

friends of madacc

PO Box 341906 Milwaukee, WI 53234 friends@madacc.org www.friendsofmadacc.org



THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING

Congratulations and Thank You for adopting your best friend from MADACC! We are so excited to see one of our MADACC cats get a loving forever home.



AFTER YOU ADOPT

We have included learning material for you to make the transition and learning process easier. You have made a tremendous difference and saved a life by choosing adoption. Just remember to be patient, give endless amounts of love and make sure to never run out of treats!

Friends of MADACC wants to keep in touch!

KEEP IN TOUCH!

There is nothing more rewarding than receiving updates about the new amazing life our MADACC cats have. Please send pictures, stories, anything you'd like to share and we'll feature your cat on our web site. We'd like to add you to our mailing list to ensure you're always informed about upcoming events and programs.

Please email friends@madacc.org and become part our our Friends family!

BECOME A FRIEND

Become a member or volunteer — support the mission of Friends of MADACC and allow us to reach our objectives. We, and the homeless animals of Milwaukee County, depend on the generosity of people like you!

For more information visit our web site: www.friendsofmadacc.org Or email: friends@madacc.org Friends of MADACC, a nonprofit organization, supports a network of volunteers that provide educational programs, training, foster care, dog walking, and cat socialization to enhance the quality of life of animals at MADACC.

Friends of MADACC's goals are to reduce the intake of animals to MADACC, increase adoptions from MADACC, improve life at the shelter, and provide community support.

We ensure that donations stay in Milwaukee County to help local homeless animals. Many of these animals are friendly, healthy, and highly adoptable, and our efforts help give them a second chance at finding permanent, loving homes.

Funds raised by our organization support:

- Facility improvements at MADACC, such as installing outdoor exercise kennels
- Educational programs like Battle Against Dogfighting (BAD)
- Spay/neuter funding to increase adoption placement for homeless animals and help reduce our local pet overpopulation problem
- Wellness programs that provide low-cost veterinary services including vaccinations, spay/neuter, and microchip clinics

By supporting Friends of MADACC, you can help improve the lives of the nearly 10,000 homeless animals that MADACC cares for every year. You can make a secure online donation via our website or by mailing a donation to Friends of MADACC at the address on the back of this brochure.

All donations are tax-deductible.

	NEW CAT >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
))	 Carrier Food Water and food dishes Litter Litter boxes Cat bed Blankets/towels Scratching post Cat tree Cat hut Toys, toys, toys - self- play and interactive toys
S	If your cat is not drinking enough water or is picky about drinking, try moving the water away from their food dishes. Cats can view water located too close to their food as 'contaminated' by the food.

PATS TO A

Transition from a shelter/foster care into a new home can be stressful. Here is what you can expect as you introduce your new family member to your home.

INTRODUCTION AS A SINGLE PET

If your new cat is going to be a single pet, introducing them to your home can take a week or more. Try to isolate your new cat in a quiet room where they can explore and settle in with all the necessities-food, water, litter box, toys, scratching post and blanket. By providing a smaller area, the introduction to your home will be less stressful. Letting your new cat loose in the entire house right away can be too overwhelming for them.

Have each family member slowly introduce themselves. Even though it is an exciting time, try to keep the initial homecoming calm. For young children, you must supervise the visit. Once the cat seems settled and comfortable (eating, using the litter boxes, approaching people for attention) you can open the rest of the house to them.

Cats have a wide range of personalities, so some cats will be full of confidence and want to explore, while others will be shy and need more time to adjust. Watch your new furry family member for signs that they are ready to take on the rest of the house.

INTRODUCTION WITH RESIDENT CATS If you have resident cats in your home, make sure to pick a room that is not a favorite spot of the resident cat to act as the sanctuary for the new cat.

Have patience; introductions with resident cats can take up to 2 weeks or more. Always meet the needs of your resident cat first - this can be difficult when you are excited about your new cat, but it is important to show your current cat affection. If possible, leave the door to the new cat's room closed. The resident cat already knows a new cat is there by the smell of the new cat. Let your new cat and resident cat adjust (about 2-3 days) and then start to introduce them to each other's scents.

