



Cat Rescue & Adoption Network

A Guide to Fostering Happy Kitties in Your Home

<https://catrescues.org/>

*Please note: much of this foster manual was based on Cat Adoption Team's (of Sherwood, OR) fostering manual. We appreciate their allowing us to use it and thank them for their good work.

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Key Contact Information

When you are fostering, you should contact a member of the foster team for behavioral or medical issues.

Volunteer Name	Phone Number
Louanne Koch	541-520-7756
Nicki Griffin	541-968-2133
Tammy Goss	541-729-0922
Marci Seghetti	541-968-3117

CRAN Welcome

Dear Foster Parents,

Thank you for participating in the fostering program at Cat Rescue & Adoption Network! Being a foster parent is a fun and rewarding way for you to care for animals without the commitment of adoption, and it allows us to care for more cats and kittens in the community.

Many cats especially benefit from the specialized attention they receive in a loving foster home. These special cases include:

- Pregnant or nursing mothers who need a peaceful, safe environment in which to raise their vulnerable kittens.
- Kittens who are not yet big enough to be spayed or neutered and need to be cared for in a home committed to reducing pet overpopulation.
- Cats who have spent too much time in our catteries. At CRAN, we try our best to make the catteries good places to spend some time, but for some cats this is an especially stressful situation. They deserve a vacation!
- Under-socialized cats, who may learn to trust humans while in the care of a patient foster home.
- Sick or injured cats who need a committed care provider and a peaceful place to heal.

Who We Are

Below is a brief history of Cat Rescue and Adoption Network, formerly West Coast Dog and Cat Rescue (WCDC).

The organization got its start when a small group of friends and colleagues decided to help promote adoptions of dogs and cats who were housed in the Lane County Animal Shelter.

The adoption events that were held early on at local businesses led to the idea of forming a nonprofit aimed at helping local dogs and cats to find permanent, loving homes.

West Coast Dog and Cat Rescue became a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2007.

Our tax ID number is 68-0655056.

Eventually, the volunteers who were responsible for running the part of the organization committed to dog rescue moved on, or moved away.

As there were several reputable, excellent dog rescue programs in the Lane County area, WCDC moved their focus to cat and kitten rescue.

In 2017 we changed our name to Cat Rescue and Adoption Network.

Cat Rescue and Adoption Network is an all-volunteer organization. We receive no municipal funding. We rely on adoption fees, grants, donations and fundraising for our work.

Key focus points for Cat Rescue & Adoption Network include:

- The necessity to spay and neuter to reduce pet overpopulation
- The importance of adoption
- The humane treatment of animals
- How to work with feral cats through TNR (trap-neuter-return)
- Our focus over the years has been to help find homes for special needs cats and kittens in the community. This includes, but is not limited to, older cats, shy cats, and cats with chronic health conditions.

A Note on Finances

(CRAN) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. This means that any donations you make are tax-deductible, in accordance with tax laws.

CRAN would like to provide you with all necessary supplies (litter box and litter, food, toys, etc.). Since we are a small all volunteer based network please let us know 3-5 days in advance when you are running low or need any supplies. If you do purchase any *necessary* items for your foster care, please keep original receipts. If you provide documentation to our treasurer, you will be fully reimbursed. If you do not care to be reimbursed, please keep these records and provide them to your tax preparer, and consider these in-kind donations a tax-deductible charitable gift.

An appendix contains several Request for Reimbursement forms. If your expenses are under \$50, fill out this form completely, attach the original receipt, and mail to Cat Rescue & Adoption Network, P.O. Box 72401 Springfield, OR 97475.

Any expenses exceeding \$50 require pre-approval - please see the reimbursement form for details.

Requests for reimbursement must be submitted in a timely manner. If you need to request reimbursement for supplies for your foster cat, please submit the receipts and the reimbursement form within 60 days of your purchase.

If you plan to substitute food or litter for the supplies that CRAN would normally provide for a foster cat, please discuss this with one of the foster coordinators. Some substitutions, for medical purposes, are approved automatically upon request. However, if your personal preference is to provide your foster kitty with a specific brand/variety of food other than what CRAN normally provides, that should be ok'd by a foster coordinator or board member.

Veterinary Care

Medical Expenses

Please remember that while you are fostering for CRAN, decisions regarding the cat's medical care should be made and coordinated by a CRAN representative.

When procedures have been followed properly, you will not need to cover any medical expenses, as CRAN has accounts with a number of veterinarians. Even in an emergency, if you take the animal to the Emergency Veterinary Hospital on Q Street, CRAN has arrangements with these vets and you will not need to pay. You should never pay for an animal's medical care when it is being seen as a CRAN animal.

