

PAWS CAT FOSTERING ORIENTATION!

**An online orientation geared towards setting
cat foster parents up for success!**

WHAT SHOULD I
KNOW BEFORE I
COME IN?

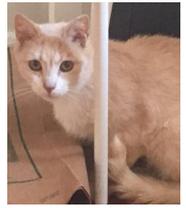
WHAT IS IN THIS ORIENTATION...

The goal of this video is to get you familiar with some of the **terminology, cat behavior, and approaches** we will use during your appointment to pick up a foster animal!

This gives you insight into some of the reasons cats will need foster care, so when you come into one of our locations, we can focus **all our time on the cats** :)

Most cats who need foster care will show poorly in the shelter; **this is why they need YOU!** Please try to give cats that others might overlook a chance!

TYPES OF BEHAVIORAL NEEDS:



PAWS typically sees five kinds of socialization cases for cats that qualify them as needing foster care:

1. **Mental stimulation:** Cats who are bored, with pent-up energy
2. **Depression,** due to being in the shelter too long
3. **Scared,** due to being unfamiliar with the shelter
4. **Semi-feral kittens** who are not socialized to people yet
5. **Cage-aggression** in cats who are used to living in a home and not to living in a cage

I. TERMINOLOGY

TERMINOLOGY



Image courtesy
Catster.com

“Being shut down”

Often brought on by sickness and receiving medication, a “shut down” cat is one so scared or depressed, they cannot engage with their surroundings. Gentle petting or soothing words often help.

“Semi-feral”

This is for scared kittens who have not yet become completely feral or completely socialized; with love and patience, they can still be socialized to people and become adoptable, happy house cats.

TERMINOLOGY

“Cage-Aggressive”

For house cats, being confined to a cage in a shelter is terrifying, as though they are backed into a corner at all times, and that can cause even the nicest of cats to lash out when caged. Cage-aggression often subsides when the cat is given more space to run around and explore, such as in a foster home.



Image courtesy HelloGiggles

TERMINOLOGY

“Needing mental stimulation”

Being in a cage all day is boring! Playful or smart cats can go crazy without something to do all day. We use special toys to feed them their meals to help keep them engaged and occupied, and to tire out their minds and bodies.



2. CAT BEHAVIOR

CAT BEHAVIOR 101: HOW TO SOCIALIZE "MENTAL STIM" CATS



We can use clicker training as a way to mentally tire out cats.

CAT BEHAVIOR 101: CAT'S TAILS

When a dog wags their tail, they are usually happy.

When a cat “wags” their tail, they are actually irritated.

If a cat is swishing their tail back and forth, stop! They are giving you a subtle warning, “I do not like what you are doing, please stop!”



CAT BEHAVIOR 101: MORE RESOURCES!

Since many of our adult cats have behavioral needs the longer they stay in the shelter, we offer one-on-one and small group trainings for foster parents with our Cat Socialization team using our shelter cats!

This is ideal for either new foster parents who are not comfortable with sick cats (meaning they will foster behavioral cats) and for current foster parents who are having a specific behavioral issue...or people who just cannot get enough time with cats!

Email meredyth@phillypaws.org if you want to learn more about Cat Socialization opportunities for foster parents!

AN EXAMPLE CLIP ABOUT SOCIALIZING SCARED CATS OR KITTENS
FROM OUR IN-PERSON ORIENTATION:



3. APPROACHING A NEW CAT

APPROACHING A NEW CAT



I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS...

Check out our PAWS Foster Resource page for more information on adult cat socialization!

<https://phillypaws.org/foster-resources/>



Thank you for your attention!



OUR KITTIES LOOK
FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!