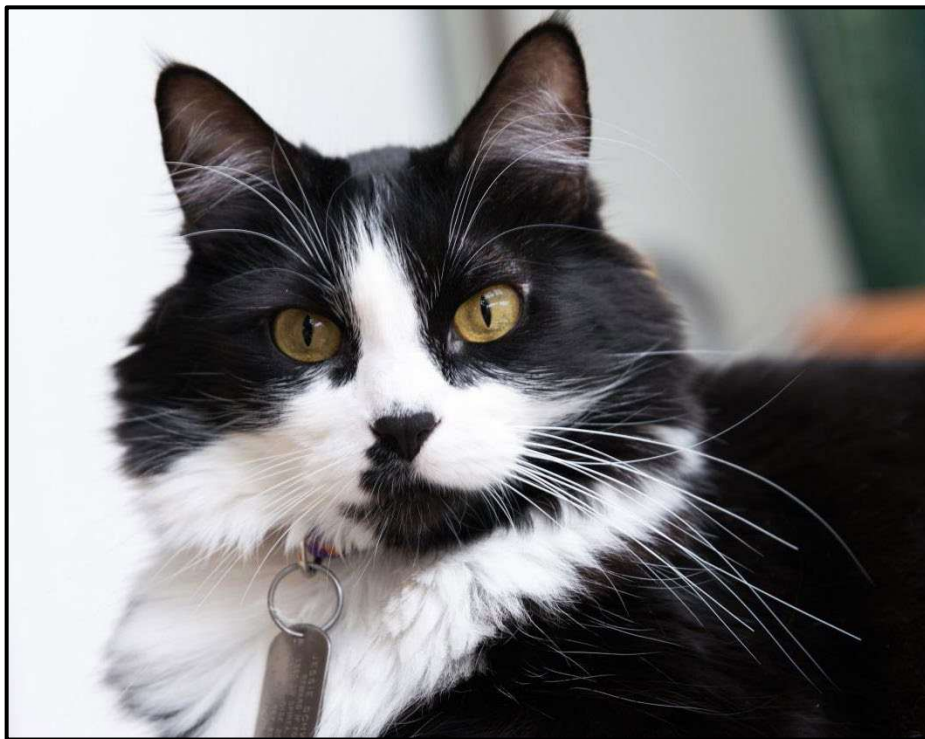




cat adoption team

# YOU AND YOUR NEW CAT



Lamm Photography

What Your New Cat Wants You to Know

# About Cat Adoption Team

## Our Mission

CAT's mission is to save the lives of homeless cats and to work with our community to provide feline expertise and quality programs and services for people and cats.

## Currently We Achieve This Mission By

- Providing shelter, medical care, evaluation, and treatment to cats who have become homeless
- Finding homes for the cats and kittens in our care
- Providing people who care for cats with resources, education, and support to help keep human-animal bonds strong and prevent cats from becoming homeless
- Offering low-cost spay/neuter services to cat owners in need to prevent the births of unwanted litters
- Working closely with other animal organizations to implement projects and programs that positively impact cats at a community and regional level

## Our Guiding Values

- **Compassion for cats:** We focus on the individual welfare and future of each cat in need
- **Expertise:** We strive to be experts in cat welfare, health, behavior, sheltering, and related programs
- **Respect for people:** We treat our employees, volunteers, donors, clients, and community with respect
- **Impact:** We have a significant and measurable positive impact on the cats in our community
- **Collaboration:** We work with other individuals and organizations to save more lives
- **Integrity:** We act with integrity and value transparency
- **Excellence:** We strive for excellence in every aspect of our work

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# Welcome to the Family!

Dear Adopter,

**Congratulations!** You are now the proud parent of a wonderful cat companion — or two! Cat Adoption Team (CAT) thanks you for helping us save another life and committing to provide loving care to a new feline friend.

Your adoption fee goes directly back to support CAT's lifesaving programs and services. Funds from adoption fees, donations, and retail sales ensure that we can provide quality medical treatment, spay/neuter surgeries, appropriate housing and enrichment, foster care, adoption opportunities, and more to cats in our care.

CAT is the Pacific Northwest's largest feline-only cat shelter. With more than 25 years of experience and over 60,000 adoptions, we know cats! Our shelter includes a full-service onsite veterinary hospital, and we're committed to finding an adoptive home for every kitty we take in. Thanks for being part of these efforts!

Stay in touch with CAT through our website at [catadoptionteam.org](http://catadoptionteam.org), and find us on social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram. We invite you to share photos of your new pet on social media using #CATalumni.

Again, congratulations on this special new member of your family. We wish you many years of happiness together. Please don't hesitate to contact your adoption counselor or the shelter with any questions or concerns.




Sincerely,

Karen Green (she/her)  
Executive Director

## Contact Us

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## Connect with Us

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 [instagram.com/catadoptpdx](https://instagram.com/catadoptpdx)  
 [youtube.com/catadoptionteam](https://youtube.com/catadoptionteam)

# Life with Your New Cat

CAT designed this booklet to address many of the questions you may have about how to care for your new cat; however, please contact your Adoption Counselor using the information on your adoption contract if you need additional information or advice.

You can also check our website for answers to behavior and other questions:  
[catadoptionteam.org/resources](http://catadoptionteam.org/resources).

## Prepare Your Home

Before you give your new cat the run of the house, it is important to “kitty-proof” (for their safety as well as protecting your belongings) and to make sure you have all the basic supplies. Here is a quick checklist to get you started:

- **Create a safe room**, such as a bathroom, home office, or guest room, for your new cat’s first week. Place the litter box at one end with the food, water, and bed at the other. Allow your cat to adjust at their own pace. It is especially important to keep your cat in this safe place for at least 10 days if you have other pets in the home. (If the safe room is your bathroom, remember to close the toilet lid!)
- **Many plants are toxic** to cats, so do a thorough check of your home before bringing home your pet. Here are some of the most common household plants that are toxic:

Amaryllis	Daffodils	Holly	Mistletoe
Baby’s Breath	Daisies	Ivy	Poinsettias
Cyclamen	Geraniums	Lilies (all)	Tulips

For a complete list, visit: [aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants](http://aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants)

- Help **reduce potential human allergies** by getting a good HEPA air cleaner and remember to vacuum frequently. Consider designating a “no cat allowed” room (or rooms) if the potential for an allergy problem exists.
- Remember, **cats like to explore** and can get on top of most anything. Until your new cat learns right from wrong, it is a good idea to **put away breakables** that may be knocked off a shelf by an exploring cat.
- **Toys:** Cats love to chase and hunt down toys. Avoid toys with small parts that can break off and be ingested. Yarn, string, and curling ribbon will cause problems inside your cat’s digestive tract if swallowed. To be safe, stick with toys specifically designed for cats, and make sure any wand toys are put out of their reach once playtime is over.

