



504 Main Ave, Norwalk, CT 06851
203-750-9572 x 102 (cats)
cats@pawsct.org | www.pawsct.org

Thank You for Adopting From PAWS! We hope you are very happy with your new cat(s) for many years to come. A few ideas that may help:

* **Feed a Quality Dry Food.** The first ingredient should be a real protein source such as Chicken, Turkey, Beef etc - not corn-meal or by-products. Kittens should eat kitten formula dry food for the first 9-12 months of life then switch to adult formula. We feed Hills Science Diet here and will send you home with a sample bag to get you started.

* **Keep your Cat(s) Safe Inside.** Indoor cats live an average of 10 years longer. Cats who go outside will bring fleas and ticks into your home, are at risk for rabies, leukemia and AIDS, are in danger of being hit by cars, attacked by other animals, and may even be hurt by people who don't like cats on their property.

* **Provide Scratching Pads / Posts.** You can teach cats not to scratch in "bad" places by providing them with "good" places just for them. Scratching pads, posts, and kitty condos let your cat do what comes naturally. Clipping nails on a regular basis will help too!

* **Feed Canned Food Twice a Day.** Cats require a lot of water to keep their kidneys and urinary tract healthy. Kittens under 3 months should eat 3 meals of canned per day.

* **A Clean Litter Box in a low traffic area** will help ensure your cat "goes" in the right place. One box for every cat is a good rule, scooped at least once per day. If you have a large or multi-level home it is a good idea to have 2 boxes even if you only have one cat. Kittens under 6 months should use clay/non clumping. Any litter you buy should be unscented.

* **Make sure Clean, Fresh Water is always available** and in a low traffic area.

* **Start Your new Cat in a Small Room** until they are no longer trying to hide and feel confident in your home. Provide lots of attention and playtime while they acclimate. If you have other pets, rub a dry washcloth on new kitty and bring it to your other pets to smell. Then rub your current pets and bring to new kitty. Feed them on opposite sides of the door for a few meals so they learn to associate each other with a happy experience. Introduce slowly.

* **Your New Kitty is Microchipped.** It takes Home Again a couple weeks to contact you and confirm the registration. They will both email and send a packet in the mail. There's a pamphlet in your Meow Folder that provides additional details and benefit information.

* **If you have any questions or concerns please contact us.** We would be glad to help! Email is the best and quickest way to reach us - send your message to cats@pawsct.org

Thank you again and please keep in touch with updates and photos!

Visit the Resources tab at www.pawsct.org to download our free adoption packet!

Switching Your Cat to a New Dry Kibble

Use this guide to transition your cat or kitten to a new dry food with a minimum of upset stomach issues!

Days 1 & 2 – 1/4 new food and 3/4 old food

Days 3 & 4 – 1/2 new food and 1/2 old food

Days 5 & 6 – 3/4 new food and 1/4 old food

Day 7 – All new food

We feed & recommend Hills Science Diet dry. Want to choose a new food? It's easy - just read the ingredients!

The first one should be a real protein source such as chicken or turkey, not fillers like corn-meal or by-products. Grain free high protein is not necessarily a healthy diet unless recommended by your vet. Make canned food a twice daily part of your cat's diet. We feed Friskies and Fancy Feast here unless kitty is on a special medically necessary diet.

NOTES

Food: _____

Litter: _____

Introductions: _____

Other: _____

Adopting a Shy, Timid or Nervous Cat?

Bring home Feliway!

Calming pheromones provide “happy messages” to your cat and makes them feel comfortable and secure in their new home. It can prevent or reduce hiding and mean a shorter adjustment time period after adoption.

Now Available at Paws!



Sprays:

20 ml travel size - \$10

60 ml home use size - \$20

Plug-ins:

Starter Kit (diffuser & refill) - \$25

Refills (last approx 30 days) - \$15



How to Trim a Cat's Claws

Trimming a cat's claws every month or two is an important part of maintaining your pet's health. Not only does a quick trim protect you, your pet and your family, it can also save your sofa, curtains and other furniture.

You'll save money and stress over bringing kitty to the vet office or groomer to have this done!

Some people prefer a special pair of scissors modified to hold a cat's claw in place, others prefer human nail clippers and still others choose pliers-like clippers or those with a sliding "guillotine" blade.

Whatever your choice, be sure the blade remains sharp. The blunt pressure from dull blades may cause a nail to split or bleed.



Some cats do well with no restraint at all, but most cats need to be held firmly but gently to make sure that no one gets hurt. Wrapping kitty in a towel can go a long way in keeping them calm.

Try resting the cat in the crook of one arm while holding one paw with the other hand. Or, place the animal on a table and lift one paw at a time. You may even be able to convince a particularly sociable cat to lie in your lap. If you've got a helper, now's their time to shine: ask them to hold the cat while you clip.



Now that you're in position and the cat's in position, put the claw in the right position, too. Take a paw in your hand and use your thumb and pointer finger to gently press down on the top and bottom of the paw on the joint just behind the claw. This will cause the claw to extend so you can quickly but carefully snip off the sharp tip.



