

Your New Cat



Information

Tips & Tricks

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you for adopting a cat from Greenville County Animal Care! We would like to thank you for taking the time to adopt your new pet from our shelter. This booklet is designed to address many of the questions you may have about how to care for your new cat. Please give us a call if you need any additional information or advice.

Greenville County Animal Care Cat Adoptions:

864-467-3905

www.greenvillepets.org



Ring

MY PET'S INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Animal ID#: _____

Microchip ID#: _____

VACCINES:

	<u>Date Given</u>	<u>Date Due</u>
FVRCP:	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Rabies:	_____	_____

<u>TESTING:</u>	<u>Date Tested</u>	<u>Test Result</u>
FelV/FIV Test:	_____	_____

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Settling-In: Protocol for you and your New Cat, Weeks 1 and 2

Cats in your home? All the tips in Chapter 2 apply, but in addition:

- Put the new cat in a separate room as soon as you get home.
- Let the cats sniff under the door and get used to new scents.
- Bring the new cat out in a cat carrier and allow existing cat to sniff.
- Introduce your most friendly and social cat first.
- Do NOT allow one cat to attack another.
- Even if all seems well, separate when you're not at home to supervise.
- Do not force a meeting, and never restrain your cat (especially in your lap!).
- The slower you go, the better the outcome.

Dogs in your home? All the tips in Chapter 2 apply, but in addition:

- Allow the cat time to adjust in a cat-safe room for a few days.
- Let the dog and cat sniff each other under the door.
- Keep the dog leashed when he sees the cat, and give the dog tasty food treats (or his favorite reward) for sitting/lying calmly and staying relaxed in sight of the cat.
- Do not restrain the cat in your lap or arms—allow the cat freedom to move away if she needs to.

- Do not allow your dog to become aroused or excited with the new cat around. This can lead to the chase/prey drive. Don't play rough.
- Separate the new cat when left alone; put her in her "safe" room.

Kids in the home? All the tips in Section 3 apply, but in addition:

- **Supervise, supervise, supervise every interaction!**
- Do not allow your kids to be rough with the cat—instead, have them scratch the cat on its head and face only.
- Do not scratch a cat on its belly or pull its tail.
- It is best if kids do not pick up the cat or squeeze too tightly.
- Do not let kids crowd or corner the cat.
- Do not have visiting children until the cat has settled.
- Do not let the kids try to pull a cat out of a hiding spot.
- Never let kids chase a cat or grab for a running cat.
- Teach kids to carefully **LET GO** if the cat struggles in their arms.



Preparing Your Home

Before you bring your new cat or kitten home, it is important to “kitty proof” (for his safety as well as that of your belongings) and to purchase a few basic supplies.

Here is a quick check list to get you started:

Prepare a safe room, such as a bathroom or small spare bedroom, for your new cat’s first few nights. Place the litter box at one end with the food and water dishes and bed at the other. Allow your cat lots of time to adjust, and initially, when you’re away and at night, keep the cat in this safe place. (If it is your bathroom, remember to close the toilet lid!)

Many plants are poisonous to animals, so do a thorough check of your home before bringing home your new cat. Here is a list of some of the most common household plants that are toxic: Amaryllis, Azalea, Baby’s Breath, Bird of Paradise, Calla Lilly, Cyclamen, Daffodil, Dieffenbachia, Easter Lily, Eucalyptus, Mistletoe, Narcissus, Oleander, Peace Lily, Primrose, Philodendron, Tiger Lily, and Tomato plant.

Help reduce potential human allergies by getting a good HEPA air cleaner and vacuuming frequently. Remember, cats are naturally curious, like to explore and can get on top of most anything. It is a good idea to put away breakables that may be knocked off a shelf by an exploring kitty. It’s as easy as closing a door to a room.

Have the following supplies on hand. You can find most of these at Animal Care’s Retail Store, located in both the Cat and Dog Adoption Areas.

Litter box and Litter

You will want to experiment to find the litter your cat prefers. There are many different kinds of litter to choose from, but in studies most cats prefer unscented fine clumping litter.

Food

We recommend high-quality, grain-free dry food.

Food and Water Dishes

Avoid plastic dishes; they harbor bacteria. Make sure food and water dishes aren’t placed near the litter box.



Safety Collar and ID Tag

Even indoor kitties need to wear a collar and ID tag.

Grooming Supplies

A flea comb and a brush are needed to keep your kitty beautiful. Have Hairball medication if your cat has medium to long hair.

Safe Toys

Cats love to chase and hunt down toys. Avoid those with small parts that can break off and be ingested. Also, avoid yarn, string, and curling ribbon as these will cause problems inside your cat’s digestive tract if swallowed.

Scratching Post

This will give your cat an appropriate place to do what comes naturally. Scratching not only helps kitty shed the sheath of his claws, but also marks territory. Try a post that will allow your cat to get a full stretch. Post materials vary—sisal rope is recommended for vertical posts, and corrugated cardboard for horizontal and incline scratch pads.

The Ride Home

Many cats do not like traveling. Here are some tips that will help your cat have a safe and calm time during the ride home.

Keep your new cat in his carrier no matter how much he is crying—it is the **ONLY** safe way to transport your pet. Have an adult carry the cat in its carrier to your vehicle to eliminate “swinging” of the carrier. Use a seat belt or tether to secure the carrier in your car.

Do not allow children to tease or excite the cat. Have them keep their hands and fingers to themselves! Never allow them to open the carrier to pet the cat. Do not leave the cat in the car unattended, even for a short stop to shop. Cats can over-heat very quickly.

Buy your supplies at our retail store, and then you can take kitty straight home.

Keep the cat in the carrier until you are safely inside your home (or the cat’s safe room if there are other pets in the home) with the doors shut. Once home, the cat will need time and a quiet place to settle.

The First Few Days

Your new cat is embarking on a journey to a fun and wonderful life. You are aware of all the joys that lie ahead, but your cat does not know what is happening. The first few days can be very uncertain for your cat. Be patient and take things slowly.

Please review the information provided to you by Greenville County Animal Care.

A frightened or unsure cat’s tendency is to hide. Let her do that and know that she will eventually become comfortable and come out. Under no circumstances should you force a cat from her hiding place by pulling her legs or other body part. Coax her out gently with food or a toy, or leave her alone for now.

What To Expect While Settling In

Do not be alarmed if your new cat exhibits any of the following behaviors in the first few days.

- Not eating
- Sniffing everything
- Upset tummy, vomiting, loose stools
- Hiding (sometimes for days)
- Not using the litter box (See litter training)



Things You Can Do To Help

Be calm, be patient.

At first, keep your cat in a small room, such as the bathroom (make sure the toilet lid is down!), with the litter box at one end of the room and food and water and a bed at the other, to give him time to adjust. Gradually give your pet more freedom as he successfully goes back to and uses his litter box. Allow several weeks for your new pet to adjust.

Keep your cat indoors. Check for open windows and loose screens, as a frightened cat could easily break out. It can take weeks or even months for your new cat to feel at home.

Never drag your new cat out of hiding. Use a lure such as food or a toy to encourage your cat to come out.

Provide plenty of fresh water and high quality food.