## The First Few Days

Your cat may be very uncertain for the first few days. **Be patient and take things slowly.**

A frightened or unsure cat's tendency is to hide. Let them do that, and know that they will eventually become comfortable and come out. *Under no circumstances should you force a cat from their hiding place by pulling legs or other body parts.* Encourage your cat to come out safely by enticing them with food or a toy.

## Normal Behaviors During the First Days at Home

It is not uncommon for a cat to exhibit the following behaviors during the first few days. However, if issues persist, please contact CAT or your veterinarian for guidance:

- Not eating very much
- Upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea
- Hiding (make sure your cat has safe, comfortable access to food, water, and litter box)
- Not using the litter box (see [Litter Box Training](#))

## Things You Can Do to Help

- Be calm and patient.
- At first, keep your cat in a single, small room (such as a bathroom) to give them time to adjust.
- Gradually give your cat access to other parts of the house as they show signs of confidence and are successfully using the litter box. **Allow several weeks for your new pet to adjust.**
- Keep your cat indoors. Don't leave them unattended around open windows and loose screens, as a frightened cat could easily break out.
- Provide plenty of fresh water and high-quality food.
- Initially, keep your new cat separated from other pets (see [Introducing Your New Cat to Other Pets](#)).
- If you are taking your new cat home during a busy time, such as birthdays and holidays, be extra diligent about providing them with a quiet area away from the action. You may wish to limit over-handling of your new cat too. A loud household with lots of foot traffic can be especially stressful for a cat who is still getting used to a new home.
- Cats get bored so provide lots of toys, daily interaction, and other entertainment to help your cat adjust. If you have a windowsill with a view of the yard, open the curtains or blinds so your cat can get a view of the world outside.

## Litter Box Training

The general rule of thumb is to have one litter box per cat, plus an extra box for insurance. Here are some tips that will help ensure that your cat uses the litter box:

- Place the litter box in a convenient location for your cat to find.
- Keep litter boxes away from heavy traffic areas and the cat's feeding area. Be certain a shy cat can access the box without feeling threatened or exposed.
- Clean the litter box every day.
- You may need to experiment with different types of litter or boxes until you find the right one(s) for your cat. We recommend avoiding scented litter. Cat Attract™ brand litter is a good option for cats who are not using the box.
- If your cat makes a mistake, wipe up the urine with a tissue and put the tissue in the litter box (in the case of defecation, pick up the feces with tissue and then place feces in the litter box). This will help your new cat smell where they should be going.
- Any accidents should be cleaned with an enzyme-based cleaner (Nature's Miracle® or Urine Off®, for example) or a solution of one-half white vinegar and one-half water.
- **NEVER yell or rub a cat's nose in feces or urine** — this does not help.

### Not Using the Litter Box?

Determine if the problem is inappropriate elimination (urinating or defecating outside the box) or territorial marking (urine spraying). Each has different suggested remedies. It's also important to make sure your cat does not have an illness or injury that is causing this behavior. A cat who is not using the litter box appropriately should be taken to your veterinarian for evaluation as soon as you notice the issue. House soiling is a common symptom of urinary tract infections and other illnesses that can be treated; some of these illnesses may be brought on by the stress of moving into a new environment.

Other possible reasons for inappropriate elimination:

- Your cat may not have learned the location of the litter box. If your house is large or has multiple levels, place litter boxes in several locations and/or on each floor.
- Your cat does not like the brand or type of litter. Try some others simultaneously in separate boxes, observe which one your cat uses, and then switch to that type/brand in all boxes.
- The litter box is not clean. You should clean your litter box (scoop out soiled areas) at least once daily. The entire pan should be emptied completely, washed with a mild unscented detergent, and refilled with fresh litter monthly (more often for non-clumping litter).
- The litter box has been disinfected with a strong-smelling solution and needs to be rinsed.

- Your cat is soiling in an area previously used for elimination by another pet. Clean thoroughly with an enzyme-based cleaner like Nature's Miracle®, Urine-Off®, or a solution of one-half white vinegar and one-half water.
- To deter your cat from soiling in a specific location, place a food bowl or litter box on a previously soiled spot. If they are sniffing around a previously soiled area, carry them gently to the litter box; when they use the litter box, offer praise.
- The location of the litter box may be unacceptable to your cat. Try a different, quieter area — especially find a spot with limited foot traffic and/or noise.
- Another pet may be using the litter box, keeping your cat away, and/or blocking access to the litter box. Some cats will not share a litter box, especially at first. This is a good reason to have multiple boxes if you have multiple pets.
- A person or pet is frightening your new cat, causing fear-related elimination.
- Your cat may be responding to stressful events or family and household changes.
- Some cats will only urinate in one box and defecate in another — make sure you have the appropriate number of litter boxes available.

Please be patient and consistent. It can take a few weeks for a cat to settle — not much to ask of a new friend and companion. NEVER punish the cat for making a mistake.

