

BEHAVIOR CONSULTATION

Shelter Behavior Specialist **Laura Garber**, CPDT-KA, CC, is committed to the rehabilitation of shelter animals through positive training and behavior modification techniques. Enlist her aid and instruction to build a behavior program that will enrich the lives of shelter cats by means of training, rehabilitation, and enrichment, while also shaping them into the feline companions that your adopters so crave.

WoofGang seminars to activate staff, volunteer, and community participation can be an essential component to realizing these goals.



MASSAGE & GROOMING

Touch, massage and grooming can be just as important to cats as it is to dogs. Cats tend to prefer interactions with the same people day after day, so having assigned project cats can be more effective. With such socialization, we will discover more about a cat's behavior when being groomed and hopefully better prepare them for grooming and handling in the home.

Receiving loving touch is an essential element of their day.

Interested in a shelter consultation?

info@myWoofGang.com

ENRICHMENT ESSENTIALS

Shelter animals can get so bored during their time in the shelter. A majority of their day is spent sitting in their kennels and cages, with just a few short breaks for meals, for love and attention from their human friends and, for some, play time with others of their own kind. You can imagine that toys and playtime would be a very welcome break in their day!



CAPTURING SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

As upsetting as the shelter can be for dogs, it is even moreso for cats. With limited ability to hide, and surrounded by a loud, scary, chemical-cleansed environment, the shelter is not the least bit kitty-friendly. Many will seek the only hiding spot they can find – their litterbox!

We can help our cats learn essential social skills that will help them to attract adopters and hence shorten their time in the shelter. Train them to be socially engaging, like approaching the front of the cage with human presence and even soliciting passersby with a soft paw through the cage door.



Shelter Enrichment for Cats



We can offer no greater joy to adopters than shaping shelter cats into the feline companions they want to spend their lives with!

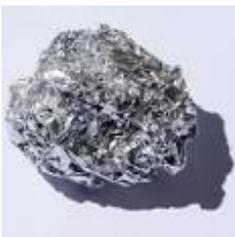
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AROUND THE HOUSE

So many household items make fun toys for kitties. Even a foot square piece of foil or newspaper, balled up tight, makes a fun toy and is so easy to make. Just crumple it in your fist tight as you can and it's playtime!

Another idea... cats like to have a private place to hole up and shoeboxes are perfect for this. Ask your friends to help you collect shoeboxes for the kitties... and even decorate them!



PING PONG BALLS

Kitties love ping pong balls! With a simple swipe of the paw, they go flying! So how about starting a ping pong drive with your class? Want to personalize it? With a Sharpie indelible marker, draw little pictures or love notes especially for the kitties.



KITTY ROLLERS

Toys don't have to be expensive to be fun for a shelter kitty! Just grab the cardboard center of a toilet paper roll or half of a paper towel roll. Fold one end with the edges bent to the middle. Then put a few kitty treats inside and fold the other end in. And voila... a kitty roller!



FEEDING PROTOCOLS

Feeding a kitty solely from a bowl is a wasted opportunity to employ a very powerful motivator. The mental stimulation availed by making a cat work for and earn her food will go a long way in providing constructive learning situations, tax their mental energy, and encourage social behavior.

Feeding the cats with kitty rollers or SlimCat toys for kibble can add fun to every meal. And use Kongs for some canned food or treat buckets mounted to the outside of their cage doors. This will add enrichment to their days and, in the case of treat buckets, help them learn more social, interactive behavior in their cages when in the presence of humans. For food-motivated kitties, it's a great way for them to learn that strangers are their friends!

CATNIP

There's nothing like catnip to excite a kitty to play and frolic! Really any means of containment will do... kitties aren't particular! How about baby socks?! You can get a whole bag of them at the dollar store! Just fill them generously with catnip and stitch up the end of the sock. Now give to a kitty and away we go!



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