Make sure that your new cat is healed from any spay or neuter surgery and does not have a upper respiratory infection before making any introductions between the cats. You can use treats or wet food placed near the door to the new cat's room so they learn to associate each other in a positive way. You can also play and interact with one cat and then do the same with the other cat so that they can smell each other.

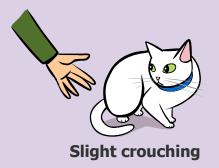
After about a week you can switch their living areas. Let your resident cat sniff out the newcomer's area and let the new cat explore the house. When your resident cat seems ready, you can start

with limited exposure between the cats. Using baby gates in the door to the new cat's room is a great way to let the cats see each other without touching. You can use food again as a positive motivator. Do not be surprised by hissing or growling during this process. This time is stressful and new to them, but you can help by speaking softly and praising each cat.

When the cats seem comfortable with limited exposure, you can give your new cat more freedom and try face to face introductions. For safety, you must supervise these meetings. Let the cats find each other and have toys ready to entertain or distract them. There will probably be growling, hissing, and physical contact. Do not be alarmed, usually the first meeting sounds worse than it actually is. If you need to intervene to stop physical contact between the cats, try clapping or throwing a soft toy near them as a distraction.

Watch for overly aggressive or fearful behavior, which means that the cats still need some time to adjust. You can try another face to face meeting, but if the tension continues, back up to the point when they were last comfortable. Do not leave the cats alone together until both cats are comfortable with one another. With the correct introduction and patience; the time spent introducing your cats to each other will be rewarded with years of feline friendship!

BODY LANGUAGE OF FELINE ANXIETY

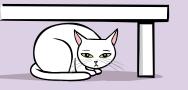


More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety





Dilated Eyes



Hiding, **Looks Half Asleep**





Walking with Flat Back, Tail Down, Head Down



Major crouching

Ears Turned Back, **Furrowed Brow**



Staring, **Focused on Object**



Laying on Side, **Tail Flicking**



Ready to Jump Off Perch



Hair Raised, Staring, **Ears Turned Back**



Suddenly Grooming, **Excessive Grooming**

SCRETCH!

Scratching is a normal behavior, so the goal is to direct it onto acceptable objects and provide appropriate outlets for your cat to scratch. Punishment will not change their behavior and may cause them to be afraid. Here are some ways to train your cat to scratch acceptable objects:

- Provide objects to scratch that are appealing and convenient from your cat's point of view. Start by observing the physical features of the objects your cat likes to scratch. Where are they located? What texture and shape do they have?
- **?** Considering your cat's preferences, substitute similar objects for them to scratch. Place the acceptable objects near the inappropriate objects that they are already using (furniture, curtains, etc). Make sure the objects will not fall over when scratched. You can try rubbing in a little bit of catnip or attaching a toy to the new scratching post to make it even more attractive. Praise your cat for using the new post, but do not take their paws and scratch them forcibly on it, as this may cause them to not use it at all.
- **T** If your cat is still scratching objects that they should not be, you can try covering the inappropriate objects with something your cat will find unappealing, such as double-sided tape or aluminum foil.
- **U** When your cat is consistently using the new post, you may move it. Make sure to place the scratching object as close to your cat's preferred scratching locations as possible. You may also want to move the object gradually.

Scratching removes the dead outer layers of their claws

Scratching marks a cat's territory by leaving both a visual mark and a scent from the glands in their paws

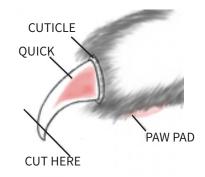
Scratching stretches their body and flexes their feet and claws

Scratching helps work off energy by providing a physical activity

Scratching post tips

- Scratching posts should be as high as your cat is tall when they stretch out fully, plus a few extra inches.
- Posts should be wide enough that your cat can sit on top and survey their surroundings. The base should be sturdy enough that it will not tip over.
- Cats love a good surface to dig their nails into, such as rope or carpet. The texture makes the post interesting and helps shed the outer layer of their claws.