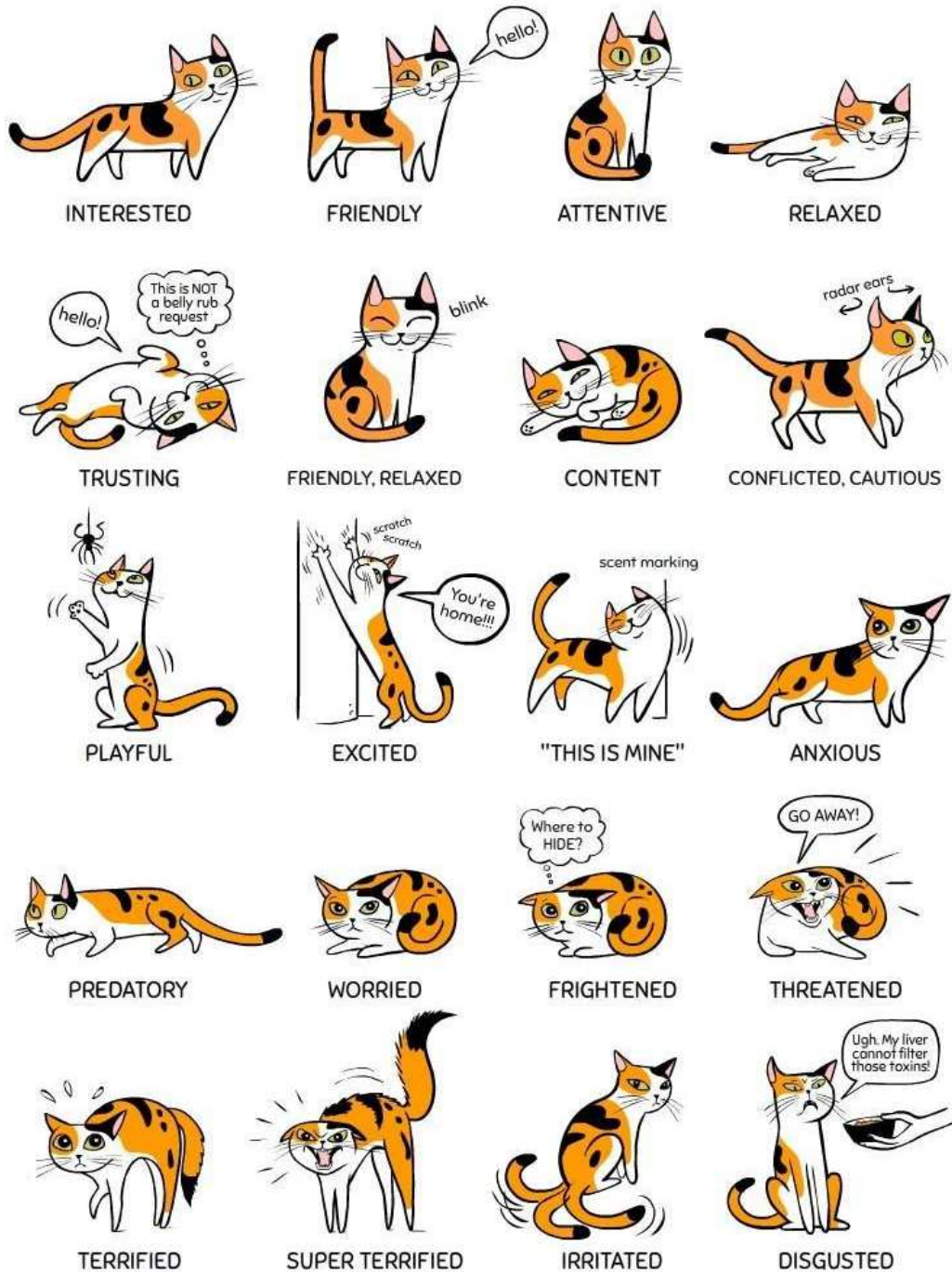
## Feline Body Language

Cats have varied body language. Here are some ways to read their subtler cues:

- **Eyes:** The pupils tell you a lot — widely dilated pupils indicate fear. Eye contact with a soft look is expressing nice thoughts. When your cat looks at you, blinks, and then looks away, know that you have been acknowledged but not invited. Slow blinks indicate trust, and we encourage you to return the slow blink back to your cat.
- **Ears:** These can catch the slightest sound. When held up, ears are showing that your cat is happy, relaxed, or playful, but if held up with a more confident stance, they may not be signaling friendliness. Ears flattened are expressing fear or defense.
- **Tail:** A cat holding their tail straight up is displaying confidence and pride. A bottlebrush tail is a sign of fear. A slow wag indicates mild annoyance (e.g. when a sleeping cat is awakened). A slow, twitching tail wag indicates that your cat has had enough.
- **Purring:** This is a sign of affection and contentment for most cats. When cats are stressed or injured they will sometimes self-soothe with a fast, shallow purr. If you notice that your cat is injured, please contact your veterinarian — even if your cat is purring.



# CAT LANGUAGE



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Cats use different body postures to communicate their emotions. The above chart shows some common postures you may observe in your cat. When observing your cat, you may notice that they behave differently when alone and when in contact with other animals, including people. As cats become more anxious about their surroundings, their body language may change quickly depending on a perceived threat.

## Sleeping and Relaxing

Cats love high places to perch and look around, and cozy, safe places to hide and sleep. You can buy “kitty condos”, cat shelves, or cat trees or leave suitable closets open. *Note:* always check that your cat is not inside before closing anything — especially the clothes dryer!

Letting your cat sleep on your furniture and relax on your lap will add pleasure and contentment to their life and yours. Know that your bedtime may not be the same as your cat’s. **Cats are crepuscular**, which is a fancy way of saying they’re most active at dawn and dusk. Your cat’s increased activity during the night or at some early morning hour is not a behavior problem — just instinctual. You can help curb this behavior by playing with your cat with a wand toy or other favorite toy right before bedtime to tire them out. Offer a canned food treat after playtime to increase your cat’s satisfaction and help them relax.

## Playing

Purchase or make a few cat toys to keep your cat’s mind and body active. Playing and hunting desires can be closely related. A mouse toy can be a fun chase game and allowing the cat to catch the toy mouse will help satisfy their hunting desires. Cats will play with anything that moves mysteriously! When you play, be sure to **avoid wrestling or rough-housing with your hand** as this teaches your cat that it’s okay to use claws and teeth on you.

**Avoid string, wool, curling ribbon (used for gift packages), or anything similar** as ingesting these items can cause seriously illness, require surgery to remove the object, or even result in death.

If you work all day, plan to spend extra time with your cat in the evening. A play session and being petted every evening will help keep them happy.

Part of playing with your cat may include mock hunting: stalking, ambushing, and pouncing. These can be delightful antics to watch. But be aware that anything that moves may be a target (including you). We suggest using a wand toy when encouraging mock hunting — this keeps your hands out reach of playful claws and teeth!

Cats also **incorporate climbing and leaping into play routines**. A young or determined cat can jump two or three times their body length. Cats desire to be on high surfaces to survey their territory for prey or intruders.

## Scratching

Scratching is a **normal behavior** and can be directed to appropriate places. Your cat scratches to clean away scales from their nails, to mark territory, and to feel at home. Providing your cat with an appropriate place(s) to scratch can help discourage inappropriate scratching. Each cat has their preference of the type of material they like to scratch. Try:

- Cardboard box or cardboard scratcher
- Scratching post with sisal rope
- Carpeted scratching post
- Scratching post with multiple surfaces (may include cardboard, sisal, carpet, and/or wood)



Put the scratcher near a favorite sleeping place — cats love to stretch and scratch after a nap. Be sure to place scratcher(s) where you and your cat spend time. A scratching post in an out-of-the-way spot probably will not be used.

