



VOICE FOR THE ANIMALS'

Adoption Handout

Congratulations on the newest member of your family! This handout contains important information and suggestions for your new pet.

Food

Feed your cat high quality, grain-free food. How much and how often your cat is fed depends on her/his individual needs. If you have a male cat, it is important that wet food is part of his daily diet in order to prevent crystals in the urinary tract. Never use plastic bowls.

Brands We Recommend:

- Acana
- American Journey
- Blue Buffalo
- Castor & Pollux Organix
- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- Fromm
- Merrick
- Natural Balance
- Newman's Own Organics.
- Orijen
- Rachael Ray Nutrish
- Taste of the Wild
- Wellness
- Weruva
- Whole Earth Farms
- Whole-Hearted

Brands We DON'T Recommend:

- 9 Lives
- Eukanaba
- Fancy Feast
- Friskies
- Generic chain-store brands
- Hill's Science Diet
- Iams
- Meow Mix

- Purina
- Royal Canin Adult
- Special Kitty
- Tender Vittles
- Whiskas

Supplements

Lysine and colostrum help support the immune system. They can be mixed with wet food.

- Colostrum – 1/8 teaspoon once a day.
- Lysine – 250 mg twice a day.

Litter Box

Once a month, thoroughly clean the litter box. Dump out all of the litter, clean the box with a non-toxic cleaner and then add fresh litter.

Brands We Recommend:

- Arm & Hammer
- Dr. Esley's
- Ever Clean
- Purina Tidy Cats
- World's Best Cat Litter

Flea Control

Apply flea treatment to the back of your cat's neck once a month. We recommend Cheristin and Program. To kill and prevent fleas on surfaces around your home, we recommend Zap!. Beware of inexpensive flea medications sold in the store. NEVER use Hartz products.

Safety

NEVER let your cat outdoors. This includes not letting the cat on the balcony and not engaging in "supervised" visits outdoors. You do not want your cat familiar with your outdoor area because she is more likely to run off. If she escapes and is unfamiliar with the outdoors, she will freeze and that will give you time to catch her. The Nextdoor app is filled with people who have lost their cats during "supervised" visits who never thought their cat would run off. Remember that it just takes one time for your cat to run away. Cars, coyotes, canines and cat-haters are just a few of the dangers the cat may face while outside.

Scratching Solutions

It is important to have a scratcher so that your cat can exercise his instinctual need to scratch. Here are some humane solutions to protect your furniture:

1. *Trimming nails.* You can use a regular human nail clipper and snip off the hook at the end of each claw.
2. *Scratching posts.* A cardboard scratcher that lies flat on the floor is an inexpensive and effective scratching post. To attract your cat to the scratcher, sprinkle some catnip over the top. If your cat is scratching a piece of furniture, place the scratcher near that furniture.
3. *Nail covers.* Soft Claws produces vinyl caps for claws. The caps are attached with non-toxic adhesive and last 4-6 weeks. They come off when your cat naturally sheds her claws.
4. *Sticky Paws.* Sticky Paws makes double-sided sticky sheets that you can put on areas, such as the couch, you don't want your cat to scratch. Since cats don't like the sticky feeling, they will choose more appropriate places to scratch, such as a scratching post.

Vet

Take your cat to the vet once a year for a check up. Cats with chronic conditions and seniors may need to go more often. To prepare for emergencies, know where your closest 24-hour vet is located.

Medicating your Cat

Cats can be difficult to medicate. Here are some tips:

1. *Compounding pharmacy.* If the medication is liquid, ask your vet to send the prescription to a compounding pharmacy. The compounding pharmacy can add fish or chicken flavoring to make the medicine more palatable to your cat. If the medication is a tablet, ask if it's possible to make a liquid out of it so it can be flavored.
2. *Reward.* Reward your cat after she takes her medication. If you give her a treat every time she finishes her medication, she will associate medication time with a positive experience.
3. *Pill-Masker.* Use Pill-Masker by Tomlyn. Pill-Masker is a tasty substance that has the consistency of Play Dough. You simply mold Pill-Masker around the tablet and then pill your cat as usual. Your cat will find Pill-Masker tastier and easier to swallow than a tablet alone. If you slightly dampen before giving to your cat, the pill slides down even better.
4. *Mix it.* Crush a pill and mix in with tuna or Gerber's baby food.

5. *Pill popper*. This is a syringe-like device that you place in your cat's mouth, press the plunger and then the pill shoots into your kitty's mouth.

Travel Tips

1. Prior to taking a trip with your pet, take him to the vet for an exam to make sure he is healthy enough to travel. Ask your vet if he/she recommends a product or prescription to calm your cat down while traveling.
2. If you're staying in a hotel, make sure you know the pet policy. The following chains are generally cat friendly: Best Western, Four Seasons, Hilton, Marriot, La Quinta, Kimpton, Motel 6, Radisson, Red Roof Inn, Super 8, Travelodge.
3. Verify that your cat's microchip information is up to date.
4. If your cat takes medication, bring extra in case your trip lasts longer than intended.
5. Days before you leave, help your cat associate his carrier with positive emotions. Leave the carrier out and put treats and/or catnip in it.

Car

1. Do practice runs by taking your cat for short car rides.
2. Use a carrier that is large enough for your cat to stand up, stretch and turn around. For longer trips, consider getting a large carrier that can easily fit a travel-sized litter box and gives your cat plenty of room to move around. Keep him in the carrier at all times. If you need to leave your car, it is best that you take your cat with you. Be careful about leaving an animal in a car that is too hot or too cold. Parked cars heat up very quickly and the heat can cause serious consequences.
3. If your cat has a chronic condition, prepare for an emergency by identifying some of the vet hospitals on your route.

Plane

1. Buy a carrier that fits the specifications for airplane travel. Always check with the airline to make sure you have an approved size. A carrier with soft sides is easier to fit under the seat. Line the bottom with pee pads and bring a water bowl.
2. Arrange for your cat to be with you in the cabin. NEVER board your cat under the plane.
3. When you go through security, you will need to take your cat out of her carrier and carry her with you. Make sure she is wearing a collar with her identification plus a harness to prevent her from running away.
4. While in the plane, put your cat under the seat in front of you. NEVER put her in the overhead compartment.

Emergency Kit

It is a good idea to have your pet prepared for a natural disaster by creating an emergency kit. Items to include:

- 3 day supply of food and water.
- Medications.
- Litter and disposable litter box, waste bags.
- Important documents that include microchip number and medical information.
- Photo of your cat. Include any distinctive markings. The photo would be helpful if your pet got lost.
- Carrier.
- Medical supplies: Cloth bandages, alcohol, cotton pads, and antibiotic ointment.

Emergency Medical Contacts (24 Hours)

Ambulance

Pet Ambulance Los Angeles

(310) 575-1985

Transportation

Tail a Cab

Lisa (213) 925-0452

Hospitals

Access – Los Angeles

9599 Jefferson Blvd., Culver City 90232

(310) 558-6100

Animal Surgical and Emergency Center

1535 South Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles 90025

(310) 473-1561

VCA TLC Animal Hospital

8725 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood 90069

(310) 859-4852

VCA West L.A. Veterinary Group

1818 South Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles 90025

(310) 473-2951

House-Calls

911Vet

(323) 238-5171

(866) 491-1838

Animal Poison Control

(888) 426-4435