How to Trim Your Cat's Claws



Nail trimming can be pleasant and easy for you and your cat. Taking things slow and calm can make these sessions enjoyable.

- Choose a quiet room with place where you can sit comfortably with your cat on your lap. Trim her claws when she is relaxed and even sleepy, such as after a meal. Avoid distractions and make sure no other pets are around.
- Gently take one of your cat's paws between your fingers and massage for no longer than the count of three. If your cat pulls her paw away, do not squeeze or pinch, just follow her gesture, keeping in gentle contact. Give each toe pad a little press so the nail extends out, and then release her paw. Immediately give her a treat after working with each paw. If your cat shows any agitation, end the process on a positive note with a treat and try again later.
- The pink part of a cat's nail, called the quick, is where the nerves and blood vessels are. Do not cut this sensitive area. Snip only the white part of the claw. It is better to be cautious and cut less of the nail rather than risk cutting too much. If you accidentally do cut the quick, you can use styptic powder for treatment. It contains a pain reliever and antibacterial medication. If that is not available, you can use flour or cornstarch to help speed clotting.
- If your cat has black nails, you will notice the base of the nail is roughly triangular and it comes out to a pointy hook. There are no nerves or blood vessels in the hook, so it is perfectly safe to cut the tip off.
- You may want to do one paw or even only a couple nails at a time for the first couple of sessions until you and your cat are comfortable with the process - the goal is to make progress. Always reward your cat after a successful trim!
- You can trim your cat's nails every 2-4 weeks, depending on your cat's age. There are several options for trimmers in stores. Human nail trimmers are not sharp enough to cut feline nails, and will end up cracking and breaking the nails.

DECLAWING

What do cats use their claws for?



Declawing can create complications and negative outcomes, and there are no health benefits for your cat. Cats can experience behavioral issues after declawing, and there are many reasons why cats need their claws. Scratching is a natural behavior for felines. Declawing is not like a manicure. It is a serious surgery that involves 10 individual amputations of not just the cat's nails, but the last digit of each toe as well. There are several alternatives to declawing:

- Provide proper scratching outlets. There are many shapes, sizes and materials that you can use, such as rope, carpet or cardboard.
- these come in many fun colors! There are instructional videos to show you how to put them on, or ask at your pet store.
- Regular nail trims.

DOG, MEET CAT. CAT, MEET DOG.

What your dog learns about living with a cat during the early stages of their initial introductions can set both your dog and cat up for a lifetime of friendship or a lifetime of problems. It's so important to help your dog and cat learn to live in harmony, if for no other reason than the possibility of a tragic ending. With that in mind, the best thing to do is to begin introducing your dog and the cat in a way that works for both of them.

THE FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Having realistic expectations is the first step to successful introductions between your dog and cat. They are, after all, different species and, while not "natural" friends, they can learn to tolerate each other and sometimes become very good companions.

Plan on it taking anywhere from a couple of weeks to six months before your dog learns that the cat is off limits (and vice versa) unless you are supervising, all the while teaching your dog what she should do when she sees the cat (and vice versa).

First, don't allow your dog to chase the cat. Part of the problem with allowing your dog to chase the cat is that it is fun for the dog (chasing is very reinforcing), but your cat may turn around at some point and scratch or bite the dog, which could build up resentment that may turn into a revenge situation as their days together increase.

PREVENT CHASING BEHAVIORS

The first rule of changing a behavior (in this case, the dog chasing the cat) is preventing the behavior from starting or continuing. Your dog and your cat should have clearly defined areas, where they can be separated from one another so that



the dog is unable to chase the cat, and so that your cat can feel safe from the dog. Baby gates, leashes and climbing trees are all great solutions. Baby gates are preferred so that there is a natural barrier that also allows the cat and the dog to see each other during training.

TRAINING YOUR DOG (AND CAT)

Teaching your dog to leave the cat alone will require some classical conditioning (Pavlov's dog effect) for both the dog and the cat. Start with taking a couple of small towels and rubbing each animal with one towel to put their scents on them. Now, take the towel with the cat's scent and feed your dog really good treats on that towel throughout the day. Place the towel with your dog's scent under your cat's food bowl. This will start to establish good associations (food and treats) with each other's smell.