If you catch your cat scratching the furniture or carpet, a simple “no” and placing them on the desired scratching area will help. **Put catnip on the “right” scratching item to encourage your cat to use it. A laser pointer can also be used to attract a cat to a scratching post.** Reinforce their good behavior by praising and petting whenever they use appropriate places.

If you need to protect a specific item from scratches, use something to block scratching, such as plastic carpet protectors turned upside down so the plastic spikes are pointing outward. This discourages cats from walking over them. You can also use foil or double-sided tape. Products like Sticky Paws Tape® are made specifically to discourage scratching on furniture and other surfaces. FELISCRATCH by Feliway can be applied to items (such as a cat tree) that are appropriate for scratching. Keeping your cat’s claws trimmed helps too.

## Biting

Some cats are gentle while others are rowdy and prone to nipping/biting. Choose a cat who will work well in your household. **Biting, even while playing, is natural.** You can discourage playful biting and avoid getting your hand bitten by never using your hand as a toy. Biting may also be saying that your cat has had enough petting or playing. Stop what you are doing, say “no” immediately, and leave your cat alone to relax — do not continue to play with them.

Stroking your cat near their tail may also elicit biting behavior. Avoid petting in that area if your cat attempts to bite you. It is a natural reaction to that stimulation. You can retrain your cat by playing gently and using toys. Some cats have their own “no-go zone” where petting or handling may lead to biting; bellies are an area many cats will not tolerate handling.

## On-Going Training

Cats love routine. Many do the same thing at the same time daily. Something as simple as closing the door to the room they routinely sleep in during the afternoon can cause a behavior change. Watch out for these types of changes to your cat's routine when assessing a behavior problem. The best training tools are patience and praising the desirable behavior. If your cat continues to perform an undesirable behavior, take time to think about the possible causes. Never hit or physically reprimand your cat!

You can find resources for training and tips for handling behavior problems on our website at: [catadoptionteam.org/resources](https://catadoptionteam.org/resources).

## Grooming

Cats are great at keeping themselves clean. Most cats are terrified of a bath. If your cat has become overly dirty, the best thing to do is to clean them with specially made cat cleaning wipes, which you can find at most pet supply stores.

Brushing and nail trimming are usually the only grooming a cat will need. Be prepared for increased shedding in the spring and early summer. Long-haired cats will need regular brushing during all times of the year. This helps your cat avoid hairballs and matting. Cats have sensitive skin, so be sure to use a comb/brush made specifically for cats.



If you have multiple cats, they may groom one another (called allogrooming). “Displacement grooming” consists of a few agitated licks — for instance, you might see your cat groom briefly after crashing into the back of the couch or rolling off a perch.

Allogrooming, displacement grooming, and other grooming are normal unless your cat is over-grooming to the point of losing hair or causing skin redness or rash.

# Should I Declaw My Cat?

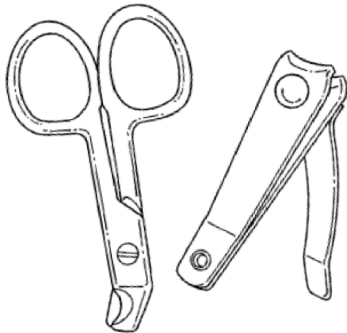
Declawing is a **major surgical procedure** with a significant risk for short- and long-term side effects. CAT does not advocate declawing your cat as there are many humane alternatives to redirect inappropriate scratching (see [Scratching](#)).

**Keep claws trimmed.** Take your cat to a groomer or carefully trim the tips off the nails being careful not to cut the quick (the vein that runs down the nails). Ask your veterinarian to instruct you so you can do this at home. You can also buy nail sheaths (such as Soft Paws® or Kitty Caps®), which are little plastic caps that fit over cats' nails to prevent scratching.

## How to Trim a Cat's Claws

©1998 The Humane Society of the United States

Trimming a cat's claws every few weeks is a vital part of maintaining the animal's hygiene. Regular trimming not only protects the health of a cat's handlers, but also guarantees the well-being of adopters' couches and armchairs. But if the idea of trimming a cat's claws has you biting your nails, know that all it takes is some patience, a little help from a more experienced person, and plenty of practice to sharpen your skills.



### 1: Stay on the Cutting Edge

There are plenty of tools available to trim a cat's claws; use whichever one works best for you and the animal. Some people prefer a special pair of scissors modified to hold a cat's claw in place; others choose plier-like clippers or those with a sliding "guillotine" blade. Whatever your tool of choice, be sure the blade remains sharp; the blunt pressure from dull blades may hurt an animal and cause a nail to split or bleed.



### 2: Take Paws, Part I

If you approach a cat with a sharp object in one hand while trying to grab a paw with the other, odds are you'll come up empty-handed. Because cats' temperaments and dispositions vary greatly, there is no "perfect" way to handle a cat while trimming his claws. Some cats do well with no restraint at all, but most cats need to be held firmly but gently to make sure that no one gets hurt. Try resting the cat in the crook of one arm while holding one paw with the other hand. Or, place the animal on an examination table and lift one paw at a time. You may even be able to convince a particularly sociable cat to lie back in your lap.

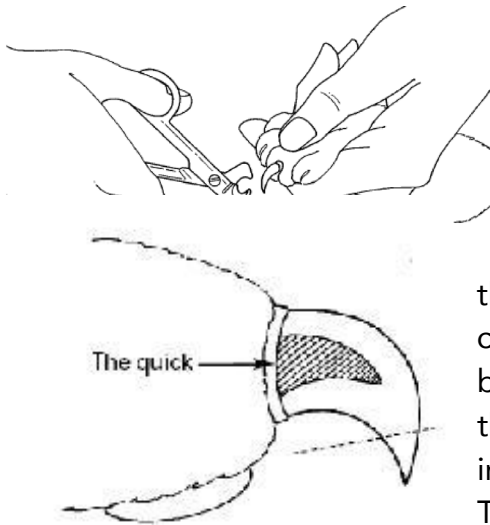
### 3: Take Paws, Part II

If you've got a helper, ask him to hold the cat while you clip the nails, or just ask him to rub the cat's nose or offer up a special treat. If you're having a difficult time trimming a cat's rear claws, try gently scruffing the cat and laying him on his side, then have someone else trim the claws.



### 4: Take a Little off the Top

Now that you and the cat are in position, put the claw in the right position, too. Take a paw in your hand, curl your fingers into a fist, and use your thumb to gently press down on the joint just above the claw. When the claw extends, quickly but carefully snip off the sharp tip and no more.