Again, do not pay when the animal is being seen in a CRAN account. If you would like to pay for vet care as a charitable donation, make sure it is in your personal account. You can always make a donation to Cat Rescue & Adoption Network, and mark it as a donation to the Medical Fund.

In Case of Emergency

An emergency is defined as:

- The animal is not moving
- There is bloody drool coming from cat's mouth or nose
- Extreme lethargy
- Excessive yowling
- Seizures
- Catfight
- Blood in urine (exception: it is relatively common for a cat to have some blood in urine for a day or two after spay surgery. If urine is tinted with blood, this is o.k. If blood is leaking out the animal's vulva, this is NOT o.k.)
- Excessive vomiting and/or diarrhea. (Some vomiting can be normal and is not an emergency. If the vomit is light-colored bile vomit, this is not an emergency, but do keep an eye on the cat. If the cat continues to vomit excessively, this becomes an emergency.)
- Straining to urinate or defecate (increased litter box visiting, heavily increased water consumption). This may indicate a blockage and is especially dangerous for male cats.
- Paralysis
- Difficulty breathing including open mouth breathing, raspy breathing, or gasping.
- The cat is hiding when it has normally not been hiding and nothing has happened to scare it.

If there is a medical emergency, you are to first call AND text your foster coordinator (Louanne at 541-520-7756). If they are not reachable, you may try contacting any one of the Advocats or a current board member.

If none of these people can be reached, please take the animal directly to the Emergency Veterinary Hospital, 1821 Pioneer Parkway East, Springfield 541-746-0112, open 24 hrs, or WilVet South Emergency and Urgent Veterinary Care, 444 B Street, Springfield 541-838-0577, open 24 hours.

Non-Emergency Medical Concerns

Contact Louanne or your Advocat right away if you notice these signs, but do not take the animal to an emergency vet. CRAN will schedule an appointment for your animal to receive non-emergency care.

Non-emergency medical concerns include:

- Sneezing/coughing/wheezing or runny noses or other signs of cough/cold.
- Intermittent vomiting and/or diarrhea (if it is multiple times a day or at the same time). Note: new rescues often come with diarrhea. This can be from stress, diet change, or parasites. We often treat it first with a probiotic. If diarrhea is persistent, then we run a fecal test.
- Slight lethargy/beginning signs of lethargy. If the animal is lethargic but reacts to stimuli normally, it is a concern but not an emergency.
- The animal is not eating or drinking regularly. Keep an eye on food and water consumption so that any changes in eating and drinking behavior will be noticed immediately and can be dealt with before it becomes an emergency.
- Change in litter box habits. Note: If the cat is not urinating or is straining to urinate this is an emergency. See “In Case of Emergency” information above.
- Weight loss is concerning. Kittens should be gaining weight daily. Weight gain is typically 10-15 grams per day. If you notice your kitten is not gaining weight OR is losing weight we need to know immediately.

Foster Responsibilities and Expectations

1. Always cat/kitten-proof your home. You are responsible for these animals' safety, and CRAN will not be held responsible for damage to your belongings.
2. **Keep all foster cats inside at all times.**
 - a. When transporting cats into or out of the house, they must be kept in carriers. Please double check latches on carriers prior to leaving the house and before returning the cat to the car after an appointment.
 - b. Keep doors and windows of your home shut at all times, unless **SECURELY** covered with a screen. Remember, cats can escape through very small places and are very crafty creatures!
 - c. If your animal does escape, contact your Advocat and (foster coordinator) **IMMEDIATELY**. You should also take steps to retrieve the animal. Pause briefly to relax your body, and breathe. Do not chase the animal, as this may scare it away. Follow slowly and then pick up the cat when you are close enough. If you lose sight of the cat, look for the cat in bushes or in other places low to the ground. Put food outside and something that smells like them to try and tempt them back.
3. **The cats and kittens in your foster care are owned by CRAN. They may not be adopted out, given away, or otherwise transferred from your care without the express permission of CRAN. Potential adopters, including the foster parent, must go through the adoption process and fill out an application. Anyone adopting cats or kittens is expected to pay the full fee for adoption.**
4. Animals that have tested positive for FIV, ringworm, or other diseases or infections should remain separated from other animals for the duration of their stay.
5. Seemingly healthy adult cats and kittens that have not tested positive for any diseases or infections should be kept separated from household pets for at least two weeks, to ensure they are healthy and will not spread anything to your animals.
6. You are to provide daily care and feeding for your foster cats.
7. Please give advance notice of at least two weeks if you have a vacation planned and will need another placement or a possible housesitter for your CRAN fosters.
8. Please give 3-5 days notice when you need supplies.