Next, you will be teaching your dog that when she sees the cat, even from a distance, she should come running to you because you have a wonderful reward for her. It's important that when you train this exercise you use very high-value rewards. Don't be stingy, as you really want your dog to think that coming to you is way better than messing with the cat. Try small pieces (peasized) of cooked chicken, turkey or hamburger for this.

TEACH THE BEHAVIOR FIRST

It's important to teach the finished behavior and have it on a verbal cue before introducing the cat. The reason is so that your dog doesn't learn that her attention toward the cat is what makes you give her a reward; instead, that you have this cool word you say even when the cat is around that results in a reward. Pick a word such as "here" or "front" to teach your dog. Also, have your dog on a leash when you practice so when you do introduce the cat, you can prevent her from chasing the cat, and she is already familiar with having a leash on during this training.

SAY THE WORD

What you are going to be rewarding is that your dog looks at you after you have said your cue word. You will want to indicate that she chose the right answer by using a marker word or a clicker, and then giving the reward after she chooses the correct behavior. It should go something like this:

- Dog is on leash and you say your word, such as, "Here." (Be sure to smile!)
- You say nothing until she looks at you (don't repeat yourself—the goal is she responds the first time).
- You will then click or say something like, "Yep," the second she makes the correct decision to look at you.
- You will then give her a couple of rewards in a row—and be sure to make it really good treats, and praise her with a happy voice! (You could also play with a toy at this point to really make the behavior strong!)
- You will repeat this in many locations, including near the area where the cat is.

After she learns this response, you can start to teach her to move toward you but continue to train without the cat at this point. Say your cue word, and when she turns to look at you, you will again "mark" the correct behavior. This time, move away from your dog a few steps so that she has to follow you to get the reward. After doing this several times, increase the distance after each response, and sometimes add speed so that chasing you instead of the cat becomes a fun game. Again, you have not introduced the cat at this point.

Train for several days (several times a day for two to five minutes), so the response to your cue word becomes a very strong behavior, and your dog comes running toward you every time she hears it. Once you have that kind of response, you can add the cat to your training, but be sure to also use this when the cat is not around so that your dog learns that you do this fun game all the time, not just when the cat in the room. You don't want her to get the idea that harassing the cat will make you play this game.

THE INTRODUCTION

When you do introduce the cat, have your dog on a leash, or have the cat behind the baby gate in the early stages. You will also want to resist correcting your dog if she does respond to the cat, as this can build up a negative association with the cat. Reinforce the dog via all the attention she may perceive she gets when the cat is around. Allow your dog to see the cat, and then quickly say your cue word.

Mark the correct behavior with the indicator word or a clicker, and move away so your dog has to follow to get the reward. It won't take long for your dog to catch on and learn to pay attention to you, rather than to the cat. This exercise will also teach your cat that the dog can be around but not bother with her.

HEEPING OUR CI NDOORS

If you allow your cat to wander around outside, they are susceptible to many risks:

- Being hit by a car or attacked by another » » animal
- Becoming lost or disoriented
- Ingesting a deadly poison, like antifreeze or pesticide Being trapped by an unhappy neighbor

There are several benefits of keeping your cat indoors:

- Creating a stronger bond with your cat
- Keeping your cat safe from outdoor risks
- Giving your cat a longer life (the average life span of an indoor cat is 12 to 20 years, versus 1 to 5 for an outdoor cat)
- Controlling what your cat eats and monitoring their health and well-being



To help your cat be happy indoors, provide them with the following:

- Provide plenty of toys that she can chase, bat around and pounce on to prevent boredom. Wand toys provide lots of exercise as well as mimicking their natural hunting skills.
- Provide scratching posts that encourage scratching as a natural behavior, allow her the chance to stretch her muscles, mark her territory, and work off some energy.
- Provide a room with an outside view. Include perches in this room, so she can watch the birds. Your cat will also enjoy sunning herself by the window.
- Provide her with some cat grass or cat nip. She will enjoy nibbling it and rolling in it.