Initially, keep your new cat separated from other pets. (See Introducing Your New Cat.) It is best not to introduce your kitten/cat to your home during very busy times such as birthdays and holidays. If you do, provide them with a quiet area away from the action and limit over-handling of the new cat. Cats get bored, so provide lots of fun toys, perches and social interactions with you to help your cat adjust. If you have a windowsill with a view of the yard, open the curtain or blinds so your cat can get a view of the world outside.

Feeding Time

GCAC encourages feeding a high quality, grain-free dry food—use wet food for treats, or if there is an illness or obesity. Limit “moist meal” or fish.

Talk with your veterinarian about dietary requirements. Always follow the manufacturer’s guidelines for feeding amounts.

Fresh water should be available at all times in a spill-proof, clean bowl.

Kittens (under 1 year)

Feed high quality, dry kitten food that is high in nutrients and low in magnesium ash (which may contribute to urinary disorders). **NOTE:** Very young kittens may tire of eating dry food so you may want to supplement with a quality canned food, three times per day, if your kitten is less than two pounds.

Dry food helps to clean teeth and, if nutritionally complete, can be the bulk of the kitten’s diet. Dry food can be left out for the day so the kitten can eat when hungry.

Do **NOT** give cow’s milk as it can cause diarrhea.

Clean the food and water dishes each day.

Adult cats (over 1 year)

Feed high quality adult maintenance dry food.

Feed two scheduled meals per day. Free feeding of high quality dry food may work but can lead to obesity in some cats.

Discard any food left after 24 hours before cleaning and refilling the dish. Follow amount guidelines on the pet food bag. Monitor your cat’s weight and adjust food portions accordingly. If you cannot feel his ribs, he may be overweight, a condition that can lead to serious health problems. Check into pet food brands that have a low-cal option.

Where To Feed

Place the cat’s food and water dishes in a safe, quiet place, where she can eat without being disturbed by other pets, children or loud noises such as the laundry. The feeding place should be far from the litter box

CHAPTER 2

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CAT TO OTHER PETS

Before introducing your new cat to your other pets, make sure your existing pets are healthy and current with their vaccinations. Introducing your cat to other pets should be done slowly over a period of weeks. Prepare a spare room (like a bathroom or small spare bedroom) where your new cat can reside for a while before being introduced to the other pets.

REMEMBER—it may take a month or more for the new cat to be accepted. A proper introduction is very important and can eliminate many problems from the start.

Cat to Cat

If your new cat is showing signs of illness, please do not introduce it to your existing cat until you consult with your veterinarian. Isolating newly adopted cats from other cats for a period of 14 days substantially reduces risk of cross-infection.

Make sure the new cat has a place to himself for a few days, allowing him time to adjust.

Spend time with your new cat out of sight of your existing cat. Be sure to lavish attention on your existing cat as well.

Allow your original cat to follow his usual routine. He will be aware that something is different and

will seek out the location of the new cat. Allow them to sniff under the door.

After a day or so, swap the cats so they can investigate each other's areas. Getting used to each other's scents is an integral part of adjustment. If all seems to be going well, allow the cats to meet one another through a screen/baby gate or crate, etc. It is normal for cats to hiss and growl at each other, but an all-out physical attack is very inappropriate and rare. However, be prepared with a water spray and a towel or blanket to separate the cats, as allowing them to fight will elongate the introduction period or may even damage the process altogether.

After a comfortable period of introductions through a baby gate, carrier, or monitored encounter, increase the area and time the new kitty can explore outside his safe room. Allow short periods of contact, increasing over time.



Once the new cat has been allowed access to the rest of the house, leave his safe room intact so he may take refuge there. Improvement in attitudes toward each other should begin in a week or so. Do not be discouraged if it takes longer. The length of adjustment will depend on the personalities of the cats and the length of time your existing cat was a solitary pet. Be sure to lavish attention on all your cats to make everyone feel part of the family. The social interaction level may vary; you may have cats that groom, play and sleep with each other, or just tolerate the existence of the other—and that is okay, too!

Cat to Dog

First, prepare a safe room and have a clear escape route set for your new cat, as a precaution to the encounter.

Make sure the dog does not have access to the cat's food and water and especially the litter box! Use a baby gate or cat door to block the dog's access.



When introducing your new cat to a dog, put the cat on a raised surface like a table or dresser. This will help the cat feel less threatened. Put your dog on a leash. Allow them to see each other (try to keep the leash loose) and then distract the dog with a treat or praise. With a flat collar on the dog, you can let him drag the leash around the house so you can grab it if necessary. It is normal for the cat to hiss and growl at first, especially if she has not lived with a dog before. Cats take time to adjust to changes; the more the animals are together in the same room, with you to supervise, the quicker they will adjust. Arm yourself with a squirt bottle and spray them with water if they start to fight. You can also throw a towel over the cat if she attacks the dog. Make sure the cat has an escape route or can leap to a high place. Do not let the dog chase and/or corner the cat or vice versa.

Separate them when you are not there to supervise until you are comfortable with the situation. Some

dogs are too predatory to adjust safely to a cat. Proceed with caution and, if you find this is the case, never leave them together unsupervised.

If your cat hides, don't worry. Keep the well-behaved dog around as much as possible so the cat can get comfortable with his presence. Make sure the cat has a private place not accessible to the dog where she can eat and drink in peace and feel safe. Ensure that the cat has unthreatened access to her litter box.

Allow the pets to adjust in their own time—be patient and act calm and relaxed. Often they become friends; sometimes they just tolerate each other. Either way you should respect the arrangement.

Cat to Other Pets

Remember, cats are curious. Fish, rabbits, rodents, birds, etc., should be protected from the inquisitive cat. These animals are the natural prey of cats and may become very stressed around your new pet, especially if she is sitting on top of their house! Make sure cages are secure and well maintained; they may have to be in another room altogether.



CHAPTER 3

CHILDREN AND CATS

If there are children in your household, it is important to teach them how to handle and act with your new cat to avoid stressing the cat and causing potential injury to both. Children learn responsibility by good examples, so please guide your children and regularly monitor the care being provided for your pets.



- Here are some guidelines to help your children and your new cat live happily together:
- Instruct children to be calm, quiet, and slow moving when being introduced to the cat.
- A kitten or cat should be picked up and held with one hand under its chest and the other hand supporting its hindquarters.
- Handle the cat gently and tell children not to squeeze or hold too tightly. Most children under the age of 5 cannot hold a cat properly without squeezing too tight.
- Young children should be taught to sit calmly while you place the cat in their laps. This way everyone is safe and happy.
- Children should leave the cat alone when he is sleeping, eating and using the litter box. Also, instruct youngsters not to put the cat in inappropriate places like the dryer, on the top bunk, in a closed box, etc.
- Cats should not be dragged out of hiding against their will.
- Children should not chase the cat around the house. If cornered and frightened, the cat may scratch and bite or may become timid.
- Never leave young children alone with a new pet.
- Teach children appropriate play and petting. Do not allow them to encourage the cat to bite them or run after them. The children should not BE the toys. Provide safe toys for both the cat and the kids.
- Teach children to look for signals that show their pet is getting irritated or over-stimulated. A swishing tail, ears back or gentle nips can lead to being scratched or bitten.
- Always allow the cat to escape if he tries to run. If the cat struggles to get away, let him go!
- **NEVER ALLOW ROUGH HANDLING**, as this teaches the cat that it is OK to be rough in return!