Housing

It is your responsibility to provide a safe, clean space for your foster animal. If you have small kittens, remember they are messy and will need to be litter box trained. Consider covering furniture with plastic or cotton sheets. All cats need a place where they can feel secure. Semi-feral cats especially require a confined space such as a box to feel more secure.

How to Cat-Proof your Home

This process is much the same as child-proofing your home. Remember, cats are curious, crafty creatures! These tips will help you get started:

1. Properly secure cleaning supplies, medicines and other poisonous materials.
2. Do not leave baby supplies where cats can get into them.
3. Keep an eye on the cat when you are closing doors of any sort. Did he/she climb into your closet or cupboard? What about your dryer, refrigerator or oven? Cats cannot open doors and some places will be more harmful than others!
4. Playful kitties may knock things over or pull them down. Be careful about hot irons and hair dryers, as well as your knickknacks and other breakables.
5. Many household plants are toxic to kitties, who will munch on anything when bored at home. Acquaint yourself with these plants and remove them.
6. Keep small items like paper clips, rubber bands, hair ties, plastic trash, small human toys, or anything a cat could swallow or choke on out of reach.
7. Keep razor blades and knives out of reach, as cats love to play with items such as these.
8. Put plastic bags away immediately to avoid suffocation risk.
9. Curious cats love to claw and chew on cords. This is a serious risk of electrocution. You can easily cover cords with plastic cases sold at electronics stores, or spray it with bitter sprays sold at pet stores.
10. Watch out for the burning risk of hot stoves, pipes and fireplaces. Keep foster animals away from any hot surfaces.
11. Please keep the lid to your toilet DOWN. Kittens especially are curious about water. Kittens can get INTO a toilet, but they cannot get OUT.

Feeding

Please take time to monitor your foster animal's food consumption. If their food consumption changes radically, this may be a sign that something is wrong. Also, if you have more than one animal, it is important to make sure every animal is eating (this is especially true with a litter of kittens—sometimes the runt will be forced out of the 'feeding frenzy' and may not be getting proper nutrition). Sometimes it might be necessary to feed a kitten separately for a time. For kittens and adult cats, listed below is what we feed the cats in the adoption centers and for consistency's sake, we would like you to use it too.

All cats and kittens need fresh water at all times. Water should be changed two times/day.

Nursing Mama Cats and Tiny Kittens

For nursing mama cats and tiny kittens, we provide Royal Canin Mother & Babycat dry and canned food.

Young kittens need to be weighed daily to ensure that there is a 10-15 gram weight gain per day. Your Advocat can provide you with a scale depending on the age/size of kittens.

Weaned Kittens

For weaned kittens, we provide Iams kitten dry food, and Fancy Feast kitten wet food, usually turkey variety. Kittens under a year can be free fed "buffet style." After 1 year of age, we recommend transitioning to a feeding schedule with meals twice a day.

Adult Cats

For adult cats, we provide Iams adult dry food and Friskies wet food in various flavors and forms (i.e. pate or shreds). Please use the feeding guidelines on the food bag to determine how much to feed your foster based on their weight. If you have questions, reach out to your Advocat or foster coordinator. In addition, we will provide you with canned wet food to supplement the cat's diet once or twice a day. Some cats can be picky eaters so a different variety of wet or dry food will be provided if necessary.

Litter Box

Most cats will want to use the litter box. If you are fostering an adult cat, s/he will most likely be litter box trained. Some exceptions may be feral cats and kittens.

To box train your cat, place it in the litter box shortly after feeding. Keep an eye on your cat, and if he starts to go potty outside the box, pick him up and put him in the litter box. Cats are also more inclined to use the box when it already smells like kitty excrement. If you are having difficulty box training a foster cat please speak to your Advocat. Sometimes the solution is as simple as changing litter or adding extra litter boxes.

There are many different options for kitty litter. Some people or cats prefer a more natural wheat litter, pine pellets or recycled newspaper. Some people/cats prefer the clumping litter with or without perfumes added. We provide pine pellets to fosters unless a special situation comes up.

The general rule is one box per cat and one additional per two cats. Kittens tend to share a box but with a larger litter of kittens more than one is needed and as they get bigger you may have to add more.