Allowing your cat outside is illegal in Milwaukee County! Keep your cat safe by keeping them indoors.



litter box training

LOCATION:

Most people want to place the litter box in an out-of-the-way spot to minimize odor and loose particles of cat litter in the house. This type of location can be undesirable from your cat's point of view. The litter box should be placed in a location that gives your cat some privacy, but is also conveniently located. Ideally, litter boxes should be in an easily assessable, low traffic area that is a quiet and safe place for your cat. Covered litter boxes might seem to work in higher traffic areas, but can actually be uncomfortable for many large, adult cats.



TYPE OF LITTER:

Most cats prefer unscented, finegrained litters. Scoopable litters usually have finer grains than the typical clay litter. High quality, dust-free, clay litters are relatively small-grained and may also be perfectly acceptable to your cat. Pellet-type litters or those made from citrus peel are not recommended.

NUMBER OF LITTER BOXES:

You should have at least as many litter boxes as you have cats. The golden rule is one box for each cat plus one additional box. It is best to place them in several locations

around the house so that they are dog. A cat does not need to be taught easily accessible. For example, consider placing at least one litter box on each level of your house. It is not possible to designate a personal litter box for each cat in your household, as cats will use any litter box that is available. Occasionally, a cat may refuse to use the litter box after another cat has used it. In this case, all litter boxes will need to be kept extremely clean and additional boxes may be needed.

CLEANING THE LITTER BOX:

How often you change the litter depends on the number of cats, the number of litter boxes, and the type of litter you use. Twice a week is a general guideline for clay litter, but this may vary depending on the circumstances. With scoopable litter, you should scoop the box daily and can typically go two to three weeks before changing the litter. With any type of litter, if you notice an odor, or much of the litter is wet or clumped, it is time to change it. Some people think that the more litter they put in the box, the less often they will have to clean it, but most cats will not use litter that is more than two inches deep. Some long-haired cats will prefer less litter. Do not use strong smelling chemicals or cleaning products when washing the litter box, as it may cause your cat to avoid it. Washing with mild soap and water will be sufficient.

LITTER BOX TRAINING:

There is really no such thing as 'litter-training' a cat in the same way one would house-train a

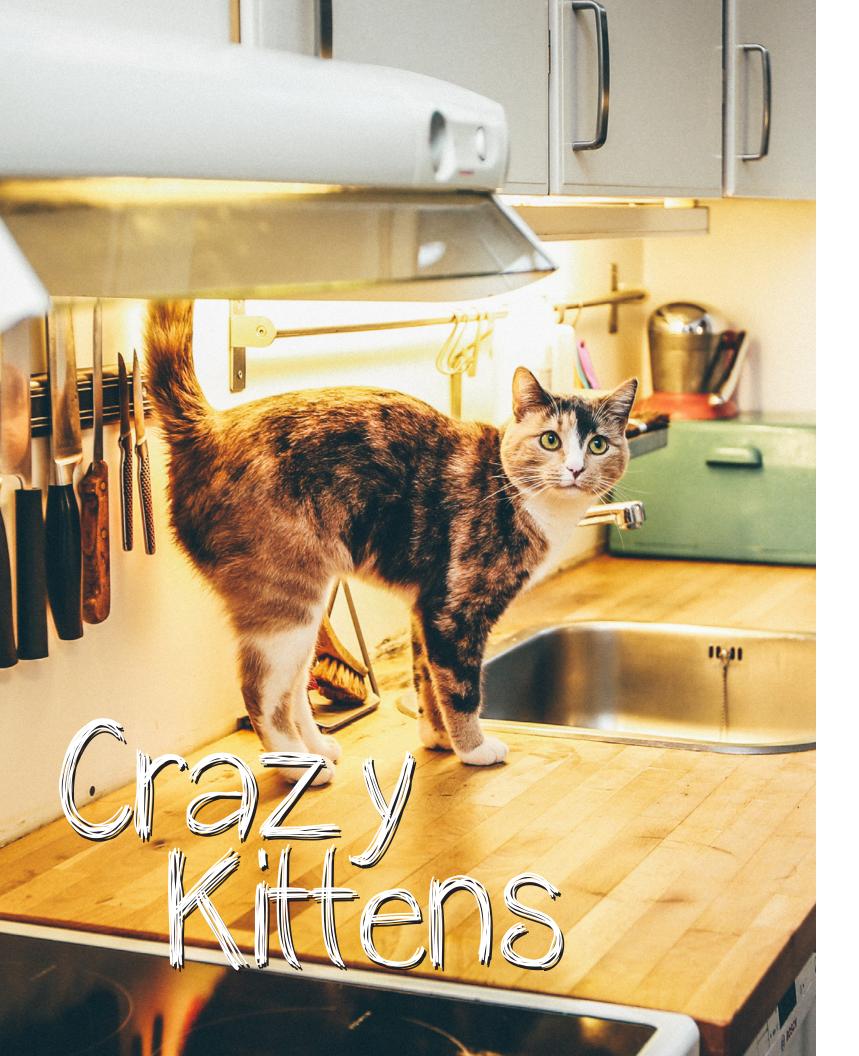
what to do with a litter box. The only thing you need to do is provide an acceptable, accessible litter box. It is not necessary to take your cat to the litter box and move her paws back and forth in the litter. This may be an unpleasant experience for your cat and is likely to initiate a negative association with the litter box.

