



*Welcome!*

NEW CAT FOSTER



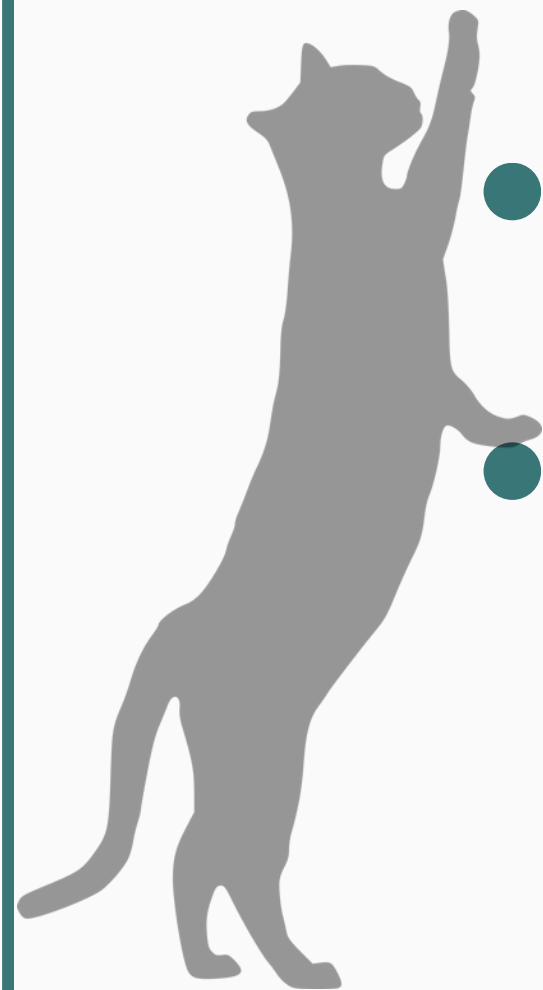
WE'RE SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE CHOSEN TO FOSTER CATS FOR  
**A HOME OF THEIR OWN ANIMAL RESCUE**



FOSTERS ARE TRULY THE BACKBONE OF OUR CAT PROGRAM.  
WITHOUT KIND AND DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU, WE  
COULDN'T RESCUE AND CARE FOR THE CATS THAT SO  
DESPERATELY NEED OUR HELP FINDING THEIR FOREVER HOMES.

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This packet provides helpful information & useful suggestions as well as explains our adoption process, and includes the cat rescue team contacts you may need while fostering.



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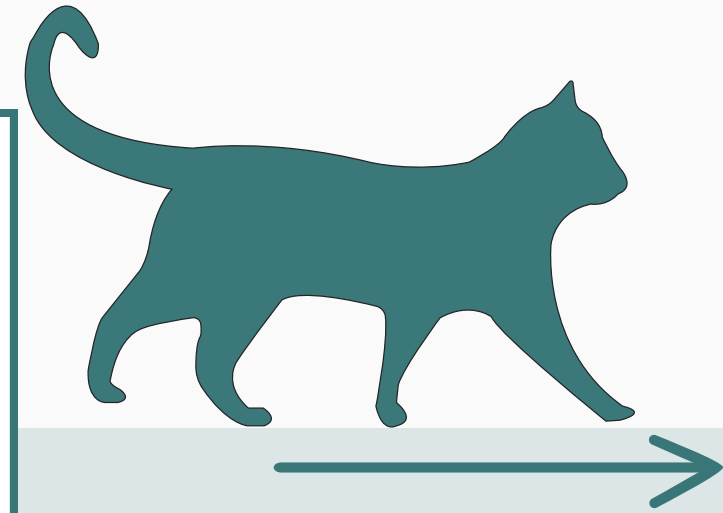


# Getting Started

We want your experience as a foster to be as enjoyable and as successful as possible. To assist in starting you off on the best path, we've collected useful information and suggestions, from professionals as well as many of our dedicated volunteers with countless years of fostering experience.

We understand and appreciate that each foster will have their own unique home environments and individual methods of caring for rescued cats.

We truly believe the time-tested methods and recommendations provided in this packet are worth considering and will give you the best possible foundation to begin your journey into cat fostering!



Let's Get Set Up  
for Success

## TO HELP YOU GET READY, YOU'LL RECEIVE OUR NEW FOSTER STARTER KIT

### The Kit Includes:

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) BAG OF RECOMMENDED DRY FOOD | (1) WATERPROOF DISH MAT        |
| (1) CASE OF WET FOOD            | (2) SHALLOW FOOD BOWLS         |
| (1) SEALING DRY FOOD CONTAINER  | (1) STAINLESS STEEL WATER BOWL |
| (1) LITTER BOX                  | (1) WAND TOY                   |
| (1) LITTER SCOOP                | (4) MISC. CAT TOYS             |



# Set Up For Success

Whether you have a big house or a comfortably-sized apartment, you'll likely want your foster cat to have as much space as it needs to spread out and explore.