Don't get too close to the pink part of the nail called "the quick," where blood vessels and nerve endings lie. Just like the pink part of a human fingernail, the quick is very sensitive; cutting into this area will likely hurt the animal and cause bleeding. If this happens, apply a little pressure to the very tip of the claw (without squeezing the entire paw, which would only increase the blood flow) or dip the claw in a bit of styptic powder. Then leave the cat alone, being sure to check on him occasionally.

### 5: Take it One at a Time

If you aren't able to trim all 18 nails at once, don't worry. Few cats remain patient for more than a few minutes, so take what you can get, praise the animal for cooperating, then be on the lookout for the next opportunity — maybe even a catnap — to cut things down to size.



## Food

CAT is honored to be a Purina® sponsored shelter. Unless otherwise noted, your adopted cat has been fed Purina brand cat food and has used Purina brand probiotics while at the shelter — all donated by Purina. CAT recommends you continue feeding your adopted cat the Purina diet that they are accustomed to eating.

Feeding a premium, high-quality food improves the long-term health of your cat. Talk with your veterinarian about your cat's individual dietary needs. If you make diet changes, introduce the new food gradually over 7-10 days to prevent gastrointestinal upset.

### **Adult cats** (age 1 year and older):

- Feed high-quality adult cat food. Read the ingredients and look for foods that have meat such as chicken or turkey at the top of the list.
- Feed two scheduled meals per day. Free-feeding of high-quality, dry food may work but can lead to obesity in some cats. Your veterinarian can help determine what is best for your cat.
- Discard any food left after 24 hours before cleaning and refilling the dish.
- Follow the amount guidelines on the cat food bag or prescribed by your veterinarian. Monitor your cat's weight and adjust food portions accordingly. If you cannot feel the ribs, they may be overweight. This can lead to serious health problems. Several pet food brands have a weight management option.
- Fresh water should be available at all times.
- Place food and water dishes in a safe, quiet place so your cat can eat without being disturbed by people or other pets. The feeding place should be far from the litter box.



## Introducing Your New Cat to Children

If there is a child/children in your household or if they regularly visit, it is important to teach them how to appropriately handle and interact with your new cat. Proper behavior will help keep kids safe and avoid stressing the cat. **Children learn responsibility from good examples**, so always guide children and regularly monitor their interaction with your pets.

Here are some guidelines to help your children and your new cat live happily together:

- A cat should be picked up and held with one hand under their chest and the other hand supporting their hindquarters.
- Remind children to handle cats gently and not to squeeze too tightly. Most children under 5 years old struggle to hold a cat properly. It is a natural instinct for children to grab and squeeze when a cat tries to wiggle away from them. To avoid an incident that could potentially hurt the cat or child, have the child sit down calmly while you place the cat in their lap. Encourage the child to pet the cat gently and to allow the cat to leave if they attempt to do so. This way, everyone is safe and happy.
- Children should not try to interact with a cat when they are sleeping, eating, drinking, or using the litter box.
- A cat should not be dragged out of hiding against their will.
- Children should not chase the cat. If cornered and frightened, a cat may scratch and bite and/or may become timid and aloof over time.
- Never leave young children alone with a new cat.
- Teach children appropriate play and petting. Provide safe toys for the cat and limit children's access to potentially dangerous items, such as string.
- Teach children to look for signals that show their cat is becoming irritated or over-stimulated. A swishing tail, ears back, gentle nips — all can lead to being scratched or bitten.
- Always allow the cat to escape if they try to run.
- Never allow rough handling, as this teaches the cat that it is okay to be rough back!





## Introducing Your New Cat to Other Pets

Before introducing your new cat to your other pets make sure your existing pets are current with their vaccinations. **Introducing your cat to other pets should be done slowly.** Prepare a spare room (like a bathroom, home office, or guest bedroom) where your new cat can reside for a while before being introduced to the other pets (see [Prepare Your Home](#)). REMEMBER — it may take a month or more for the new cat to be accepted.

### Cat to Cat

- If your new cat is showing signs of illness like sneezing, watery eyes, diarrhea, vomiting, etc., **please don't introduce them to your existing cat until you consult with your veterinarian** — things like upper respiratory infections can spread easily to your existing cat.
- Generally, your resident cat will get along better with a new cat of the opposite sex. However, there are exceptions — personality is the biggest factor in whether cats get along with one another.
- Make sure the new cat has a place all to themselves for at least 10 days; allowing them plenty of time to adjust so the meeting is successful. First impressions are important to cats, so avoid early and unplanned meetings that could go badly.
- Spend time with your new cat out of sight of your existing cat. And be sure to lavish attention on your existing cat.
- After your new cat becomes comfortable in their safe room and is not showing any signs of illness, swap the sleeping blankets or beds used by your new cat with those used by your current cat(s) so they each have a chance to become accustomed to each other's scents. You can even rub a towel or blanket on one animal and put it in the room with the other animal to give them a chance to experience the new scent without being face-to-face.
- Once your new cat is behaving comfortably in the safe room, give them free time in the house while confining your other animals to the new cat's room. This switch provides another way for the animals to experience each other's scents without a face-to-face meeting. It also allows the newcomer to become familiar with their new surroundings without being frightened by the other animals.
- Try feeding your resident cat on the outside of the safe room door while you feed your new cat on the inside of the safe room door. Although they cannot see each other, this is another way for them to begin bonding. You can also line treats along the doorway to encourage them to interact under a door.
- After several comfortable, monitored introductions through a baby gate or carrier, you can increase the amount of time and space that the new cat can explore outside their safe room.

- When you are confident that your new cat is adjusting well, take them to a quiet room and allow your resident cat to investigate the newcomer. Allow short periods of contact at first, increasing as time goes by.
- It is normal for cats to hiss and growl at each other. An all-out physical attack is rare. Never break up a fight with your hands! Use a broom to avoid getting bitten or scratched.
- Once the new cat has been given access to the rest of the house, leave their safe room intact so they may take refuge there. Improvement in your cats' attitudes toward each other should begin soon thereafter. Do not be discouraged if it takes longer. The adjustment period will depend on the cats' personalities and how long your existing cat was a solitary pet.
- Be sure to lavish attention on all your cats to make everyone feel a part of the family.
- If all goes well, you will find them sleeping together and playing joyfully. The social interaction level may vary; you may have cats who just tolerate each other's existence and that is okay too!