KITTEN TIP:

Provide a smaller, shorter litter box for kittens. With their short legs, they might not be able to use a full-size litter box for their first few months in your home.

IF PROBLEMS DEVELOP:

If your cat begins to eliminate in areas other than the litter box, your first call should be to your veterinarian. Many medical conditions can cause a change in a cat's litter box habits. If your veterinarian determines that your cat is healthy, the cause may be behavioral. Some common reasons that cats stop using the litter box are anxiety, box aversion, or a preference not satisfied by the current litter box location or texture. Behavior modification techniques can resolve most litter box behavior issues, but punishment is never the answer and will do more harm than good.



If you have adopted a new kitten (or maybe two at the same time!) your first tasks are to make them comfortable and socialize them.

The more you play with and socialize your kitten, the less likely they will be to respond with fear and be defensive when they get older. Move slowly and handle kittens in short and gentle sessions. When you bring your new kitten home, set up a special room with a cat bed, kitten food, water dish, litterbox, and lots of toys (kittens are curious and full of energy!). An isolated "kitten room" helps them adjust to your home without overwhelming them. Make sure to kitten-proof your home and remember that kittens are adventurous and might injure themselves accidentally.

When you start supervising the exploration of the rest of the home, provide your kitten with lots of love and attention. This helps build trust and give them confidence. Patience and guidance will lead you to many love filled years with your feline companion.



Play is an important part of a kitten's life. It helps release the excess energy of a playful and energetic cat, provides exercise, helps with boredom, and builds confidence. Interactive wand toys or laser pointers work very well, but make sure to provide self-play toys also. You should use toys that have different textures and sounds (bells, feathers, toy mice, etc). During your play sessions, make the toys move like prey to encourage your cat's natural hunting skills. Move toys fast and slow, hide them behind objects and make them jump in the air. Make sure to let your cat catch it too! You can also give them mental stimulation by rotating their self-play toys every few weeks.

If a kitten is biting during play, say No or Ouch loudly, then walk away. Your kitten will learn that biting means no attention from you. Playing as your kitten bites reinforces the wrong behavior. You can return to playing with your cat when they nudge you or ask for attention in a positive way. Use positive reinforcement when you are playing also. If there aren't any incidents, give praise and treats or give your kitten a special toy. Cats are smart creatures and can be trained; but you must be consistent and patient.

Tip:

Kittens need to eat kitten food, which is necessary for healthy growth and development, until about 1 year of age or until you and your veterinarian have decided it is time to switch to adult food. Be sure to introduce a variety of kitten food, including dry and canned. For canned food, the paté style is best, but as they get older you can expand to a variety of textures.