Socializing your Foster Cat

This is the fun part! The better socialized your foster animal is, the more likely he or she

is to be adopted quickly. We trust you to treat your foster animal with the same love and respect that you would show your own pet. Here are some tips:

- Spend at least one hour a day with your foster animal grooming, playing, cuddling, etc.
- The more time your foster spends around people, the more comfortable she will generally feel. This can be a delicate balance, though—especially for feral cats, who may become frightened around too many people. Work to introduce your foster cat to new people. Invite visitors in your house to say “hello” to your fosters with treats, playtime or just talking for a while if the foster is shy. Making good associations with strangers is helpful for adoption meet and greets.
- Get to know your animal’s personality, as this will help on adoption day. What are his/her favorite toys and games? Where does he/she like to sleep? Does the animal get along well with other cats? With children? (Please note: all visits with children under the age of 10 should be supervised, and no kittens younger than three weeks should be handled by children under 10 years of age).
- Cats that get along well with dogs are more likely to be adopted quickly. If you would like to introduce your foster animal to an animal of another species, consult with your Advocat about your unique case to determine the best methods of introduction.
- Under-socialized/semi-feral kittens are a special challenge. These cats need to be handled daily and should not be allowed to hide all the time. Please provide them with a safe place, but make sure you can access it at all times. Some semi-feral cats may hiss at you. Pick them up gently and hold them close so they feel secure. Let them go before they begin struggling hard to get away, and repeat the process a couple times a day. Slowly and surely, they will learn to trust you.
- Enrichment activities help entertain cats and get them used to different experiences to get ready for their new homes. Here are some ideas:
 - Foil- start with an open sheet, let them explore. Then ball it up for a fun toy. Always supervise during this experience and put the toy away when finished.
 - Music and dancing- turn up the tunes, sing along and dance around your foster kittens.
 - Youtube videos- Search terms such as dogs barking, babies crying and kids playing to introduce your foster to sounds they might not be experiencing in your house. You can also play videos for cats, ones featuring birds, squirrels or fish.
 - Herbs- Make a smell experience for your foster by giving them some cat safe herbs to smell such as catnip, silvervine, thyme, dill, oregano, parsley and rosemary.
 - Treat forage box- Place a box with crumpled up newspaper, balls, sticks, leaves, etc inside, or use an empty egg carton. Disperse treats inside and let your foster nose and paw around seeking out the treats.
- If you need more help, please ask! We can talk to you and send you more information.

Getting Ready for a Forever Home

Socializing and enriching activities help get your foster cat/s ready for their new home. Here are some suggestions and ideas:

- Carriers: Please leave your foster's carrier open and available as a safe space. Leave a cozy piece of bedding inside. Practice putting the cat into the carrier and shutting the door during non-vet visit times, such as right before treats or playtime. If your foster is resistant to going into their carrier, start with feeding them near the opening, and slowly start moving food or treats inside as they acclimate to each location. Then practice shutting the door and re-opening while they eat. Finally, practice latching the door for a short time.
- Nail trims: Cats need their nails trimmed every 2-3 weeks. Some cats tolerate this, and others are not fond of this procedure. We ask that you work with your foster to acclimate them to nail trims. This may mean starting to touch their paws, squeezing their toe beans and rewarding them with treats, or actually doing nail trims if the cat will allow them. Even doing one toe at a time is great! Please check with your Advocat or foster coordinator if you would like to learn how to trim nails. (Attach picture of nail trim like one linked)
- Vet visit practice: This is great for both getting cats ready for vet care and monitoring their health. With treats handy as a reward, practice gently looking into your foster's ears, looking at their teeth and gently palpating their body, just like the vet would do. Give lots of verbal praise along with the treats. Report any concerns to your Advocat or Foster Coordinator.

Pictures and Profiles!

See the single sheet on getting ready for adoption.

One of the ways that CRAN cats and kittens find their forever home is via Petfinder and the CRAN website. You, the foster, need to take some pictures of your foster kitty. We need 3 pictures and bio info. Taking photos in the landscape orientation are best for Petfinder. Please try to get one picture that shows the foster cat's whole body or coat pattern.

A bio link is sent to a foster when the cat is ready to be promoted. The link asks several questions about the cat's temperament, personality, physical description, etc. After the bio is complete it requests the pictures of your fosters to be sent. There are several behind the scenes volunteers who work to get the cats up on Petfinder. Depending on how many cats and kittens we have in our program at one time, it can take several weeks to post your fosters. If you have questions during this process please email bio@catrescues.com.

While fostering, think about what your foster kittens/cat is like. In a litter of kittens, who is the ringleader, the explorer, the "quiet" one, the goofball, the climber, etc. What toys do they like to play with? Who does something to make you laugh? Do they get exposure to dogs, or to children? All of these details go into the profile of your foster cat or kitten, so that we can present them to the public with information that will help match them with the right adopter.