CHAPTER 4

KEEPING YOUR CAT INDOORS

Indoor cats lead healthier, longer lives. Keeping a cat indoors is not cruel. You can keep your cat happy by scheduling regular playtime, giving her toys to chase and catch and providing things for the cat to climb on (like a kitty condo). If you must let your cat outside, consider harness training your cat and taking her into your yard. While this can be done with patience, it is best to start harness training early, knowing that your cat may or may not accept the harness.

Here are some of the hazards that await a cat that roams freely outdoors:

- Becoming lost
- Being stolen
- Being killed by wildlife (even in the city!)
- Having fights with other cats, dogs, raccoons, etc.
- Being hit by a car
- Getting infectious diseases such as: feline leukemia (FeLV), feline intestinal peritonitis (FIP), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)
- Getting fleas, ticks and worms
- Being exposed to the elements
- Neighbor complaints
- Ingesting antifreeze or poisons
- Deciding to take the offer of living INSIDE someone else's home



CHAPTER 5

CAT BEHAVIOR

Cats need to scratch, play, hunt, hide, sleep and have social interaction. Cats are by nature curious and adventuresome. They can get into places you would not imagine and make toys out of the least likely items. Many cat behaviors are similar to those you would observe in wild felines. They sleep, hunt, stalk, chase, scratch, bite and watch.

Scratching

Scratching is a normal behavior and can be directed to appropriate places. Your cat scratches not only to clean away scales from its nails but also to mark territory. Try providing your cat with a variety of scratching options such as a rope scratching post, a log with the bark intact, a cardboard box, etc.

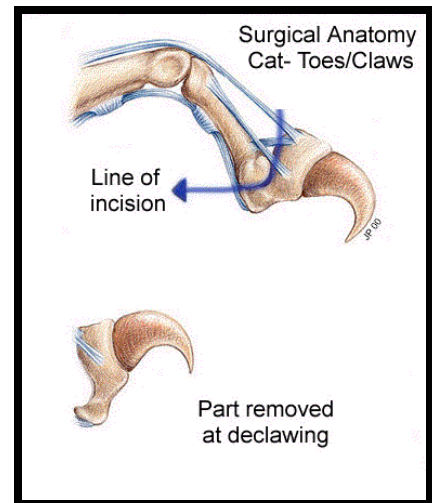
Put the scratching post near a favorite sleeping place as cats love to stretch and scratch after a nap. Reinforce his good behavior by praising him whenever he uses appropriate places. Put catnip on the “right” scratching item. If you catch him scratching the furniture, try a water spray bottle, set on stream. Only punish the behavior, not the cat (that is, catch him in the act). If the cat just loves scratching one corner of your couch, for example, place something there to block access like plastic carpet protectors turned upside down with the little spikes facing outward to discourage cats from walking over them. You can also use foil or double-sided sticky tape.

The Dangers Of Declawing

Once people learn more about declawing, they are usually discouraged from having the surgery and are happy to seek out alternative solutions.

Consider the following:

- Declawing is the amputation of the entire last digit of the cat’s toes.
- Declawing includes severing of ligaments and tendons, which is painful.



- Cat owners have reported having to change cat litter as some declawed cats find clay litter painful and may stop covering their litter.
- Declawing also can cause impaired balance, increased stress because they cannot defend themselves or injury during a fall because they cannot grip anything.

It's hardly surprising that, deprived of its claws, a cat may turn to its only other defense —its teeth. You may have a cat that does not damage your furniture but is now quick to bite!

Leave your cat with its claws and use these simple alternatives.

- Keep claws trimmed—carefully trim the tips off the nails being careful not to cut the quick (the vein that runs down the nails). Ask your veterinarian to instruct you so you can do this at home or take your pet to a groomer.
- You can buy nail sheaths, little plastic caps that fit over the nails to prevent scratching. These have been used successfully by many people.
- Train your cat to use the alternative scratching posts that you provided.

Biting

Some cats are gentle while others are rowdy with nipping/biting. Choose a cat that will work well in your household. Biting, even while playing, is natural. You can avoid getting your hand bitten by not using your hand as a toy for your cat.

Biting may also be saying that your cat has had enough petting or playing. So stop what you are doing and leave kitty alone.

Stroking your cat near its tail and on the belly may also elicit biting behavior. Avoid petting in that area as biting is a natural reaction to that stimulation.

You can retrain kitty by playing gently and using toys.

Playing

Buy, or make, a few cat toys. Playing and hunting desires can be closely related. A nice mouse toy can be used for a fun chase game, and allowing the cat to catch the toy mouse will help satisfy hunting desires. Most cats will play with anything that moves!

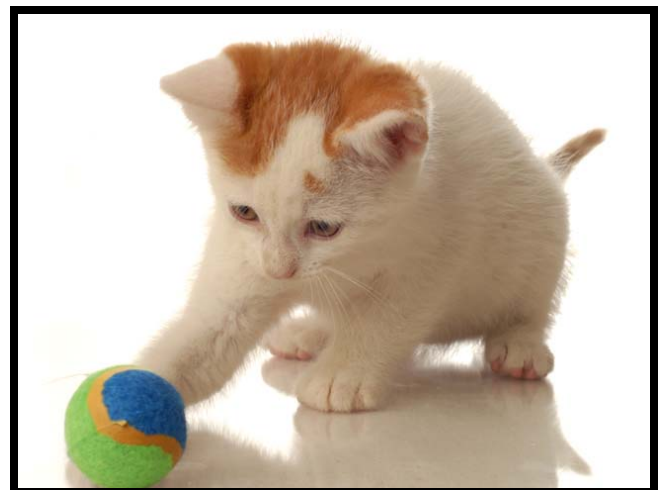
When you play, be sure to avoid wrestling or roughhousing with your hands. Otherwise, it teaches the cat that it's all right to use claws and teeth on you. Avoid string, wool, curling ribbon (used for gift packages), or anything similar, as cats can ingest these substances and cause serious internal problems.

If you work all day, greet your cat affectionately when you arrive home and give him a few minutes of your undivided attention. Allow your pet to be with you in the evening. A brief play period and just being petted every evening will keep him happy. Set time aside for longer play periods. Many behavior issues are avoided by spending quality time with your cat.

Be aware of normal cat behavior.

Part of playing with your cat may include mock hunting: stalking, ambushing and pouncing. These can be delightful antics to watch, but be aware that anything that moves may become a target (including you).

Cats also incorporate climbing and leaping into play routines. A young or determined cat can jump two or three times his body length. Cats desire to be on high surfaces to survey their territory for prey or intruders.



Sleeping and Relaxing

Cats love high places to perch and look out from and cozy safe places to hide and sleep. You can buy “kitty condos” or leave suitable closets open.

NOTE: always check that your cat is not inside before closing pretty much anything —especially the dryer!

Letting your cat sleep on your bed and relax on your lap will add pleasure and contentment to her life and yours! (Cats can sleep as much as 18 hours a day.)

Know that your bed time may not be the same as your cat's; they are largely nocturnal. Your cat's increased activity around the bedroom or house at some early morning hour is not a behavior problem, just instinctual. Playing with your cat prior to your bed time and feeding your cat when you go to bed may help her sleep peacefully at night.