Having a pet during childhood can be a wonderful experience. Cats can help children learn compassion, empathy, and responsibility, as well as provide love, loyalty, affection and enhance a child's self-esteem. To make the relationship between children and cats a positive one, it is important to lay some ground rules. Most importantly, always monitor their interactions and teach children how to handle cats with kindness and respect. Watch body language; if either your child or cat is upset or agitated, separate them.

It can take some time to teach your child to interact appropriately with cat, but it is never too early to start. Small children and toddlers might view a cat as an animated stuffed toy that can be squeezed, prodded and chased. Young children do not have the ability to control their expressions or to read a cat's body language. To protect both toddler and cat, do not leave them together without supervision. Teach your child the proper way to interact with cats by showing how to gently pet the cat and explaining that poking the cat or pulling fur, tails or ears is not acceptable. Teach children to use quiet voices around all pets.

KIDS & CATS

As children get older, show them how to care for their feline family member. Older children can start to provide your cat with daily fresh water, feed them at meal times and clean the litterbox. It is a great way for kids to learn responsibility, but remember that a child or teenager should not be fully responsible for any pet.

- Have your child sit down whenever he wants to hold the cat. Keep in mind that some cats do not like to be held, but will sit near people, especially if offered treats or petting. Sit with your child and let your cat approach you. This helps you keep your child from getting carried away or being too rough with the cat.
- Petting is a great way for your cat to make positive associations with your child. Teach them to pet lightly and that the cat should always be allowed to leave when it wants to go. Allow your cat to sniff you and your child and nudge you if they want to be pet or held.
- Treats are another wonderful way for your cat to make positive associations with children. Try having your child place the treats in an open palm, rather than holding them with their fingers.

- Teach your child to play with your cat using wand toys or other interactive toys. Give them appropriate cat toys. Do not allow rough play or allow them to tease the cat.
- Never punish your cat or kitten for inappropriate behavior. It is likely to make matters worse rather than helping. If your cat learns that being around children always results in punishment or raised voices, they may become defensive in their presence. Make sure your cat has many safe escape perches. Some places that work well are the tops of dressers, cabinets, cat trees or towers, or a gated off room.
- For safety, teach your children not to put their face near any animal's face. They should also learn to never touch the cat (or dogs) when they are eating or sleeping.

Brushing can help get rid of the excess and dead hair, so your cat will not ingest it while cleaning themselves. Brushing also helps to spread natural oils into their coats. If your cat enjoys being brushed, it can add to your quality time spent with them. Taking your cat to a groomer can be stressful for them, but the advice below should help you to get started on your own.

Domestic Short Hair (DSH) cats should only need to be brushed about once a week. Of course, if your cat loves to be brushed, you can do it more often! Using a paddle brush with plastic knobs at the end is a good choice for regular brushing. If you also use a deshedding tool, be cautious, as they can remove too much hair from one area if used too often.

Domestic Long Hair (DLH) cats and cats with a medium coat should ideally be brushed every day or every other day. This keeps their coat looking clean and helps to control matting. If left unattended, matted hair starts pulling at the skin, and can become very painful. To start grooming a long-haired cat, the best tool is a wide tooth comb. This gets rid of snarls and mats and lessens pulling against the skin. You should gently use your hand to hold the hair in place next to the skin to avoid pulling t. After the hair is more manageabl using a medium spaced or fine tootl comb will be best to maintain th coat. Consult a veterinarian if your cat's coat becomes unmanageable.



VOLUNTEER. FOSTER. DONATE.

Volunteering at MADACC or with Friends of MADACC is a meaningful way to make a difference in the lives of homeless animals in Milwaukee County.

Want to volunteer with animals?

When you volunteer at MADACC, you can walk dogs, socialize cats, assist veterinary staff and more! Please visit www.madacc. org/donatevolunteer to become a volunteer.

Want to help Friends of MADACC?

Friends of MADACC is always looking for volunteers to help at events and raise funds that benefit the animals at MADACC. Email friends@madacc.org to get started.

GET BACK MORE THAN YOU GIVE WHEN YOU GIVE ANIMALS THE GIFT OF TIME.