Don't get too close to the pink part of the nail called "the quick," where blood vessels and nerve endings lie. Just like the pink part of a human fingernail, the quick is very sensitive; cutting into this area will likely cause bleeding and pain.



If this happens, apply a little pressure to the very tip of the claw (without squeezing the entire paw, which would only increase the blood flow), dip the claw in a bit of cornstarch or rub the nail across a dry bar of soap. Don't continue clipping if they're really upset, but keep an eye on kitty to make sure the bleeding stops.

It's common to only cut the front claws, but take a look at the rear claws just in case they've gotten too long, especially if their sharp tips hurt you when your cat leaps on or off your lap. Since most cats fuss more about having their rear claws clipped, start with the front claws.

If you aren't able to trim all 10 nails at once, don't worry. Few cats remain patient for more than a few minutes, so take what you can get, praise your pet for cooperating, then be on the lookout for the next opportunity—maybe even a catnap—to cut things down to size.

What an Indoor Only Cat Misses

Being Hit by a Car, Stolen, Trapped in a Building
Getting Lost, Freezing Rain, Snow, Sleet, Hail
Starvation, Dehydration, Heat Stroke
Fights with Other Cats, Dogs, Coyotes, Raccoons
AIDS, Leukemia, Rabies, FIP, Distemper
Bite Wounds, Infections
Broken Legs, Broken Jaw
Being Caught in a Trap
Fleas, Ticks, Worms
Rat Poison, Antifreeze
Being Mistreated, Abused
or even SHOT and killed.



Not everyone likes cats. Keep yours SAFE inside!



Wishlist

- Hills Science Diet Dry Kibble & Canned Dog Food
- Friskies & Fancy Feast Canned Cat Food
- Dry Kibble Cat Food Any Size/Brand
- Dry & Canned Kitten Food Any Size/Brand
- Clay & Clumping Kitty Litter Any Size/Brand
- Toys, Treats, Feliway Diffuser Refills or Sprays
- Easy Walk Harnesses, All Sizes
- Laundry Detergent, Bleach, Dryer Sheets
- Paper Towels, Small Paper Plates & Bowls
- Garbage Bags - 13 & 60 Gallon
- Liquid Dishwasher Detergent, Hand Sanitizer
- Copy Paper, Postage Stamps, Pens, Post-its

For even more ways to help homeless dogs and cats:

Visit our website and click the *How You Can Help* tab

Shop our Wishlist on Amazon.com

Choose us as your charity at smile.amazon.com

(Amazon donates each time you shop and it doesn't cost you any additional money)

Thank you for adopting! The odds are good that we sent your new kitty home with a hand crocheted blanket!

Comfort for Critters is the organization who generously provides us with these. Please consider making a yarn or financial donation to this wonderful group if you can! www.ComfortForCritters.org

**I PROVIDE
COMFORT FOR CRITTERS
AND SO CAN YOU**

Comfort for Critters
is a nonprofit,
volunteer-based
organization
providing hand-made
blankets to
shelter animals
across the nation
AT NO COST



comfortforcritters.org

**WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING DONATIONS
OF YARN AND FLEECE
ASK ME FOR MORE DETAILS**

Declawing Facts

KNOW THE TRUTH

Declawing = amputation of cat's toe at first joint
 (like cutting off a human's first knuckle)

33% of cats suffer at least one behavioral problem after declaw surgery

Illegal in 37 Countries
 + 8 U.S. Cities

- 18%** show increased biting
- 17%** suffer wounds re-opening
- 15%** will not use the litterbox
- 11%** suffer from lameness
- 10%** see nail regrowth

Declawing can produce:
 Chronic pain
 Arthritis/lameness
 Nerve/tissue damage
 Gangrene
 Abscesses
 Paw pad atrophy
 Bone regrowth

up to 50% of declawed cats develop acute physical complications

up to 20% of declawed cats develop long-term physical complications

"The pain must be excruciating; it is certainly a gruesome spectacle to watch."
 —A Vet Tech

75-90% of pet owners change their mind about declawing once they know the risks

"Claws are a physically, socially, and emotionally vital part of every cat."
 —Jackson Galaxy, Cat Behaviorist

"Unlike routine recoveries... declawing surgery results in cats bouncing off the walls of the recovery cage because of excruciating pain..."
 —Dr. Nicholas Dodman, DVM

Litterbox issues are 2x more common in declawed cats

Osteomyelitis affects 30% of declawed cats
 (a painful bone infection)

You wouldn't declaw a dog... you trim his nails

Please don't declaw me!

Sources: JAVMA (Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association), AVMA.org, Veterinary Medicine, DVM Best Practices, James Gaynor, DVM, Colorado State University Veterinary Medical School, pawproject.org, pet260.com, littlebigcat.com, Vet Forum, paw-rescue.org, moggies.co.uk, declaw.lisaviolet.com, maxshouse.com, World Small Animal Veterinary Association, jacksongalaxy.com