Litter Box Training

The general rule of thumb is **one litter box per cat plus an extra box for insurance.**

Here are some tips that will help ensure that your cat uses its litter box:

- Place the litter box in a convenient location, but it must be private and quiet for the cat (a

laundry room or hallway may be too noisy and busy).

- Keep the boxes away from heavy traffic areas and the cat's feeding area. Be certain a shy cat can reach the box without feeling threatened or exposed.
- Scoop away waste every day—this makes kitty happy. Thoroughly clean the box once a month. Empty out all the litter, wash with dish soap and dry.
- When you first arrive home with your new cat, calmly place her in the litter box a few times to be sure she knows the location. Allowing the cat to watch you when you scoop the litter box has been reported to encourage the cat to jump in and use it.
- You may need to experiment with different types of litter until you find the one that is acceptable to your cat. Any accidents should be cleaned with an enzyme-based cleaner.

Why Is My Cat Not Using the Litter box?

You need to determine if the problem is inappropriate elimination or territorial marking. If your cat is marking, you will usually find the urine has been deposited on vertical surfaces, whereas inappropriate toileting is on horizontal surfaces. Each has different suggested remedies. For territorial marking (spraying), look into what has changed in your cat's environment that may cause him or her to feel the need to assert a presence in an area. Your veterinarian should perform a health exam to rule out any underlying medical reasons for the behavior.

Possible reasons for inappropriate elimination:

- The cat has not learned the location of the litter box or forgets where it is if allowed too much house to roam. This is especially true for kittens.
- The cat may have a physiological or physical condition (illness). Any cat displaying

inappropriate litter box habits should see your veterinarian right away to rule out infection or other medical issues.

- The cat may not like the brand of litter, so try some others simultaneously. Observe which one he selects.
- The litter box is not clean. Soiled areas should be removed DAILY. The entire pan should be emptied and washed at least once a month, replacing with fresh litter.
- The litter box has been disinfected with a strong smelling solution and needs to be rinsed thoroughly. Cats do not like strong smells.
- The cat is soiling an area previously used for elimination by another pet. Clean thoroughly with an enzyme-based cleaner.
- Place the food bowl on a previously soiled spot as this may deter the cat, or place another litter box on the spot.
- The location of the litter box may be unacceptable; try a new quiet area.
- Another pet may be keeping the cat away.
- Another cat is using the litter box. Some cats will not share a litter box, especially at first.
- A child or pet is terrorizing the new cat while you are not there, causing fear-related elimination or the cat simply may be responding to stress and family and household changes.

Be Patient and Consistent.

It can take a few weeks for a cat to settle—not much to ask for a new lifelong friend and companion. NEVER punish the cat for making a mistake. This may make the problem much worse. Patience and praise work far more quickly to solve any problems.

Understanding Body Language

Cats have a varied body language. Here are some ways to read your cat's more subtle language:

- **Eyes** - The pupils tell you a lot – watch for dilated wide pupils as this indicates fear and stress. Try to avoid petting or picking up a cat with widely dilated pupils!
- **Ears** - Ears flattened and pressed onto the head are expressing fear or defense.
- **Tail** - A cat holding his tail straight up is displaying confidence and pride. A bottlebrush tail is a sign of fear/stress. Then there is the slow wag of mild annoyance and finally the slow twitching of the tail indicating your cat has had enough!
- **Purring** - While generally thought of as a sign of affection, purring can also indicate a serious problem. Injured cats may also purr just as much as if they are being affectionately petted. They may purr to comfort and reassure themselves when they are nervous or in pain.

On-Going Training Tips

Cats love routine. Many do the same thing at the same time daily. Something as simple as closing the door to the room they routinely sleep in during the afternoon can cause a behavior change. Watch for these types of changes to your cat's routine when assessing a behavior problem.

The best training tools are patience and praise of the desirable behavior. If your cat continues to perform the undesirable behavior, a water spray bottle set on stream will often be sufficient.

Remember to **PUNISH ONLY THE BEHAVIOR,**
NEVER THE CAT.

Dispelling Myths about Felines

There are many popular misconceptions about cats. Here are some of the common ones:

You should allow your female cat to have one litter before spaying her:

FALSE. Having a litter will not only add to the high pet overpopulation problem, but having kittens can cause stress and there can be medical complications with pregnancy and birth. Remember SPAY AND NEUTER NOW as cats can reproduce as young as 5-6 months of age.

An indoor-only female cat does not need to be spayed:

FALSE. Not only will you experience the restlessness and noise of your cat's heat cycle but she will discover any and every way to get out of the house. Heat can be experienced as frequently as every other month.

A fixed cat will get fat:

FALSE. Only a cat that eats too much and does not get enough playful exercise will get fat.

Only a male cat will spray:

FALSE. Spraying is territorial marking. While usually associated with tom cats, your spayed female or neutered male may spray if she or he perceives a threat on territory.

Cats are street-smart and can do just fine outside:

FALSE. Cats are domesticated pets. They face many hazards outside that can and do shorten their lives. Your cat is dependent upon you for her health, safety and survival so keep her indoors!

Cats are loners:

FALSE. Cats are not anti-social animals and do want companionship. They may not desire to accompany you like a dog, but your cat will let you know when it is time for interaction and play and when it is time for solitude.



CHAPTER 6

HEALTH CONCERNS AND MEDICAL TREATMENT

Feline Upper Respiratory Infections

Your cat may have a cold when you get him home. Cats are subject to an airborne virus disease that is very similar to the common cold experienced by humans. It is called URI (Upper Respiratory Infection), and we deal with it every day in the shelter. We do all we can to prevent its spread, including carefully disinfecting our kennels and vaccinating each cat with FVRCP. Despite our best efforts, some cats will come down with URI. When multiple cats are confined to one room, a single sneeze from a cat can expose all the others. Also, all the cats in the shelter are under stress just by virtue of being here, which lowers their resistance to illness.

If your cat begins to sneeze, or has a runny nose or eyes within 6 days after you get him/her home, chances are that the cat may be coming down with URI. The virus is quite contagious to other cats, so if you have any resident cats, keep them separate. You can expect symptoms to continue for 7-10 days and they may vary in intensity. The cat may sneeze, have discharge from eyes and nose, drool and breathe with difficulty through his mouth. The cat may lose its appetite and even stop drinking. You should seek veterinary treatment for the cat as soon as possible.

Can my other pets get URI?

URI is contagious ONLY to other cats. URI is not contagious to people or to animals other than cats. Vaccinating against URI is not 100% effective. We recommend isolating all new arrivals in your household for 8-10 days.



What are signs of URI?

- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Red/runny eyes
- Fever
- Sores on tongue/lips/nose
- Lack of appetite
- Decreased energy

What should I do if my new cat has URI?

- Provide your cat with a quiet, warm place to rest.
- Make sure the cat is eating. Sometimes with a stuffy nose they can't smell their food and may not want to eat. Offer microwaved (for no more than 10 seconds), smelly, wet food to increase their appetite.
- If the cat is congested, use a humidifier or put the cat in the bathroom with running hot water in the shower to create steam, for a few minutes, a couple of times a day
- If any medicine has been prescribed, be sure to give the full course as directed, even if the symptoms seem to have gone away.