### Cat to Dog

- First, as a precaution, prepare a safe room (see section on Life with Your New Pet) and have a clear escape route set for your new cat. **Make sure the dog does not have access to the cat's food and water and especially the litter box!** Use a baby gate to block the dog's access if necessary.
- After your new cat becomes comfortable in their safe room and is not showing any signs of illness, swap the sleeping blankets or beds used by your new cat with those used by your dog(s) so they each have a chance to become accustomed to each other's scents. You can even rub a towel or blanket on one animal and put it in the room with the other animal to give them a chance to experience the new scent without being face-to-face.
- Once your new cat is behaving comfortably in the safe room, give them free time in the house while confining your other pets to the new cat's room. This switch provides another way for the animals to experience each other's scents without a face-to-face meeting. It also allows the newcomer to become familiar with their new surroundings without being frightened by the other animals.
- When introducing your new cat to a dog for the first time, put the cat on a raised surface like a table or dresser. This will help the cat feel less threatened. Put your dog on a leash or keep them in a carrier or kennel. Allow them to sniff each other (try to keep the leash loose) and then distract the dog with a treat or praise. The cat should also receive a treat at the same time. It is normal for a cat to hiss and growl at first, especially if they have not lived with a dog before.
- **Cats take time to adjust to changes;** the more the animals are together in the same room (with your supervision), the more quickly they'll adjust.
- You can throw a towel over the cat if they attack the dog. Make sure your cat has an escape route or can leap to a high place or hide under something low. Do not let the dog corner the cat

or vice versa. If this happens you will want to start the process over and return the cat to the safe room for a few days.

- Until you are completely comfortable with the situation, separate your pets from one another when you are not there to supervise.
- **If your cat hides, don't worry.** Keep the dog around as much as possible so your cat can get used to the dog's presence. Make sure your cat has a private place, not accessible to the dog, where they can eat and drink in peace and feel safe. Ensure your cat has unthreatened access to their litter box.
- **Allow the pets to adjust in their own time** — be patient and act calm and relaxed. Often they become friends; sometimes they just tolerate each other. Either way, you should respect the arrangement.

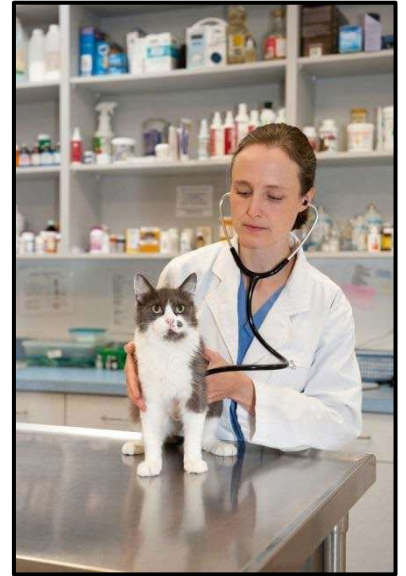
### Cat to Small Animals

Remember, cats are curious. Fish, rabbits, rodents, birds, etc., should be protected from an inquisitive cat. These animals are a cat's natural prey and may become very stressed around your new cat, especially if they are sitting on top of or nearby their house. Make sure cages are secure and well maintained.

## Medical Treatment

While in CAT's care, the cat you adopted may have received the following vaccines and/or treatments. Your cat's medical record will list treatments and procedures along with due dates for boosters. Take these records with you to your first veterinary appointment, which should be scheduled in the first month after adoption (earlier if due dates fall in that month).

**FVRCP Vaccine:** This is a standard vaccine administered to cats. Kittens and some cats may need additional doses administered by your veterinarian over a period of weeks to achieve maximum immunity from diseases.



**Rabies Vaccine:** All cats and kittens over 16 weeks old receive a rabies vaccination.

**FeLV Vaccine:** Some cats may have received this vaccine from a previous shelter or from CAT if they are on the approved indoor/outdoor list. Cats will need a second vaccine to ensure they are fully protected.

**FeLV Test:** Your cat was tested for feline leukemia (FeLV). You should have received the results with your cat's paperwork (see *FeLV Test Results, next page*).

**Deworming:** A dose of medicine to eliminate roundworms was given. Your cat also may have received a medication to treat for tapeworms. Do not be surprised to see worms passed in your cat's stools for up to five days — this is normal following treatment. Continued treatment and other types of parasite control may be provided by your veterinarian depending on your cat's needs.

**Wood's Lamp Exam:** Your cat has been examined under a wood's lamp at our shelter (or at a previous shelter) to help detect ringworm. This exam will catch most instances of ringworm, but not all. There is no guarantee that your cat has not been exposed to ringworm.

**Microchip:** Your cat was implanted with a microchip that can be detected by scanners at animal shelters and veterinary offices. CAT also registers this microchip for you. If you move or change your phone number be sure to update your information with the microchip registry and CAT (see [Microchip Registration](#)).

**Flea/Parasite Control:** Many products exist that protect your cat from fleas and parasites. Ask your veterinarian for information on different approaches to fleas. Your cat has received a dose of flea treatment.

**Spaying/Neutering:** All cats are spayed or neutered before the adoption is finalized and they are released to their adoptive homes.

## FeLV Test Results

Unless otherwise noted, your new cat has tested negative for feline leukemia virus (FeLV). However, it is important to realize that these tests can only detect the virus once antibodies have been created. The process of creating antibodies can take up to 60 days after initial exposure. A cat in the shelter may have tested negative prior to developing those antibodies. You may wish to discuss retesting your cat with your veterinarian.

## Upper Respiratory Infections

Your cat may experience cold symptoms when you get home. Cats are subject to airborne viral diseases that are very similar to the common cold experienced by humans. This is called URI (Upper Respiratory Infection), and it is not uncommon in shelter settings. We do all we can to prevent its spread, including carefully disinfecting our kennels and vaccinating each cat with FVRCP vaccine.

Despite our best efforts, some cats will come down with URI.

When a number of cats are housed in a common area, a single sneeze from a cat can expose all the others, just like a cold is spread through a classroom. Also, all the cats in the shelter are under stress just by virtue of being here, which lowers their resistance to illness.

If your cat begins to sneeze or has a runny eye(s) or nose within a few days after you get them home, it's possible that your cat has URI. The virus is contagious to other cats. We highly recommend that you separate the cat(s) showing URI symptoms from other cats in the home (this virus is not spread to humans or dogs).

URI symptoms typically last for 7 to 10 days, and they may vary in intensity a great deal (just like a cold!). Your cat may sneeze, have discharge from their eyes and nose, may drool, and breathe with difficulty through their mouth. Your cat may lose their appetite and even stop drinking. If you see yellow/green discharge, drooling/mouth-breathing, or loss of appetite/thirst, you should see a veterinarian as soon as possible to determine a treatment plan. You may wish to use the free exam certificate you received with your adoption.