CRAN Adoption Process

Anyone interested in adopting must fill out an adoption application. It is preferred that interested adopters visit the website or Petfinder to find a potential cat match prior to applying online.

It is wonderful to promote your cat/kittens on social media but if contacted by prospective adopters please encourage them to fill out an adoption form. Each potential applicant is vetted by an adoption counselor before a meet and greet can be set up. This is true of people expressing interest when visiting the catteries as well.

CRAN wants to make sure that after our cats and kittens leave our care they will continue to be well cared for. CRAN has certain guidelines for adopting as we put the best interest of the cat(s) first. These include:

- **No single kittens under 6 months:** Kittens must be adopted with another kitten or into a home with a young animal (generally 5 years or younger)
- **INDOOR ONLY**
- **No students**
- **Over 21 years old**

If there is an approved adopter, a counselor will reach out to you (if the cat is in your home) to set up a meet and greet. Please contact any prospective adopters within 48 hours.

There are several ways to do a meet and greet. A meet and greet can happen in your home, virtually, or at a petsmart cattery. If the meet and greet happens at a cattery it needs to be preplanned, so please coordinate with your counselor.

It is not always possible to finalize the adoption at the same time as the meet and greet. **Please do not send any cat to an adopter if paperwork has not been completed by an adoption counselor.** If you have any questions about the adoption process you should contact your adoption counselor first. You can also contact Louanne, Nicki, Marci or Tammy.

Kittens

Preparing to Bring Kittens Home

1. **Prepare a room for the kittens:** it's best to designate a quiet area where the kitten can feel comfortable and safe. The room your foster kittens are living in should be able to withstand litter box accidents and vomit. A bathroom is often a good choice; just don't forget to close the toilet lid and hide the toilet paper! In this base camp, you'll need to put a few essentials like food and water dishes, a litter box (preferably one with low sides), and some comfortable bedding. **Tip:** Remember, cats don't like their food and litter box too close together (it also prevents litter getting kicked into the food). Place the food dishes as far away from the litter as possible within the space.
2. All foster kittens should remain separate from any resident pets for at least two weeks.
3. Remember that kittens are babies, and they will try to get into everything. Block any electrical outlets and put away anything that a kitten could swallow or get tangled in. Hide any breakable items. Block any small holes where a kitten might hide and become inaccessible to you.

It helps to lie down on your stomach so that you can see the room from the kittens' point of view and identify any potential hazards. Any windows in the room should be kept closed or securely screened.

4. Bedding can be an old towel, folded. Old towels are recommended because they can be washed with bleach.
5. Supplies: See the separate sheet on supplies.

KITTEN Daily Care:

- Feed the foster kittens appropriate kitten dry and wet food. During kitten season it is more challenging to keep certain brands in stock. In this scenario, the brands should be mixed together at first to avoid an upset GI tract.
- Kittens should be fed kitten canned wet food one-two times daily. Canned kitten food can also be mixed into a mush with their dry food.
- Always make sure the kittens have clean water to drink.
- Do not change your foster kittens' diet unless you have consulted with your Advocat or the foster coordinator.
- Scoop the litter box AT LEAST once a day; twice daily would be even better. Kittens will be more likely to go outside their litter box if their litter box is dirty.
- Young kittens should be weighed regularly, to be sure they are gaining weight as they grow. We have scales for your use. Kittens weight goals are 10-15 grams a day.

- Observe kittens' urinary and bowel habits. Report any concerns you have. Diarrhea could be as simple as a change in diet, or could be from a parasitic infection, or a sign of a serious illness.
- Look over your kittens every day for any concerning changes or potential medical problems.
- Check kittens' bodies and fur.
- Look closely at eyes, in mouth, and ears.
- Check energy levels at playtime
- Kittens should get one or two play sessions daily.
- Do NOT encourage kittens to play with your fingers. Please actively play with your kittens with wand toys to avoid unwanted behaviors such as biting.
- Kittens don't know how to retract their claws, so expect to get scratched. Gentle handling and gentle petting will teach a kitten to not lash out with claws.

Monitor Kittens' Appetite and Watch for Early Signs of Illness

Free feed the dry food unless otherwise instructed. Please make sure it is clean and change and clean the bowl regularly. Put out wet food about twice a day and change water, and observe how much they eat and drink – not writing it down, just keeping track visually. When they are just being relocated, they might be confused and not eat as much as normal.