When should I contact my veterinarian?

With rest and care, many cats will recover from mild URI in one or two weeks. Sometimes cats need additional help, however. If your cat has any of the following signs, contact your veterinarian:

- Not eating for more than 24 hours.
- Green or yellow discharge from the nose or eyes.
- Difficulty breathing, especially panting or breathing with an open mouth.
- Depressed or unresponsive.
- Vomiting or diarrhea that lasts more than 24 hours.
- Little or no improvement after a week of care.

Feline Panleukopenia

Feline Panleukopenia (also known as feline distemper) is a rare but infectious viral disease of cats. It attacks susceptible cats of all ages, but young cats and kittens seem to be most vulnerable. It is often fatal. The disease is not related to the virus of distemper of dogs nor does it infect people. It is a close cousin of the parvovirus of dogs and is itself a parvovirus. Symptoms of Panleukopenia include vomiting and diarrhea, lethargy, lack of appetite and sudden death. The disease strikes suddenly and progresses rapidly. All cats and kittens entering the shelter without a documented vaccination history are immediately vaccinated with a combination vaccine which provides excellent protection against this virus. Occasionally though, a cat will have been exposed to the virus prior to entering the shelter, or in that window of hours before the vaccination provides complete immune protection. For this reason we typically will see a few cases of Panleukopenia in our shelter population each year. If you suspect that your newly adopted cat is showing symptoms of this disease, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a disease that fortunately most cat owners will never need to know about first hand. It affects about one in 100 cats—most under the age of two.

The underlying cause of Feline Infectious Peritonitis is a type of Coronavirus. This virus is very common in the feline population, and studies show that in most shelters and multi-cat environments 80-100% of cats have been exposed to this virus at some point. Most of these cats (about 99% of them) will never be sick from the virus. In a small portion (about 1%) of cats, however, the virus will be able to mutate into the form known as Feline Infectious Peritonitis. There is no test currently available that will allow one to determine which cats are going to be able to mutate the virus.

Cats that do mutate the virus become very sick. They commonly have fevers that are not responsive to antibiotics, and many of them accumulate fluid in their abdomen or chest. In the “dry” form, they can have eye inflammations (uveitis), kidney or liver disease, or neurological problems.

There is no good test to determine if a cat has the disease, although if a kitten has fluid in his chest or abdomen, there is a high likelihood that FIP is the cause. There is no treatment for the disease, and it is almost always fatal. Vaccination has not proven effective against the disease, and most cats are exposed to the Coronavirus before they are 16 weeks old (the youngest that a cat can be vaccinated with this specific vaccine). The risk of contracting FIP is highest in kittens in the first year of life, and becomes very low after two years of age.

If your kitten shows any sign of illness, please take him to a veterinarian, who can provide more information about this devastating disease

Feline Leukemia Virus

FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) is a virus that causes a breakdown in a cat's immune system. This, in turn, causes the cat to become susceptible to many other diseases which a healthy cat might otherwise be able to fight off. We test all cats and kittens prior to their leaving our shelter.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

Cats that are infected with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) may not show symptoms until years after the initial infection occurred. Although the virus is slow-acting, a cat's immune system is severely weakened once the disease takes hold. This makes the cat susceptible to various secondary infections. Infected cats that receive supportive medical care and are kept in a stress-free, indoor environment can live relatively comfortable lives for months to years before the disease reaches its chronic stages.

What Are the Symptoms of FIV?

If your cat is demonstrating any of the following symptoms, please have him examined by your veterinarian:

- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Fever
- Anemia
- Weight loss
- Disheveled coat
- Poor appetite
- Diarrhea
- Abnormal appearance or inflammation of the eye (conjunctivitis)
- Inflammation of the gums (gingivitis)
- Inflammation of the mouth (stomatitis)
- Dental disease
- Skin redness or hair loss
- Wounds that don't heal
- Sneezing

- Discharge from eyes or nose
- Frequent urination, straining to urinate or urinating outside of litter box
- Behavior change

How Is FIV Transmitted?

FIV is mainly passed from cat to cat through deep bite wounds, the kind that usually occur outdoors during aggressive fights and territorial disputes—the perfect reason to keep your cat inside. It can also be passed from an FIV-infected mother cat to her kitten.

Can a Person Catch FIV from a Cat?

No. FIV cannot be transmitted from cat to human, only from cat to cat.

How Is FIV Treated?

Unfortunately, there is no specific antiviral treatment for FIV. Cats can carry the virus for a long time before symptoms appear. Therefore, treatment focuses mainly on extending the asymptomatic period or, if symptoms have set in, on easing the secondary effects of the virus. Your veterinarian may prescribe some of the following treatments:

- Medication for secondary infections
- Healthy, palatable diet to encourage good nutrition
- Fluid and electrolyte replacement therapy
- Anti-inflammatory drugs
- Immune-enhancing drugs
- Parasite control

What Can Happen If FIV Goes Untreated?

Without proper treatment, the secondary infections that can occur as a consequence of FIV can progress to life-threatening conditions. Additionally, cats with FIV can develop various forms of cancer, blood diseases or kidney failure, which will ultimately claim the cat's life.

GCAC Treatments, Procedures, Vaccines & Recommendations

While at Greenville County Animal Care, the cat you adopted may have received the following vaccines and/or treatments.

FVRCP Vaccine

This is a standard vaccine administered to cats. It is sometimes referred to as the Distemper vaccine but it also includes Rhinotracheitis and Calici virus. Kittens and some cats may need additional doses administered by your veterinarian over a period of weeks to achieve maximum immunity from diseases. Until these are complete, it is best to limit the exposure of your kitten to other cats. While at the shelter, all cats and kittens receive initial vaccines at admission to help ensure they receive maximum protection against illness and disease.

Deworming

Medication to eliminate roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and/or tapeworms, as well as coccidia, may have been given. Do not be surprised to see worms passed in your cat's elimination. This is to be expected.

Rabies Vaccine

Cats and kittens over 3 months of age are given a Rabies vaccine. GCAC uses a one-year vaccine. Follow your veterinarian's advice regarding follow-up vaccination.



Antibiotics

When an animal is sick with an upper respiratory infection, we may administer a course of antibiotics. If your adopted cat is issued medication to go home with him at the time of adoption, it will be important that you continue the medication for the duration prescribed, and follow up with your veterinarian regarding recovery and the need, if any, for further medication or treatment. Upper respiratory infection is a nuisance but common in an environment with many cats of undetermined medical background. It is necessary to keep the new cat away from existing cats in the household until it is no longer showing symptoms.

Flea/Parasite Control

Many products exist that protect your cat from fleas and parasites. Flea and Tick products are available for purchase in the Cat Adoption Area.

Spaying/Neutering

Unaltered cats are spayed or neutered at the GCAC Clinic prior to adoption. If your cat or kitten was altered recently, be sure to monitor the surgery site carefully for signs of swelling or discharge. Refer to the aftercare instructions included in your adoption packet for further information regarding alter procedures. All animals adopted from GCAC must be altered to prevent domestic animal overpopulation. Altering dogs and cats also keeps them healthier and easier to live with!