## Feline Infectious Peritonitis

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a disease that most cat owners will never have to deal with first hand. It affects about 1 in 100 cats — most under the age of two.

The first symptoms of FIP present similarly to URI. If your cat shows any sign of illness, please take him/her to a veterinarian, who can diagnose the situation and provide more information.

Our shelter attempts to keep records of kittens and cats adopted from us who are diagnosed with FIP in order to better understand the disease and its risk factors. If your cat is diagnosed with FIP, please contact the shelter and give us all the information that you can.

You can find out more about FIP online at: [tiny.cc/FIPincats](https://tiny.cc/FIPincats)

## Post-Adoption Veterinary Care

CAT provides pre-adoption veterinary care to every kitty and discloses all known medical issues to the adopter. However, any animal may appear healthy while carrying and transmitting diseases, including illnesses contagious to other pets and people. After the time of adoption, CAT is no longer responsible for veterinary care or expenses for your new cat. We encourage you to seek medical treatment from your family veterinarian whenever possible. **However, you can contact CAT for possible referrals and/or other assistance, including:**

- Within the first two (2) weeks after adoption, you may be able to schedule a veterinary appointment at CAT's hospital. You will not be charged for an office visit but you will be responsible for the costs of any tests, medications, or treatments prescribed. Appointment times are limited.
- Within the first 30 days after adoption, you may be able to schedule a vaccine appointment at CAT's hospital. You will be responsible for the cost of the vaccines.

To assist you in finding a veterinarian, CAT provides each adopter with a free veterinary exam certificate (received at the time of your adoption) that may be redeemed at many local veterinary clinics. The map of participating clinics can be found on our website at: [catadoptionteam.org/adopt/recent-adopters](https://catadoptionteam.org/adopt/recent-adopters).

## Keeping Your Cat Healthy and Managing Veterinary Costs

Costs for veterinary care have risen over the past several years, while the options for treatment of illness and injuries continue to expand. CAT encourages adopters to explore options that may help ensure you are never faced with giving up a pet or leaving a serious medical problem untreated due to cost. Pet insurance and wellness plans are two options that have become increasingly popular to help you provide excellent veterinary care for your cat while managing veterinary costs.

### Pet Insurance

There are numerous providers of veterinary insurance and they vary widely in what they cost and what they cover. As with health insurance for people, some plans cost less and are limited to catastrophic care while other plans cover more preventive care. All cats adopted from CAT are eligible to receive their first month of insurance free through Trupanion. ([see details in the New Adoption Packet Materials here](#)).

### Wellness Plans

Many veterinary hospital chains and some independent veterinary clinics offer pet wellness plans. A wellness plan typically involves paying a monthly fee that covers specific types of preventive and maintenance care for your pet(s) during the year. For example, a monthly fee may cover office visits, annual vaccines, and dental cleaning.

## Microchip Registration

When you adopt from CAT, we register your new cat's microchip with [24PetWatch](#).

24PetWatch will receive the contact information that you gave us at the time of the adoption. This enables them to contact you if your cat becomes lost and is taken to a veterinarian or shelter where they scan for a microchip. You will receive an email within two weeks of adoption from 24PetWatch about your microchip registration.\*



We make every attempt to provide you with a microchip sticker showing your new cat's microchip number. However, there are some instances where this is not possible. If you did not receive a microchip sticker showing your new cat's microchip number, you can find this information in your cat's paperwork or by contacting CAT.

Because CAT registers microchips with 24PetWatch, be sure to contact them if you wish to make changes to your cat's registration or to report if your cat has gone missing. You may choose to register independently with another microchip company — please be aware that there may be a fee associated with additional registration.

If you move or your phone number changes, please update your records with CAT and 24PetWatch (as well as any other microchip company with which you have registered).

### Microchip Registries:

AVID                      800-336-2843 • [avidid.com/pettrac/enrollment](https://www.avidid.com/pettrac/enrollment)  
(microchip numbers are 9 numerical digits long)

24PetWatch              866-597-2424 • [microchip.24petwatch.com](https://microchip.24petwatch.com)  
(microchip numbers are 10 digits-alpha/numeric and begin with "0A")

Home Again              888-466-3242 • [www.homeagain.com](https://www.homeagain.com)  
(microchip numbers are 15 numerical digits long)

*\*If you do not receive an email from 24PetWatch, please check your spam box before contacting CAT*



## Staying Indoors — The Best Way to Keep Your Cat Safe

Caring for your cat includes keeping them away from danger.

### Put a safety collar and ID tag on your cat right away!

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts to keep them in, many indoor-only cats do get outside. Your cat's microchip will be a great help if they are found and taken to a vet clinic or shelter, but a visible ID tag is your best defense. Without proper ID, someone who finds your cat outdoors may think that your cat is a stray and take them in as their own, never checking to see if the cat has a current microchip and owner.



Of course, *always watch the door*. Never leave it standing open, even for a few minutes. Cats are quick! Once outside, an indoor-only cat will have no idea what to do and have absolutely no street smarts. Dangers abound!

Most cat collars now have safety features like a breakaway clasp or some elastic in the collar. These safety measures help to keep cats from getting trapped by the collar getting caught on something and from being strangled by the collar. **You can make an ID tag right here at CAT** and at most other pet supply stores.

We recommend including language that denotes your cat as “indoor-only” and includes the best phone number to reach you. If there’s space, you may choose to include your cat’s name and your address as well. A tag with all of this information helps ensure that anyone who finds your cat will know they are lost and will have a way to contact you. For example:

SIDE 1 (vital information):

**LOST-INDOOR CAT**  
**(555) 555-5555**

SIDE 2 (helpful information):

**“CAT’S NAME”**  
**123 Street Name**  
**City, State ZIP**

CAT’s website offers some great advice for tracking down a lost cat, should your cat get out: [Lost and Found Cat Help](#)

## Rehoming Your Cat

Our goal is to match kittens and cats with caring adopters. But we understand that not every match is the right fit, and sometimes situations change. If your adoption turns out not to be working or if you're no longer able to care for your cat, please reach out!

**If you'd like to keep your cat but need help with resources or advice,** you can contact the Adoption Counselor who helped you at the time of your adoption or send an email to the CAT Helpline at [helpline@catadoptionteam.org](mailto:helpline@catadoptionteam.org). You can also get helpful information, including tips on resolving behavior problems, on CAT's website at [catadoptionteam.org/resources](https://catadoptionteam.org/resources).