Young kittens can be susceptible to a number of illnesses, and it's best to catch a health issue in the early stages. Watch for these signs and symptoms, and contact Louanne Koch as soon as possible:

Lack of appetite	Poor weight gain	Vomiting
Swollen or painful abdomen	Lethargy	Diarrhea
Difficulty breathing	Wheezing or coughing	Pale gums
Swollen, red eyes or eye discharge	Nasal discharge	Inability to urinate or defecate

Toxic Stuff

This is a partial list of things that are poisonous to a cat or a kitten.

Foods that are Poisonous to Cats

Alcoholic Beverages: These can cause intoxication, coma, and death.

Baby Food Containing Onion Powder: Onions are toxic to cats. If you feed your cat baby food, read the label and make sure it does not contain onion powder.

Bones From Fish, Poultry, Or Other Meat Sources: These can cause obstruction or laceration of the digestive system.

Canned Tuna (For Human Consumption): Fed regularly, it can cause malnutrition, since it lacks proper feline nutrients, including taurine. Also, it can contain mercury, which can be detrimental to your cat's health over time.

Caffeine (From Chocolate, Coffee, Or Tea): Caffeine can affect the heart and nervous system and can be toxic.

Chocolate: In addition to caffeine, chocolate contains theobromine, a compound that is toxic to pets. Theobromine is also present in cocoa bean mulch.

Citrus Oil Extracts: Can cause vomiting.

Dog Food: Accidental ingestion of dog food won't cause a problem. Repeated feeding may result in malnutrition and heart disease.

Fat Trimmings: Can cause pancreatitis and contribute to obesity.

Grapes and Raisins: Contain an unknown toxin which damages the kidneys.

Human Vitamin Supplements Containing Iron: Can damage the lining of the digestive system and be toxic to the other organs including the liver and kidneys.

Large Amounts Of Liver: Can cause Vitamin A toxicity, which affects muscles and bones.

Macadamia Nuts: Contain an unknown toxin which can affect the digestive and nervous systems.

Marijuana: Can depress the nervous system and cause vomiting and heart rate changes.

Milk And Other Dairy Products: Some adult cats do not have sufficient amounts of the enzyme lactase, which breaks down the lactose in milk. This can result in diarrhea and gastrointestinal upset.

Mushrooms: Some contain toxins that affect multiple systems in the body, cause shock, and result in death.

Onions And Garlic (Raw, Cooked, Or Powder): These contain sulfoxides and disulfides, which can damage red blood cells and cause anemia. Cats are more susceptible than dogs.

Persimmons: Persimmon seeds can cause intestinal obstruction and enteritis.

Potato, Rhubarb And Tomato Leaves And Stems, Green Tomatoes. These foods are members of the family of plants which includes the Deadly Nightshade, and contain

the poisonous alkaloid Glycoalkaloid Solanine, which can cause violent lower gastrointestinal problems.

Raw Eggs: Contain the enzyme avidin, which decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin). This can lead to skin and hair coat problems. Raw eggs may contain Salmonella.

Raw Fish: Can result in a thiamine deficiency leading to loss of appetite, seizures, and death.

Salt: If eaten in large quantities it may lead to electrolyte imbalances.

Sugar-Laden Foods: Can lead to obesity, dental problems, and diabetes mellitus.

Tobacco: Ingesting nicotine can result in rapid heart beat, collapse, coma, and death.

Tylenol (acetaminophen): Fatal to cats and kittens; convulsions and death.

Yeast Dough: Can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and rupture of the stomach or intestines.

String: Although it's not a food, string and objects like tinsel, thread, dental floss and rubber bands are often swallowed by cats, requiring emergency treatment. If you see a piece of string or tinsel in your cat's anus, don't pull it out! You could cause serious harm to the gastrointestinal tract. Take your cat to the vet immediately.

Plants That are Poisonous to Cats

Ban Lilies and Poinsettias from your house. These two seasonal plants are common holiday additions to many households, but are very poisonous.

Here's a list of only a few of the plants that are toxic to cats and the symptoms of poisoning. For a comprehensive list, visit the ASPCA's toxic plant database (<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>):

Amaryllis: Vomiting and diarrhea

Azalea: Incoordination, trembling, collapse

Cactus: Punctures skin which can become infected

Caladium: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shaking head, difficulty breathing

Creeping Charlies: Vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, cramps

Lilies: Kidney failure

Dieffenbachia: Central nervous system problems

Ivy: Vomiting, diarrhea, excitable behavior

Mistletoe: Vomiting, diarrhea, blistering in the mouth, difficulty breathing

Philodendron: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shaking head, difficulty breathing

Poinsettia: Vomiting, diarrhea, blistering in the mouth, difficulty breathing

Ringworm

A Note about Ringworm: The Most Persistent Fungus

"Ringworm" is the common name for the skin infection caused by a special group of fungi; it is not caused by a worm at all.

