

The Case For Indoor-Only Cats

In no case should you allow your cat outdoors for 30 days after bringing him or her home. Before this time the cat will not have associated the structure of your house or apartment as home and will have a difficult time finding the way back.

Consider very carefully before allowing access to the outdoors after this time. While it is true that cats do enjoy the outdoors you must decide if the hazards outweigh the positive benefits. Outdoor and indoor/outdoor cats are at risk from vehicles, poisons, injury from fighting with other cats, infectious diseases (some fatal), parasites, dogs and predators, and just plain getting lost.

Spay and Neuter Your Cats

Your new cat from Caring Hands will already have been spayed or neutered. We highly recommend that you have any other resident pets spayed or neutered.

There are many proven health benefits to spaying and neutering. It almost always eliminates territorial spraying and greatly reduces male aggression to other felines.

Spaying and Neutering greatly reduces the desire to roam as well. This means happier indoor cats & safer indoor/outdoor cats. Also, when you spay and neuter you save lives down the road when unexpected and unwanted litters that will have to be surrendered to a shelter are NOT born.

Caring Hands Humane Society can provide assistance with the cost of Spaying & Neutering to residents of Harvey County. Call and ask for a S.N.Y.P. voucher.

Return To:

Caring Hands Humane Society
1400 S. E. Third
Newton, KS 67114

Deliver To:



Place
Stamp
Here

Better Adjustment For Happy Homes Today... and Tomorrow



CARING HANDS HUMANE SOCIETY



There is a period of adjustment for any new addition to your household.

Using these simple tips will help make this transition a smooth one, and life with your new pet great both today and tomorrow.

If you have any questions about this information, or about your new pet, please give us a call.

CARING HANDS HUMANE SOCIETY
1400 S. E. Third Newton, KS 67114

www.caringhandshs.com

316 • 283 • 0839

Litterbox Issues

Sometimes a cat will stop using the litter box. With a little patience the situation can usually be corrected. Do not resort to punishment – it is not effective with cats and may even exacerbate the situation.

The first question, especially for male cats is “Has the cat been neutered?” Spraying to mark territory almost always ceases after neutering. Urinary tract infections or stones are also a surprisingly common reason for cats to abandon the litter box. Consult a veterinarian to determine if this is the cause of your problem.

If the behavior also involves defecation or these two issues are ruled out then the next question is “what changed?” (litter, lighting, household routine, new baby, new significant other, etc...) Cats detest change and any change can cause litter box issues or other destructive behavior.

Try using the following strategies:

- 1) Begin keeping a dated journal of the solutions attempted and locations and times of any “accidents.”
- 2) Make sure litter is always clean. Offer litter boxes in different parts of the house. Try different types of litter. If using a box with a hood, remove it or vice-versa.
- 3) Try confining the cat to a non-carpeted room set up similar to the “base” room in the introductions section. This is particularly useful in multiple cat households. The cat should be confined 24 hours a day until he or she begins using the litter box again and a few days to two weeks afterward.
- 4) Try placing bowls of dry food near where the cat is eliminating. The cat’s natural fastidiousness will hopefully cause it to resume using the litter box.

Cat to Cat Introductions

Cats do not like change! When introducing a new cat to a resident cat, progress in small stages. Introductions can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks or more. The key word is patience!

Stage One - Scent Recognition: Before bringing the new cat into your home, confine your existing cat in a room with a locked door until you situate the new cat. Set up an enclosed room for the new cat with the litter box in one corner, a bed in another and food and water in another corner. Rearrange the room if necessary based on the cat’s preference. This room will be a “base” for the new cat to explore from, and a safeguard to avoid setting off a territorial dispute with your resident cat. Bring the new cat into this room and do not allow the cats to interact for several days. You can periodically swap cat beds or sleeping blankets to let them get used to each other’s scent.

Stage Two - Limited Contact: After a few days or once any hissing and growling has stopped, use door stops to keep the door open only a crack – not enough for either cat to get their whole body through – just enough for nose to nose contact or “footsie.” Continue this for a few days.

Stage Three - Supervised Contact: While the resident cat is busy elsewhere, open the door and let the new cat leave the “base” room when it is ready. Let the cats discover each other. Don’t be disturbed by some territorial behavior, this is natural. If the cats begin to fight make a loud noise to interrupt them, don’t get in the middle. Do not leave the two cats unsupervised at this stage. Many short sessions are better than a few long ones. Always return the cat to its base room.

Stage Four - Integration: Work the cats up to longer and longer sessions. When the cats have accepted each other, allow them to intermingle. Especially for the first few weeks do not promote competition. Make sure there are plenty of toys for all cats. Feed the two in separate areas, at least for a while. You may wish to maintain separate litter boxes for a while too (1 per cat + 1 box).

Cat to Dog Introductions

Introducing your cat to a resident dog is similar to cat to cat introductions, but with a few extra steps.

1. Practice Obedience! If your dog does not already obey the commands of sit, down, stay, come and most importantly “no” or “leave it,” then enroll your dog in an obedience class immediately.
2. You will set up a “base” room for the cat as detailed in the cat to cat introductions.

Stages one and two are the same. Keep the dog on a leash when beginning stage three. Allow the cat to approach the dog if he/she desires. When there is no hostility or fearful behavior, progress to the next stage. Do not leave the dog and cat unsupervised at first - keep the cat’s food and litter box in the base room to begin with.

3. A couple of very important points: First, The advice above holds for indoor cat to dog introductions. Be careful outdoors. Many otherwise cat friendly dogs will regard outside cats as prey to be chased down and dispatched. A strong case for inside cats! Second, Make sure you praise your dog for positive interactions with the cat more than you correct him/her for any negative interactions. Otherwise, the dog will come to the conclusion that things get rotten any time the cat is around and this will build resentment!