For now, though, almost any new environment will initially feel overwhelming for a cat.

Cats need time to familiarize themselves with new spaces, smells, and sounds and quiet time to get settled.

*We strongly encourage setting up a "Base Camp" for your new feline friend!*

## Welcoming a foster cat into your home is always an exciting experience!



It's important to remember that your new foster kitty will typically need lots of calm energy and patience as they transition into their new environment. Whether they've been transferred in from a shelter or brought indoors for the first time, change is stressful for this naturally territorial species.



It is highly recommended that your newest feline friend remain in a single room or space ("Base Camp") in your home as they become familiar with new people and new surroundings.

Offering your new foster cat a "Base Camp" is a very important step towards ensuring they have a chance to slowly become acclimated and begin to relax in their new environment.

### Base Camp Location Suggestions

A spare bedroom is the most ideal place for your new foster cat's "base camp" but when this isn't an option, a less used bathroom can also be a suitable location.

For smaller kittens, you can use a large dog crate or "playpen." Be sure that there is enough room to give your new foster plenty of space to move around while still providing areas for their litter box, food, and water as well as a cozy bed for sleeping.

### Suggested Standard Base Camp Supplies

Food & Water Bowls

A Litter Box

A Small House or "Hiding Hole"

Access to Natural Sunlight

A Scratching Post or Cardboard

Scratcher Cat Toys

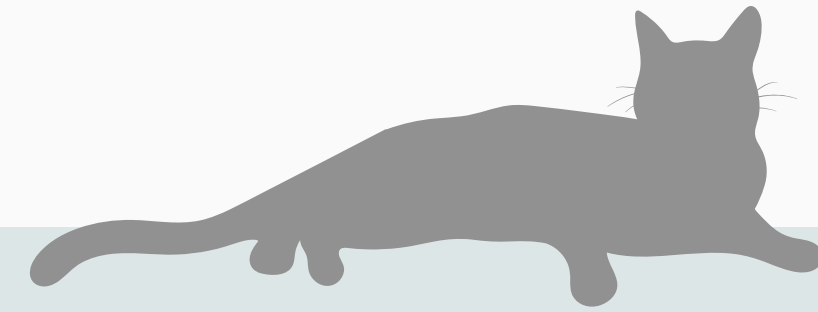
A Comfortable Cat Bed

# Rescue Cat Intake

Our Cat Program's managing directors use their contacts with various shelters and rescue groups to find cats and kittens in need. The rescue also regularly receives requests for intake from these organizations as well as from individuals within our community.

When a request for intake is received, we first obtain important details about the cat/s as well as copies of all their medical history. Our cat adoption team will then discuss potential available fosters that would be a good match for each cat.

Since we're an all-foster based program and avoid boarding cats unless absolutely necessary, we will typically only accept new rescue cats when fosters have communicated that they are available and have agreed to take a new cat.



The AHOTO representatives work directly with our partner organizations to facilitate the transfer process. Transport details are thoroughly discussed with fosters in advance. Timing for the placement of a new rescue cat will be arranged between the cat team directors and the foster well in advance.

Our goal is to ensure that a new rescue cat's transport process, arrival, intake and placement will be as smooth, and as convenient as possible for the cat as well as for all the volunteers involved.

A stylized house icon in a teal color, with a white outline of a house shape inside it. The house has a chimney on the left side and a pointed roof.

**KIND, CARING, & DEDICATED FOSTERS  
ARE TRULY THE FOUNDATION OF  
OUR CAT RESCUE PROGRAM!**

# Cat Case Counselors

Cat Case Counselors play a key role in developing strong relationships with our cat adopters. Case Counselors manage each step of their assigned cat's adoptions by working directly with the cat's approved applicant and the cat's foster.

Case Counselors provide the critical link between approved applicants and our cat's fosters by guiding and assisting them through each step of our adoption process.

These AHOTO cat program volunteers are a vital component to effectively completing an organized, thorough, and successful cat adoption.

## The Cat Case Counselor...

CHECKS DAILY FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THEIR CAT CASES AND DISCUSSES APPLICATION APPROVALS WITH THE PROGRAM'S DIRECTORS.

REACHES OUT TO THE APPROVED APPLICANT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT AND CONFIRM THEY'RE READY TO PROCEED WITH THE FIRST STEP OF THE ADOPTION PROCESS.