Grooming

Some cats require ongoing grooming; it is necessary for their health and well-being. Grooming is not just for looks; it prevents painful mats and allows the skin to breathe. Neglecting this type of care can constitute neglect and causes needless suffering. If you are not able to accommodate your cat's grooming needs yourself, ask your veterinarian to recommend a good groomer.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

Animals in our lives provide a blessing and an opportunity to share the world with another species. It is a responsibility to take seriously. “Working through” behavior and medical issues will deepen your relationship with your animals and provide a valuable lesson to children and adults, teaching that the bond is indeed one that will endure tough times and last for the lifetime of your pet. “Getting rid” of an animal because it does not meet expectations, has not been taught good manners, or needs expensive medical care is a poor example of animal ownership.

When the match isn’t right....

Sometimes a relationship is not successful. If keeping your companion animal becomes impossible, you may return your animal to the Cat Adoption Area at Greenville County Animal Care. If the animal was adopted within the last 30 days, you may be eligible for an exchange. If it has been over 30 days since the adoption, you will need to return the cat to the Cat Intake Area as an Owner Surrender. Depending on the reason for surrender, GCAC may place restrictions on the types of animals you select to prevent another poor match. For instance, if the cat you selected did not interact well with kids, it will be important that the next animal has a good history with children.

All of us at Greenville County Animal Care want to help you make the right pet choice and to keep the loving bond for the lifetime of the pet. Please give us a call at 864-467-3905 with any questions you may have; we are glad to assist!

Plan for Pets During Disasters

REMEMBER: If you must evacuate, take your pet(s) with you!

Greenville County Animal Care encourages pet owners to keep their pets in mind when preparing for disaster or an emergency. While the sun is still shining, consider packing a “pet survival” kit which could be easily deployed if disaster hits.

In order to contain and control your pets during an evacuation, you’ll need a harness and leash for each dog and a carrier for each cat. In choosing a cat carrier, choose one that is large enough to serve as a temporary apartment for your cat.

Pre-pack your pet’s kit in a backpack for ease in transportation and include supplies for at least one week. Include dry food, clumping cat litter, water, serving dishes, small litter box, litter scoop, and plastic bags for waste disposal. Pet first aid kits and vaccination records are a must.

Remember to include any pet medication, favorite toy or bed, and some treats.

Tag, microchip, and photograph your pets. Current identification is the single most important thing you can do to help ensure that you will be reunited with a lost pet. Make certain your pet (even an indoor only cat) is wearing a collar with visible identification tags with your phone number. A microchip implant is a secure form of identification that can’t be lost. Be sure to carry a photograph with you to increase the likelihood of finding a missing pet.

Tip: If your cell phone has the camera feature, take and store photos of your pets on your cell phone.

Services Directory

GCAC is dedicated to making our community a better place. Call (864) 467-3950 for more information or visit us online at www.greenvillepets.org.

Adoptions

Cat and kitten adoption

(864) 467-3905

Email: adoptapet@greenvillecounty.org

Dog and puppy adoption

(864) 467-3985

Email: adoptapet@greenvillecounty.org

Animal Control/Welfare Services:

Greenville City Animal Control

(864) 271-5333

<http://police.greenvillesc.gov/animal-control.aspx>.

Greenville County Animal Control

(864) 467-7595

[www.greenvillecounty.org/Codes Enforcement/animals.asp](http://www.greenvillecounty.org/Codes_Enforcement/animals.asp).

Anderson County

(864) 260-5576

Fountain Inn City Animal Control

(864) 409-3334

www.fountaininn.org

Greer City Animal Control

(864) 848-5363

[www.cityofgreer.org/departments/animal control.php](http://www.cityofgreer.org/departments/animal_control.php)

Laurens County

(864) 984-6812

Mauldin City Animal Control

(864) 289-8900.

www.cityofmauldin.org.

Pickens County

(864) 898-5929

Simpsonville City Animal Control

(864) 967-9531, Ext. 108.

www.simpsonville.com.

Spartanburg County Animal Control

(864) 596-3582

Traveler's Rest City Animal Control

(864) 834-9029

www.trpolice.com

Animal Sheltering Assistance

Food is available to animal owners who need assistance feeding their animals through our Safe At Home Program. (864) 467-5678

Humane Education for Youths

GCAC offers classroom presentations, summer camps and more. (864) 467-3986
petpr@greenvillecounty.org.

Lost and Found Pets

GCAC accepts stray, as well as owned animals. (864) 467-3996. lostpet@greenvillecounty.org

Spay & Neuter Financial Aid

GCAC offers low-cost spay and neuter programs, and discounts to qualified individuals. (864) 467-7729. petvet@greenvillecounty.org

Ways to Help

To learn more about opportunities to help animals, call (864) 467-3950 or visit us online www.greenvillepets.org.

Charitable Gift Annuities

Lifetime income, plus a tax deduction.

Corporate Partnerships

Sponsor a GCAC event or organize a benefit.

Estate Gifts

Include GCAC in your will, trust or with a beneficiary designation.

Monetary Donations

GCAC relies on private donations.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships are available for a multitude of needs at GCAC. Sponsorships may be put toward animal adoption fees, medical needs, and other areas.

Tribute Gifts

Tribute gifts can be made in memory of, or in honor of, a pet or loved one.

Volunteer

GCAC volunteer programs are available for teens, adults, groups and companies. **(864) 467-3987**.
petvolunteer@greenvillecounty.org.



APPENDIX I



Adoption Contract

Tel.: 864-467-3985 | Fax: 864-467-3294

Greenville County Animal Care
328 Furman Hall Road
Greenville, SC 29609
www.greenvillepets.org

Date: _____

Animal Name: _____ Animal ID number: _____

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____
Home Cell Work

Email: _____ Driver's License #/ID: _____ Date of Birth _____

Please read and initial beside each number and then sign at the bottom of the agreement.

_____ 1. The pet you have adopted from Greenville County Animal Care may have been recently spayed or neutered and/or need booster vaccinations, fecal tests and de-worming medications, and other general medical care. ***We recommend that you make an appointment with your regular veterinarian or at the Greenville County Animal Care Clinic within 2 weeks of adopting a pet.*** For appointments, call the Clinic at 864-467-3988.

_____ 2. I understand that animals can from time to time carry and transmit diseases; some of which affect people, including bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungal diseases and that the disease may be undetectable in what appears to be a healthy animal at the time of adoption. ******I understand that I will be financially responsible for all additional medical care incurred after I leave the animal shelter with my new pet including vaccines, medications, routine exams and follow-up care.*** I agree to hold harmless the County of Greenville for any and all medical complications resulting in the adoption of my pet. ***

_____ 3. I understand that I am receiving this animal without any warranties, guarantees or representations about its conditions, behavior or prior ownership. I agree to hold harmless the County of Greenville for any and all complications resulting in the adoption of my pet, to include loss of life, limb or property damages, disputes or claims. Greenville County Animal Care is not the agent or provider of this service and will be held harmless for any claims arising out of this promotional coverage.

_____ 4. I agree to return my pet to Greenville County Animal Care if the animal becomes ill and I cannot care for it properly, or if for any reason it does not prove as a satisfactory pet. If I decide to give up the animal, I understand that depending on the circumstances of the return, it may be placed back for adoption, sent to an animal rescue group, or humanely euthanized. ***I understand that I can exchange my returned pet for another within 30 days of the adoption date, but that I will not be refunded adoption fees.*** Only one exchange will be allowed within 30 days of the original adoption date, please.