If you suspect that your foster has developed ringworm lesions, let us know immediately. A member of the CRAN medical team will take a sample and start a DTM culture plate.

Disposable gloves should always be worn when handling suspected ringworm cases.

The Signs

The characteristic "ring" appearance is primarily a human phenomenon. In animals, ringworm frequently looks like a dry, gray, scaly patch but can also mimic any other skin lesion and have any appearance. Broken, brittle hair, partial or patchy hair loss, and scales or crusts are very common clinical signs. It is often found on the face, head, ears, paws (especially the claws), forelimbs and tail of cats. Ringworm will sometimes glow under blacklight.

The average incubation period for ringworm is two to four weeks, but cats can develop lesions at any time from four days to six weeks following infection.

Ringworm is not transmitted until after birth, so you're not likely to see it in kittens less than two weeks old. It's most common in kittens, longhaired cats, cats who fail to groom themselves, or cats who are immunocompromised because of stress, malnutrition, feline leukemia (FeLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), pregnancy, lactation, or other conditions.

Preventative Maintenance

Foster cats and kittens are examined upon intake for possible signs of ringworm. If the kitten/cat does not cause suspicion upon examination, we still want the foster homes to be careful. A proper quarantine period for at least two weeks for any new arrival is a must! Not only does it allow time for possible ringworm lesions to pop up, but also allows for other possible dormant issues such as upper respiratory infections to present themselves. Keeping the new arrivals in a bathroom is ideal; that way, if they do come down with ringworm, the environment will be much easier to clean compared to carpet.

Regular visual checks done by the foster caregivers are very helpful. When inspecting a cat or kitten for such lesions, much care should be taken in inspecting the face. Many times broken whiskers are a tell-tale sign of ringworm (though not always accurate since litter mates often chew their fellow kittens' whiskers off!). Hair loss at or around the nose and ears seems to be the most common symptom here in the Willamette Valley. We have also seen many lesions develop on inner legs and nail beds, so flip those little ones over for a more thorough check. Again, ringworm frequently looks like a dry, gray, scaly patch but can also mimic any other skin lesion and have any appearance. Broken

brittle hair, partial or patchy hair loss and scales or crusts are very common clinical signs.

Prevention through proper intake process/quarantine period is the only way to help curb an outbreak of ringworm within our organization! We cannot emphasize enough the importance of the above steps being followed.

For more information about CRAN's ringworm treatment protocol, please contact the foster coordinators.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME READING THIS FOSTER MANUAL. If you have any questions, contact your Foster Coordinator or Advocat.

Appendix I: Roster of Key Personnel

Cat Rescue & Adoption Network

Board of Directors		
Louanne Koch	541-520-7756	Lbkoch53@gmail.com
Nicki Griffin	541-968-2133	nickilmt@gmail.com
Tammy Goss	541-729-0922	tammatboys@msn.com
Rachele Raia	541-343-7823	racheleraia@gmail.com
Ruth Bern	541-912-8608	Ruth.catrescue@gmail.com
Julie Tanit	541-556-5379	jtanit@aol.com
Volunteer Coordinator		
Avery Stewart	541-543-0867	Avery.stewart01@gmail.com

Appendix II: Reimbursement Form

Request for Reimbursement – If needed, please ask your Advocacat for a reimbursement form to mail in. Remember any purchases over \$50.00 need to be approved in advance by a board member.

Fostering Shy/Fearful/Undersocialized Cats and Kittens

The first priority with these cats and kittens is to make them feel safe. Once they are more comfortable, it is important to work on trust and showing them humans are the source of good things.

All kittens and cats will progress at different rates. These are just guidelines. If your kittens are running to the front of the kennel to greet you after a day, you can progress much more quickly than kittens that freeze or hide when you enter the room. Some adult cats recover from trauma more quickly than others. Strays that were once loved pets may quickly recover once they feel they are safe. A grieving cat may need you to be more assertive with attention. Ask us if you aren't sure or need more guidance.