CONTACTS THE FOSTER WITH SOME DETAILS ABOUT THE APPROVED APPLICANT AND THEN INTRODUCES THE TWO IN ORDER TO ARRANGE A MEET & GREET

PREFORMS ADDITIONAL APPLICANT CHECKS

CONTACTS THE FOSTER AND APPLICANT SEPARATELY TO ENSURE THE MEET & GREET WAS SUCCESSFUL AND THE APPLICANT IS READY TO COMPLETE THE ADOPTION PROCESS

THE CASE COUNSELOR WORKS WITH THE PROGRAM'S DIRECTORS TO COMPLETE THE FINAL ADOPTION PROCESS STEPS AND CONFIRMS THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND ADOPTION FEE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

MAKES CONTACT WITH THE FOSTER AND ADOPTER TO INITIATE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CAT'S PLACEMENT

# Our Cat Adoption Process

## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS



THE FIRST STEP IN OUR ADOPTION PROCESS IS THE APPLICATION.



POTENTIAL ADOPTERS ARE ONLY CONSIDERED ONCE THEY HAVE SUBMITTED AN ADOPTION APPLICATION.



OUR PROGRAM'S MANAGING DIRECTORS WORK CLOSELY WITH A CAT'S CASE COUNSELOR IN THE APPLICATION APPROVAL PROCESS.

*This approach helps us ensure an approved applicant is truly the best match for the cat which they have applied to adopt.*

## MEET & GREET WITH APPROVED APPLICANTS



THE NEXT STEP IN OUR ADOPTION PROCESS IS OFFERING THE APPROVED APPLICANT A 'MEET & GREET' WITH THE CAT THEY'RE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING - THIS ALSO GIVES THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK THE CAT'S FOSTER ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE ABOUT THE CAT. TYPICALLY, THESE MEET & GREETS ARE HELD VIRTUALLY OVER EITHER ZOOM OR FACETIME.

*In some cases, potential adopters will request in-person meet & greets. We leave this option up to the foster based on their own personal comfort level. If a foster is not comfortable with either meet & greet platform, our managing directors are more than willing to assist and represent the foster in handling the situation with the applicant.*



***Re: In-Person Meet & Greets** - If this option is agreed to and arranged by the foster, **the potential adopter cannot take the cat/s home at this time!** There are additional critically important steps in our adoption process that must be completed by the Case Counselor in addition to electronic submission by the potential adopter of both the required adoption contract and adoption donation fee.*



THE CASE COUNSELOR WILL SEND THE CAT'S FOSTER SOME GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPROVED APPLICANT PRIOR TO INTRODUCING THE FOSTER TO THE POTENTIAL ADOPTER VIA EMAIL. DURING THIS INTRODUCTION EMAIL, THE FOSTER WILL BE ASKED TO CONTACT THE APPLICANT IN A SEPARATE EMAIL IN ORDER TO ARRANGE A DAY AND TIME THAT IS MOST CONVENIENT FOR BOTH THE FOSTER AND POTENTIAL ADOPTER'S SCHEDULES.



ONCE THE MEET & GREET IS COMPLETE, THE FOSTER IS ASKED TO EMAIL THE CAT'S CASE COUNSELOR TO LET THEM KNOW HOW THEY THOUGHT THE MEETING WENT WITH THE POTENTIAL ADOPTER.

# Continued Our Cat Adoption Process

## VERIFICATIONS FOR ADOPTION APPROVAL

 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INITIAL STEPS TAKEN TO APPROVE AN APPLICANT BEFORE ARRANGING THEIR MEET & GREET, CASE COUNSELORS CONDUCT SEVERAL ADDITIONAL CHECKS PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF THE ADOPTION PROCESS. THESE ADDITIONAL STEPS HELP US ENSURE THE APPLICANT WILL BE A SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER.

### THESE VERIFICATION STEPS INCLUDE:

#### All Approved Applicants:

##### **HOME VISITS**

*Home Visits are arranged and completed by the cat's case counselor. Home Visits confirm the adopter has all the supplies ready that they will need to welcome their new cat into their home. The Home Visit also gives us the opportunity to see that the adopter has a safe environment for their newly adopted cat. During this visit, we may make suggestions and recommendations for the cat's transition as well as answer any additional questions the adopter may have.*