Greenville County Animal Care Adoption Contract, page 2

_____ 5. I agree to obey the laws and ordinances enforced in the municipality in which I reside regarding animal licensing and animal control. Additionally, the animal will not be kept chained and/or inhumanely confined outside. The pet that I am adopting today will be kept as a personal pet and will not be used for medical or any other experimental purposes. I will humanely care for and provide proper food and shelter for the animal, including annual veterinary examinations, vaccines, exercise and grooming.

_____ 6. All retail sales are final. Items purchased for your newly adopted pet cannot be returned.

_____ 7. I understand Greenville County Animal Care tests canines for heartworm disease and it strongly recommends that all canines be placed on a heartworm preventative immediately at the time of adoption. I understand that Greenville County Animal Care tests felines for feline leukemia and FIV and it highly recommends that all felines be vaccinated for feline leukemia. These recommendations are especially important if the animals are going to be outside pets.

Signature of Adopter: _____ Date: _____

If your pet or the pet you have adopted and/or rescued was spayed or neutered, please read the following post operative care information.

- When your pet first returns home after surgery, please be sure they have an opportunity to go to the bathroom. It has been a long day for them.
- Please do not expose your pet to loud noises or too much activity. Your pet will recover most quickly in a quite, warm environment.
- You may offer your pet a small amount of food and water. Some animals do not wish to eat directly following surgery. This is normal. Your pet's appetite should return to normal by the next day. If your pet's eating habits have not returned to normal within 24 hours following surgery, please contact us.
- Your pet has dissolvable sutures in their incision (except male cats). These sutures do not require removal. However, as the body begins to absorb the suture material, there may appear a firm, painless swelling beneath the skin around the incision. This is normal. The swelling will diminish in one to two weeks. Please check your pet's incision site at least once per day. If you note any bright red blood or discharge from the incision, please contact the Animal Care Clinic at 467-SPAY.
- If your pet begins to lick its incision site, please place an E-collar on your pet for at least 5 to 7 days. E-collars can be purchased from our Clinic. The collar should extend approximately 2 inches beyond your pet's nose. The collar should be tight enough to prevent your pet from pulling it off but also loose enough to allow normal breathing and swallowing.
- Please be sure to keep your pet's incision site dry for at least 2 weeks following surgery. Since the sutures are dissolvable, it is very important to prevent premature dissolving, which could cause the incision to re-open. Dogs should not be groomed for at least 2 weeks following surgery. Please consider areas where your pets could be exposed to water or excessive moisture and keep a close eye on them. Cats that are allowed to go outside should be kept inside for at least three 3 to 5 days to allow time for the incision to begin to adequately heal.

Adoption Amendment For Panleukopenia Exposure

I acknowledge that I am adopting an animal that has been designated as being potentially exposed to Panleukopenia. I have decided to continue with adopting, even though I understand the risks involved including:

- Transmission of the disease to my pets and any other pets this animal comes in contact with.
- The extensive cost of treatment and the high mortality rate that may result should my pet(s) contract the disease. Greenville County Animal Care Services shall have no liability and is held harmless should any animal become ill from this pet. I further agree to pay any veterinary expenses incurred for my pet(s).
- Contamination, on a long-term basis, of my residence and any other location the animal has been in contact with. This will preclude me from adopting another juvenile animal for at least six months if this pet should test positive for the virus depending on my ability to disinfect the area the pet was in.

I further agree to seek immediate medical attention should this pet show any symptoms of Panleukopenia including: loss of appetite, diarrhea, vomiting, and lethargy. I understand it is critical to seek treatment as there is a high mortality rate with this disease and it can cause great suffering for the pet.

Signature

Date

(GCAC Clinic 864-467-3988 to make appointment or contact your personal vet)

APPENDIX II



Greenville County Animal Care

Helping People Help Animals

ANIMAL HEALTH DISCLOSURE for Animal ID # _____

By signing below, I understand and agree that the pet I am adopting, rescuing, and/or fostering;

☐

Appears healthy and is not showing clinical signs of illness or injury at the time of release.

☐

Has been diagnosed with the following condition, illness and/or injury at the time of release:

****ANIMALS IN YOUR HOME SHOULD BE UPDATED ON VACCINATIONS PRIOR TO ADOPTING A NEW PET!****

My signature below indicates that I am taking ownership and/or custody of said animal, or I am an official representative of an organization or group approved to make decisions and to sign this disclosure statement. I understand that I am accountable for said animal and agree to provide the animal with humane care and any medical care and treatment needed, including any latent illnesses that the animal may be harboring but has not shown clinical signs to date. If I am fostering said animal for Greenville County Animal Care, I also understand that any medical conditions that present after I take the pet(s) home need to be immediately brought to the attention of the foster supervisor.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Additional Information on Common Animal Illnesses:



URI (Upper Respiratory Illness) – CATS

- Many cats enter shelters that are already silently carrying viruses that lead to this illness and any of the following agents can be a primary cause of URI: Feline Herpesvirus-1, Feline Calicivirus, Chlamydomphila felis, Mycoplasma spp., or Bordetella bronchiseptica. Most often, the specific agent causing the illness cannot be identified without additional testing. Signs include sneezing, nasal congestion, inflammation in/around eyes, and clear or purulent discharge from the nose. Infections typically last 7-21 days and during this time the cat may be infectious to other cats. It's important to isolate newly adopted/rescued cats from other cats in the home for a period of 14 days.

Internal Parasites (aka “Worms”) – DOGS & CATS

- Internal parasites in dogs and cats entering animal shelters is very common and can cause illness, diarrhea, anemia, and even death if not diagnosed and treated. Some parasites are zoonotic, that is, they can also cause disease in humans. The most commonly seen are: Hookworms, Roundworms, Whipworms, Tapeworms, Coccidia, and Giardia. Because there are so many types of worms to potentially treat, we recommend ALWAYS taking a fecal sample of your adopted/rescue pet to a veterinarian for complete diagnosis and treatment.

Panleukopenia – CATS

- Panleukopenia causes vomiting, diarrhea, and can cause sudden death in cats. Kittens are at highest risk for this disease, but adult cats may also contract it. The virus can be shed for up to 3 days before clinical symptoms appear, so it can be passed to other animals unknowingly. Isolate newly adopted/rescued cats from other cats in the home for 14 days and observe to ensure they are not incubating the virus.

Mange – DOGS & CATS

- Mange is caused by mites and causes hair loss and mild to intense skin irritation. There are two types of mange: Sarcoptic and Demodex. Sarcoptic mange is zoonotic, that is, it can also be transmitted to other animals and humans. Demodex is not known to cross-infest between dogs and cats, nor is it transmitted to humans. Diagnosis of Sarcoptic or Demodex mange is determined by microscopic examination of skin scrapes from affected areas.

