



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW CAT

SO, YOU'VE ADOPTED A SHELTER PET!

Now that you have a new member in the family, we at the Idaho Humane Society want to help make it an easy transition for all of you, especially your new pet companion. We want to thank you for saving a life and hope that you and your new pet will enjoy many happy years together.

All new owners must understand that many of these animals will need a few days to completely adjust to their new home.

If you are prepared to take on the responsibility of a new pet in your home, you will reap the rewards of that animal's love and companionship and will truly have a friend for life.

AS YOU ADOPT A CAT...

This is an exciting time for both you and your new cat or kitten.

To help ensure a long and happy relationship, here are some health pointers to consider.

Make a visit to your veterinarian as soon as possible. Your veterinarian is your best source of information on keeping your cat healthy and happy.

A combination vaccine can protect your cat against the viral diseases Panleukopenia, Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus, plus the disease Chlamydia (pneumonitis).

Panleukopenia is a potentially fatal disease that causes fever, vomiting, diarrhea and severe abdominal pain. Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Pneumonitis cause highly contagious upper respiratory disease. Even after recovery from infection, cats can be carriers of these diseases, so protect through vaccination.

The Idaho Humane society microchips all pets placed up for adoption.

What is a microchip ID?

A microchip ID is a rice-sized identification tag which is painlessly implanted in an animal. This tag or “chip” is encoded with a scannable ID number designed to help reunite you with your pet. Microchipping is the only reliable way to permanently identify your pet.

How does the microchip work?

Each chip contains a unique alphanumeric code. This code is linked to the pet’s owner’s name, address, and phone number in a computerized database.

The Idaho Humane Society scans all animals coming into the shelter with a handheld device designed to recognize microchips. If a chip is located the corresponding ID number is traced within the database and the owner is notified that the missing animal has been found.

Are microchips safe?

Hermetically sealed in biomedical grad class, microchips are completely inert and will cause no pain or discomfort to your pet. The entire microchipping procedure takes only a few seconds and requires no anesthesia.

Why is this service offered?

The “return to owner” rate for cats is very low. Through grant funding, the Idaho Humane Society can offer this service free of charge for adopted animals with the hope of reuniting lost pets with their owners in a timely manner.

Please Remember: it is VERY important to notify the shelter if your address or phone number changes! Call, 24Petwatch to update chip information.

Identification is your pet’s “ticket” home!

Litterbox Tips

WHAT CATS WANT:

Most cats prefer:

A large box that is easy to enter, with a low to moderate level of litter.

An uncovered box.

Either the type of litter on which they were trained on or clumping litter.

Unscented litter.

A box that located in a quiet but not “cornered” location-i.e., the cat likes to be able to see if someone is approaching, and they like to have more than one exit; above all, cats want a CLEAN box.

CAT HOUSE SOILING

At least ten percent of all cats develop an elimination problem. Some cats stop using the box altogether, while some only use the box for urination and some cats go both in and out of the box. Most litter box problems stem from a change in the cat’s preferred substrate or location of the box, or when the cat develops an aversion to the box or in the area around the box. Sometimes an elimination problem will develop because of conflict between the cats in the home.

WHAT TO DO:

1. It is imperative to evaluate and rule out a medical cause for the problem. Have your cat checked thoroughly by your veterinarian first.
2. Remove covers from litter boxes
3. Give the cat a choice of litter types. Cats generally prefer unscented clumping litter with a medium to fine texture.
4. Scoop at least once a day. Once a week, clean the entire box with warm water (no soap) and completely replace litter
5. Clean “accidents” thoroughly with an enzymatic cleanser designed to neutralize the odor.
6. If the cat is soiling around just a few spots in the home, place litter boxes there. If it is not possible to put a box in one of these spots, place the cat’s food bowl, water bowl, bed and/or toys in the area to discourage elimination

7. Offer different types of litter in boxes placed side-by-side to allow the cat to demonstrate his preferences for litter type.

10 Tips to Keep Your Cat Happy Indoors

Although many cats enjoy being outside, it's a myth that going outside is a requirement for feline happiness. Playing regularly with a cat easily satisfies her stalking instinct, keeps her stimulated and provides the exercise she needs to stay healthy and happy.

Here are some tips for making the great indoors an interesting, feline-friendly environment that meets all your cat's needs.

Start young

Kittens who are kept indoors are usually happy to stay there as they grow up.

Fence me in

Provide a screened porch or other safe way for your cat to experience the outdoors. Consider building or purchasing a "cat fence" or similar enclosure. Such an enclosure can allow your cat to experience the pleasures of the great outdoors without the risks. However, a fence may not prevent other animals from entering your yard, so you should always be present when you allow your cat outside.

Be sure to cat-proof the yard by checking that the fence has no escape routes and by making toxic plants, garden chemicals and other dangerous objects inaccessible.

Walk this way

If you live in a peaceful neighborhood in which you can walk without encountering loose dogs, consider buying a harness and training your cat to walk on a leash. This training takes time and patience, for both you and the cat, and it's easiest when your cat is young. Some cats can even be harnessed and tied to a stationary object to enjoy the outdoors while you are gardening nearby (but be sure to never leave your cat alone while she is tied to a stationary object).

Hang out

Install a perch indoors near a sunny window; padded perches can be purchased at many pet supply stores. Another option is an enclosure that sits in a window frame (much like an air conditioning unit) and provides a secure space in which your kitty can hang out. Larger perches can attach to the side of a house or ground-floor apartment patio. It's best to allow your cat access to these when someone is home to supervise.

Tree's company

Buy a ready-made cat tree (often called a "kitty condo") or make your own. A cat tree can be short or may stretch from floor to ceiling. It provides great climbing opportunities and, in multi-cat households, creates more play and rest areas by taking advantage of vertical space. If you can, locate the cat tree next to a window so your cat can watch the action outdoors.

Play time

Play with your cat each day. Try different types of toys that allow your cat to stalk, chase, pounce and kick. When you've tired out your cat, store toys that could harm him (such as toys with strings attached) out of reach. When you can't be there to supervise, leave out "toys" such as paper bags (with the handles removed) or cardboard boxes. Be sure to switch the toys from time to time so that they seem "new" and more interesting to your cat.

Bring the outdoors in

Plant cat grass (available from pet supply stores) in indoor pots so your feline can graze.

ID, please

Even indoor cats should still be outfitted with a collar and visible identification. The occasional open window (make sure your windows have secure screens) or door offers a tempting opportunity for your cat to explore the outdoors. And your cat may become frightened and make her way outside if strangers come to work on your house or if there is a fire or similar disaster. The collar and visible ID could help someone get your pet back to you.

Just a Reminder!

- If you have any medical concerns, please contact your local veterinarian.
- Should you need to return your animal we ask that you bring them to our Dorman Street facility. Please bring the original paperwork to ensure we can process your refund. If you return within 30 days you will receive a refund.
- A taxed return processing fee of \$10 per dog or \$5 per cat will be charged at the time of return and deducted from the refund.

**For additional pet care and training tips visit "Shelter Services" on our website:
idahohumanesociety.org**