Steps:

1. Initial set-up
 - Always start kittens in a small area, preferably a large kennel. You want to be able to work with them without having to chase and scare them. Remember cats are both predator and prey. You want to be on their level initially, not towering over them. Feral kittens are in prey mode and view you as a predator. The kennel should have a carrier or something they can feel safe in.
 - Start adult cats in a room (unless they are semi-feral). Preferably without a bed where it is difficult to work with them. Make sure there are hiding places but ones that you can reach the cat if you need to. A semi-feral or very under socialized cat should also be started in a large kennel.
 - Have a radio in the room or cat tunes on.
2. Let them decompress. The time you give them depends on how scared they are and their progress. For the first 24 to 48 hours at least, just let them acclimate to their surroundings. Give them food and water and talk softly to them while you are in the room. Move slowly while cleaning their kennel or room. Don't try to touch them.
3. Once they will look at you and are not panicking when you are in the room and you are sure they are eating well, it's time to start working with them. For adults, as long as they are eating and coming out to use their litter box, you can start progressing even if they are still avoiding eye contact. First steps include:
 - a. Feeding wet food only when you are in the room. Start by simply giving it to them and then moving back but staying in the room while they eat. You can leave dry food out especially for kittens so they always have food.
 - b. Start staying in the room and reading out loud. No pressure on them to do anything. Just get them more comfortable with you being near and your voice.
 - c. Slowly start staying closer while they eat. Once they will eat with you right next to them, start hand feeding them. Put food on a spoon first to see how they remove it. If they bite the spoon, you may want to only feed it on a spoon. Otherwise try holding your hand open with it on your finger tips. For adults, you may need to use something higher value like a churu or small amounts of tuna for this step.

- d. You can also consider moving the kennel to a different area in the house where there is more activity at this stage. We still recommend a small room though for when they are able to start exploring. Kennels are great as you can easily move them to different locations depending on what you are working on.
4. Once kittens are eating next to you or out of your hand, start placing your hand in the kennel and see if they will approach your hand or rub it. For adults, just place your hand near them and see if they will rub it. If they are not showing fear, try gentle slow pets. Do not approach from directly overhead or in front. Start from the side. Slowly progress with petting based on their reaction. If this is a semi-feral cat, you can start with a touch stick. This is a dowel with a soft end you can make with gauze, Coban wrap, a wash cloth etc. Once they are rubbing on the touch stick and appreciating pets, you can slowly start using your hand.
5. Once they are enjoying pets, start working on picking them up and holding them. For kittens, just go with their comfort level. For an adult, start by gently applying pressure to their belly but not actually picking them up and then rewarding them with a treat or play or pet (whatever they like). Next, try lifting them just an inch and putting them right back down and then offering the reward. Gradually increase how far you lift until you are holding them.
6. The next step when the kittens are not showing fear from their kennel is to let them have time out of the kennel in an enclosed room. Leave the door open and let them come out on their own. Once they are exploring, work with the wet food and treats to get them to come to you and let you pick them up. Initially they should only be out for an hour or two. Work up to all day and put them in the kennel at night. Finally, you can leave them out all the time with the kennel door open.
7. Initially stay low at their level. Remember they see you as a predator and towering over them is still going to be frightening. Once they approach you when you are on the ground and are comfortable, gradually start standing in with them. Play can make them more comfortable. Work on being able to approach them. Taking it slow is the key. You want to be able to reach down and pick up a kitten without it running in terror.
8. Introduce play. Once the kittens or cat are eating treats and enjoying pets, start introducing play. Kittens typically respond quickly to a feather toy. Adults that have never had someone play with them need a slow approach as at first it is scary and seems like it is trying to attack them. Start with the feather away from them and let them approach.
9. Another thing to start working on is getting in the carrier. For both kittens and adults, try putting a high value treat like a tiny bit of tuna just inside the door. Slowly over time, put it in farther until they are fully entering the carrier. Once they will go in without hesitation, close the door for a second and open. Slowly increase the time it is shut to 30 seconds or so. They will realize that while the door closes, it will open. Stop if they are panicking. Next, shut the door and take them around the house, back to their room and let them out. Lots of treats or play.
10. Next for kittens, take them on field trips in the rest of your house one at a time. Hold them securely. If they are squirmy, wrap them in a towel. You don't want them to jump down and get scared. Take them out for short times and bring them back to the room when they show fear. Gradually increase their field trips. Once they are comfortable you can hold them while you watch a tv show or a movie or

look out a window. Typically we do not do this for adults. They will be able to explore in their home once adopted.

11. Congratulations! Thanks to your hard work, if the kitten or cat is letting you pet them, pick them up, and approach them, they are ready to be adopted. While they most likely will initially be scared in their new home, you've given them a strong foundation and they will soon become comfortable in their new home.

Here are some socialization videos we recommend watching:

[Helping a Feral Kitten Become Friendly \(Step by Step How-To!\)](#)

[How to Socialize Hissy Feral Kittens](#)

[Socializing a Spicy Feral Kitten!](#)

Appendix V: Nail Trims

****Draft****

Nail Trims