Ringworm – DOGS & CATS

- Ringworm is the common name for the skin infection caused by a group of fungi. In animals, ringworm frequently looks like a dry, scaly patch. Ringworm is zoonotic, that is, it can also be transmitted to other animals and humans. Some animals are carriers who never show signs of skin irritation themselves but can infect others readily. Ringworm can be diagnosed in one of three ways: Wood's lamp, microscopic examination (trichogram), and fungal culture. Unfortunately, more than 50% of Wood's lamp and trichograms will result in false negatives so fungal culture is the only definitive way to diagnose ringworm. This technique requires at least 10 days to confirm fungal infection. Treatment is long term (at least 1-2 months) and ideally includes both topical and oral medications.

Appendix III



ANIMAL CARE CLINIC

"Greenville County's low-cost spay/neuter and wellness center"

328 Furman Hall Rd., Greenville, SC 29609

(864) 467-SPAY (7729)

Post Operative Instructions for Pet Owners:

Thank you for being a responsible pet owner! By having your pet spayed/neutered, you have increased your pet's chances for a longer, healthier life. In addition, you have also helped to address the pet overpopulation problem. Post-operative care is simple but important in helping your pet with recovery.

- Your pet may be drowsy or nauseous after surgery today.
- Please do not expose your pet to loud noises or too much activity. Your pet will recover most quickly in a quiet, warm environment.
- You may offer your pet a small amount of food and water. Some animals do not wish to eat directly following surgery. This is normal. Your pet's appetite should return to normal by the next day. If your pet's eating habits have not returned to normal within 24 hours following surgery, please contact us.

Male/Female Dogs and Female Cats

- Your pet has dissolvable sutures in their incision. These sutures do not require removal. However, as the body begins to absorb the suture material, there may appear a firm, painless swelling beneath the skin around the incision. This is normal! The swelling will diminish in one to two weeks. Please check your pet's incision site at least once per day. If you note any bright red blood or discharge from the incision, please contact us immediately.
- If your pet begins to lick its incision site, please place an E-collar on your pet for at least 5 to 7 days. E-collars can be purchased from our clinic. The collar should be tight enough to prevent your pet from pulling it off but also loose enough to allow normal breathing and swallowing.
- Please be sure to keep your pet's incision site dry for at least 10 days following surgery. Cats that are allowed to go outside should be kept inside for at least three 3 to 5 days to allow time for the incision to begin to adequately heal. Please do not give your pet a bath or allow them to swim for 10 days.

ALL PETS SHOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED THE FIRST

24 HOURS FOLLOWING SURGERY

If you need assistance, please contact us at (864) 467-SPAY (7729).



Greenville County Animal Care

Helping People Help Animals

Pain Management for Your Pet

There are several measures we take to ensure your pet is pain free after having surgery. These include:

1. A combination of drugs is given to make the pet sleepy and calm before actually going under anesthesia. Part of this pre-medication is an analgesic (pain killer) that lasts for at least 24 hours.
2. Male dogs and cats get a testicular block once they are under anesthesia but before surgery. This numbs the testicle and spermatic cord, offers pain relief, and allows the surgeons to use less inhaled anesthesia, which is safer for the pet.
3. Female dogs and cats get a splash block during surgery. This numbs the area in which the incision was made.
4. All pets over 4 months old receive an injection of meloxicam immediately after surgery. This is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, also known as NSAID. This lasts up to 48 hours. **Do not give any other drugs (such as aspirin) without consulting a veterinarian.** Giving 2 or more different kinds of NSAIDS can have severe side effects.



If you feel your pet is painful please call us at 864-467-7729 and we will discuss how your pet is feeling over the phone and together decide if your pet needs more pain medication and/or needs to be reexamined by our veterinarian(s).

Appendix V

Clinic Services

SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC

By Appointment Only (864) 467-7729

 DOG Neuter (Male) / Spay (Female)	 CAT Neuter (Male) / Spay (Female)
Neuter \$59*	Neuter \$29
Spay Under 40 pounds: \$69	Spay \$49
Spay Over 40 pounds: \$79*	Kitten Neuter (under 4 months) \$25
Puppy Neuter (under 6 months) \$45	Kitten Spay (under 4 months) \$45
Puppy Spay (under 6 months) \$55	Feral \$25
* Extra Charge \$8 per 10 lbs over 100 lbs.	

- ❖ A **Rabies vaccine** is required for surgery. If you have proof of Rabies vaccine, please bring it on the day of surgery. If not, we will administer a vaccine for an additional \$10 fee.

- ❖ **Feral Cat:** A feral cat is a descendant of a domesticated cat that has returned to the wild. It is distinguished from a **Stray Cat**, which is a cat that has been lost or abandoned, while feral cats are born in the wild. You can receive the **Feral Cat** pricing **ONLY** if the cat is brought in a trap and is wild (e.g. unmanageable/not able to be handled).

- ❖ **Surgery drop-off** is between 8:00 am – 9:00 am. **Pick-up** is between 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

VACCINE CLINIC Tuesday 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

We offer a walk-in, low-cost vaccine clinic on Tuesday nights 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. No appointment is needed and there are no Exam Fees. Just pay for vaccines/services rendered. Due to high client volume, please be prepared for a 20 – 30 minute wait.

✓ 1 year Rabies vaccine	\$10	✓ Heartworm Test (dogs)	\$18
✓ Distemper/Parvo (dogs)	\$10	✓ Leukemia/FIV/HW Test (cats)	\$24
✓ Feline Distemper (cats)	\$10	✓ Ear Cleaning	\$10
✓ De-Worming	\$10	✓ Microchip, Tag, Registration	\$10
✓ Tri-Heart Heartworm Prevention	varies		

WELLNESS CLINIC by Appointment Only 467-3988

The Animal Care Clinic is committed to providing quality care to pets. We are not a free clinic nor do we offer payment plans; however, we offer a variety of low cost treatment plans and we accept cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Please note, wellness visits are by appointment only.

Who can utilize clinic services? You are welcome to bring the pet you've recently adopted from Greenville County Animal Care within the first thirty (30) days after adopting, or if you meet income requirements. Please see the back of this sheet for additional information.

For recent pet adopters: Each pet is medically assessed when it is brought to Greenville County Animal Care and its health monitored while at the shelter. However, a pet may be incubating a health ailment at the time of admission or adoption without showing any clinical signs of the ailment (e.g. upper respiratory infection or kennel cough). As such, the Animal Care Clinic does not provide free medical care for newly adopted pets.

Please note the Wellness Clinic is not a free clinic!

Payment is due when services are rendered.

Financial Qualifications

Individuals and families that meet these criteria qualify to use our low-cost Wellness Clinic. Please be prepared to provide written proof of benefits from one of the following sources:

- SSI Card
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Social Security
- Food Stamps/EBT Card
- Proof of low income (according to federal poverty guidelines below) from most recent income tax statement or pay slip.
- Third party verification of low income or no income:
 - Department of Human Services
 - Office of Senior Affairs
 - Proof of Unemployment

2012 Health & Human Services Poverty Guidelines

Size of family unit	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$11,170	\$931	\$215
2	\$15,130	\$1,261	\$291
3	\$19,090	\$1,591	\$367
4	\$23,050	\$1,921	\$443
5	\$27,010	\$2,251	\$519
6	\$30,970	\$2,581	\$596
7	\$34,930	\$2,911	\$672
8	\$38,890	\$3,241	\$747

For family units with more than 8 members, add \$3,960 for each additional member.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/12fedreg.pdf>