#### When Applicable:


##### **VET CHECKS**

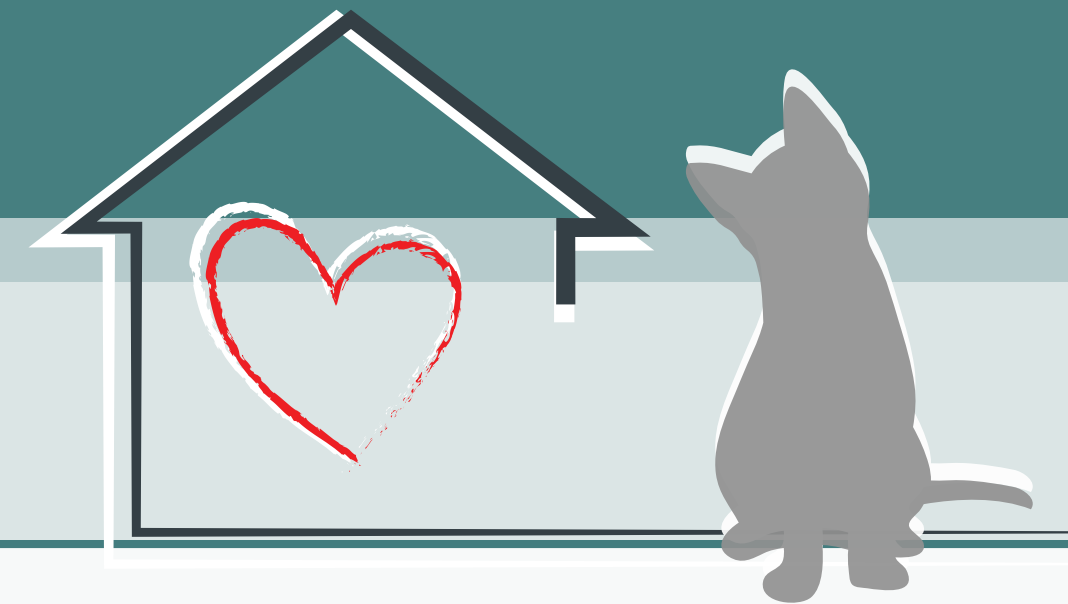
*For adopters with pets currently living in the home, this step confirms that all pets are up to date on necessary vaccinations and care.*

##### **LANDLORD VERIFICATION**

*We verify that potential adopters who rent their homes have a pet friendly policy and are allowed cats in their homes.*

## ADOPTION CONTRACT AND DONATION FEE

 THE FINAL STEP IN OUR ADOPTION PROCESS IS FOR THE ADOPTER TO ELECTRONICALLY SIGN AND SUBMIT THE REQUIRED CAT ADOPTION CONTRACT AND TO SEND THE ADOPTION DONATION FEE THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION'S SECURE SITE. THE CASE COUNSELOR OR ONE OF THE CAT PROGRAM DIRECTORS WILL SEND THE APPROPRIATE LINKS IN ORDER FOR THE ADOPTER TO COMPLETE THESE FINAL STEPS. ONCE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND THE ADOPTION FEE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE ORGANIZATION, THE CASE COUNSELOR WILL CONTACT BOTH THE FOSTER AND ADOPTER TO LET THEM KNOW THEY CAN PROCEED WITH MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CAT'S PLACEMENT.



## FOREVER HOME PLACEMENT



ONCE A CASE COUNSELOR INFORMS YOU THE CAT ADOPTION CONTRACT IS SIGNED AND THE ADOPTION DONATION FEE IS RECEIVED, YOU AND THE ADOPTER CAN SCHEDULE A DATE, TIME AND METHOD FOR PLACEMENT THAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU.

WHEN PLACING YOUR FOSTER CAT WITH THE ADOPTER OR IN THEIR FOREVER HOME, PLEASE GIVE THE ADOPTER ANY MEDICAL RECORDS OR TRANSFER PAPERS THAT YOU MAY HAVE.

AFTER THE PICKUP OR DROP OFF IS COMPLETE, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR CASE COUNSELOR THAT THE PLACEMENT WAS SUCCESSFUL.



WHEN YOU'RE READY, LET YOUR CASE COUNSELOR KNOW IF YOU ARE READY TO PROVIDE A FOSTER HOME FOR ANOTHER CAT OR KITTEN IN NEED!



# Foster Requirements



Thank you again for your willingness to foster for our Cat Program. We are incredibly grateful for your offer to volunteer your time, home and kindness to care for our rescue cats in need. There are just a few additional steps you'll need to be complete once you've received and looked through this packet.

**Welcome to A Home of Their Own Animal Rescue!**

✓ All new fosters are required to sign and submit a Foster Agreement for A Home of Their Own Animal Rescue. The Cat Program Managing Director who made contact with you after receiving your foster application will provide you with the necessary link to this document for you to sign and submit electronically.

✓ A Home of Their Own Animal Rescue requires all new fosters complete a brief online course provided by an organization called "Maddie's Fund." Once you have finished this short video course, please send receipt of completion to the rescue representative you've been in contact with.



[Link To Online Course](#)



# Contacts

Please don't ever hesitate to reach out to any of our Cat Team Managing Directors or to the Case Counselor you're working with.

We are always be available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have while fostering with us.



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