**If you need to return or rehome your cat within 60 days of adoption,** you may contact CAT to schedule a return or choose to rehome privately. We are not setup for walk-in returns, and ask that you schedule an admissions appointment by contacting the CAT Helpline by phone or email (503-925-8903 ext. 5, [helpline@catadoptionteam.org](mailto:helpline@catadoptionteam.org)). If the adoption turned out not to be a good fit and you make a return appointment within 60 days, you may be eligible for an exchange.

**If you need to rehome your cat more than 60 days after adoption,** we'll do our best to accommodate you but a return to CAT will depend on shelter capacity and may be impacted by health or behavior issues that could prevent your cat from being safe or happy in CAT's care. Even if we cannot take your kitty back into our shelter, we may be able to provide advice or other assistance to support you in rehoming your cat privately.

All of us at the Cat Adoption Team want to support you and help you make the best decision for your unique situation. Please contact us with any questions you may have. We are glad to assist you!

## Ways to Support CAT

Give more cats like yours their own chance to find a loving family. Here are just a few of the ways you can make a difference in the life of a homeless cat or kitten.

### Make a Donation

CAT is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that receives no government funding. Donations to CAT support services and programs that serve cats and people too!

- Donate at the time of your adoption
- Make a secure donation online anytime at [catadoptionteam.org/donate](https://catadoptionteam.org/donate)
- Donate your unwanted vehicle to our [Cars for CAT](#) program
- [Memorialize or honor a loved one](#) with a sponsorship in their name
- Include CAT in your estate plans by making a bequest or other [planned gift](#)
- [Shop to support CAT](#) with donation programs from Fred Meyer, Rite Aid, and more.
- Mail a donation to: Cat Adoption Team, 14175 SW Galbreath Drive, Sherwood OR 97140

### Join CAT's Meow Team

Make your giving simple and easy with an automatic monthly donation. Your Meow Team membership provides a dependable stream of income to support CAT's programs and services, including spay/neuter efforts, foster and adoption programs, and hospital services for shelter cats.



You can set up your Meow Team monthly donation online: [catadoptionteam.org/meow](https://catadoptionteam.org/meow)

### Volunteer

Put your love of cats and people into action! Volunteers are an integral part of the team at CAT. You can get involved in lots of different ways. Get more details about specific volunteer positions and how to attend volunteer orientation at: [catadoptionteam.org/volunteer](https://catadoptionteam.org/volunteer)

“Volunteering at CAT is my way of helping everyone have an opportunity to experience the joys of a happy, healthy pet companion.”

– Tia K.

**CAT Thrift Store features an incredible selection of new and gently used items.** You'll find everything from books to clothes to household goods and collectibles at our store in SW Portland. Proceeds support our shelter and mission.

The store accepts donations of household goods, clothing and shoes, vintage items, collectibles, and more in good condition. To see the donation guidelines and schedule a donation drop-off appointment, visit [catthriftstore.org](http://catthriftstore.org).

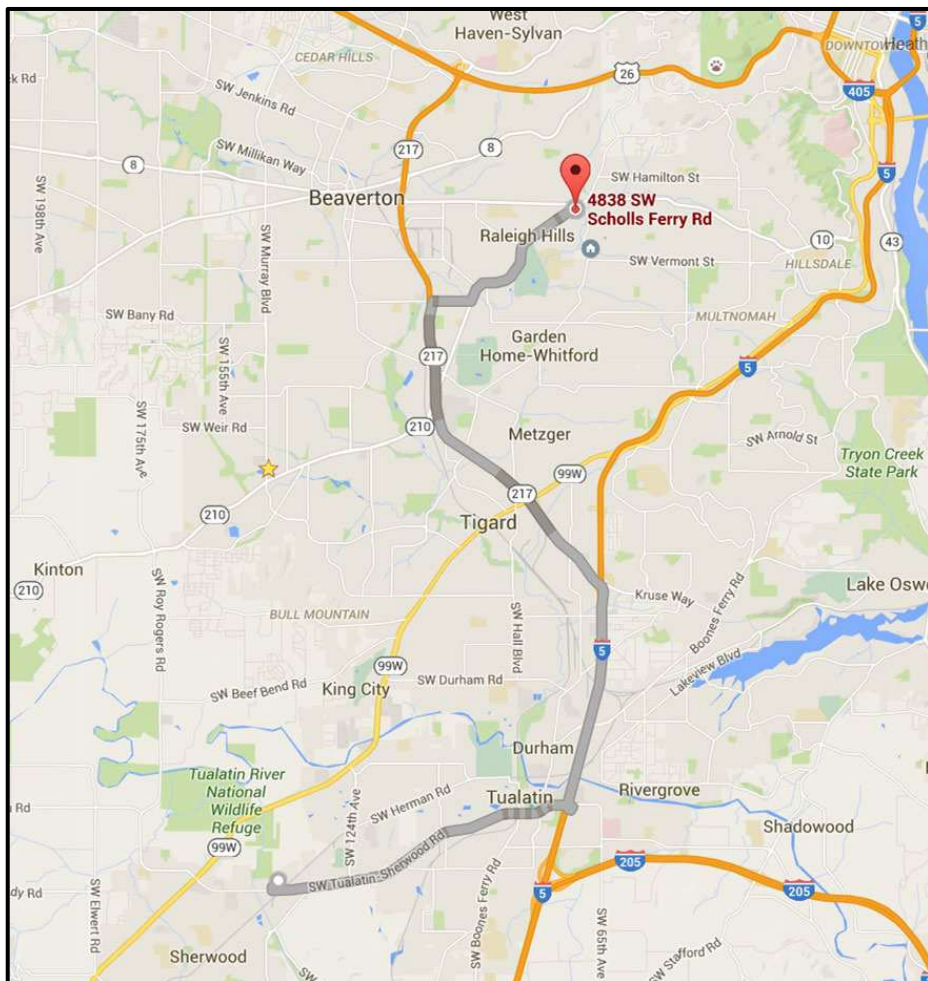


## Location / Contact

4838 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (*Raleigh Hills area*)  
Portland, OR 97225  
(503) 208-3635  
Sherwood, OR 97140  
[shop@catthriftstore.org](mailto:shop@catthriftstore.org)  
[catthriftstore.org](http://catthriftstore.org)

## Hours

Open Daily  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
*Donations by appointment only*





14175 SW Galbreath Drive  
Sherwood, OR 97140  
(503) 925-8903

[contactus@catadoptionteam.org](mailto:contactus@catadoptionteam.org)  
[catadoptionteam.org](http://catadoptionteam.org)

