



THE ANTI-CRUELTY SOCIETY

A Commitment to Caring *Since 1899*

Volunteer Department
157 West Grand Avenue Chicago, IL 60654
www.anticruelty.org



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Cat Care II: Socialization Program!

As a member of the Cat Care II Program you will have the opportunity to help adoption room cats who are not thriving in the shelter environment, giving them a chance to unwind while enhancing their adoptability.

Working alongside staff, Cat Care II volunteers engage adoption room cats to help ensure their ongoing social, emotional, mental, behavioral, and physical well-being. This program will specifically target those cats that are not adjusting and visibly unhappy in addition to those that have been in the shelter for a long period of time.

Program Levels:

Cat Care I:

This level teaches the basics of classical conditioning and reward training. Classical conditioning helps teach cats to associate their kennel and people with positive things. Reward training techniques help us teach more appealing kennel presentation by rewarding appropriate behaviors and not reinforcing inappropriate behaviors. Cat Care I introduces various beneficial enrichment activities that can be prepared and implemented by staff and volunteers in a short amount of time.

Cat Care I training also teaches how to desensitize cats to common items and events that often trigger undesirable behavior. These triggers include people approaching kennels, opening and closing kennel latches and doors, as well as removing cats from their kennels. Through consistency and progressive desensitization, volunteers will help teach cats to display polite behavior when people approach their kennel for any reason. Volunteers will learn more about how to increase polite behavior (and prevent impolite behavior), both in and out of the kennel, through appropriate reinforcement and management.

Cat Care II

Cat Care II training is offered to volunteers who have demonstrated proficiency in the CCI program and have completed 25 hours in the Cat Care program.

In Cat Care II volunteers will work with special needs cats who need additional one-on-one intervention to address behavioral issues. Volunteers will also learn how to effectively apply the concepts of progressive desensitization and classical conditioning to various situations.

Cat Care III:

In this highly specialized program volunteers work with designated cats in the Cat Holding areas with Animal Behavior & Training supervision. Focusing on cats needing additional socialization, as well as those who are not eating, Cat Care III volunteers help cats adjust to stressful shelter surroundings.

Cat Care II Responsibilities:

- 1) Identify cats needing additional socialization.
- 2) Provide chosen cats with one-on-one enrichment.
- 3) Teach cats proper etiquette to attract adopters.
- 4) Document activities and notes on each cat.

Cat Care II Training Requirements

- 1) Review of Volunteer Handbook & Program Manuals
- 2) 25 hours in Cat Care I Program
- 3) Cat Care II Training

GETTING STARTED

Once you have completed the required training for the Cat Care II Program your volunteer profile will be updated with your new qualifications and you will be ready to begin!

When You Can Volunteer

- The Anti-Cruelty Society is open to the public 7 days a week for adoptions:
 - Monday-Friday: 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Last adoption application at 6:30pm
 - Saturday & Sunday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Last adoption application at 4:30pm
- The Anti-Cruelty Society is open to the public for the receiving of animals seven days a week from 9:00 am - 7:00 pm.
- Cat Socializers may be in the shelter 7 days a week between 8:00 am and 7:45 pm.
 - It is recommended that you volunteer *before or after* the shelter is open for adoptions.

Holidays

There are no adoptions on major holidays, but volunteers are encouraged to work with the animals on days when we are closed to the public.

Where You Can Volunteer

Cat Care II volunteers will spend the majority of their time working with Adopters cats in the meet and greet rooms or in the cat and rabbit socialization room in the volunteer office. Volunteers should remember to place a socialization card in the window to alert staff and other volunteers that there is a loose cat being socialized.

If a cat with which you were working is transferred out of Adopters to the clinic or rehab, additional training is required before you can visit with the animal. Contact the Volunteer Services Department if you are interested in being trained for the Patient Care program.

Working Alongside Anti-Cruelty Society Staff and Other Volunteers

Anti-Cruelty Society staff members are in the room to tend to the cats and during adoption hours to assist the public. Please ask a staff member for assistance with handling a cat, answering a question, or other needs you may have.

Here is a glimpse of the typical Cat Adopts room schedule:

Daily:

8am-8:30am: Staff feeds cats breakfast

9am-12pm: Cat Care volunteers socialize and train cats; Staff perform morning cleaning

12pm: Adoption Center opens to visitors

1:30pm-2pm: Staff feed cats dinner

4pm- 7:30pm: Staff spot cleans cats (actual start time varies, usually takes about 1 hour)

Monday-Friday:

6:30pm: Staff takes final adoption application

7:30pm: Managers perform final checks

7:45pm: Building shuts down to staff and volunteers

Saturday-Sunday:

4:30pm: Staff takes final adoption application

7:30pm: Managers perform final checks

7:45pm: Building shuts down to staff and volunteers

CAT CARE II RESPONSIBILITIES

1) Identify cats needing additional socialization.

The Feline Enrichment Log is a tool for both volunteers and staff in tracking the progress, development and regression of cats living in the Cat Adoption room. By accessing this log you will be better prepared in your enrichment activities as it will allow you to focus on the cats with the greatest need.

Most of the cats chosen for the CCII socialization program will also have a special laminated card in the kennel card holder which will help identify them to staff and other volunteers as needing extra attention. These cats should be given priority and socialized first.

Socialization Length

A socialization session should last between 15-30 minutes, based upon the cat's needs. Some cats may only be able to stand it for a few minutes, while others may enjoy a longer time. Please use your judgment when deciding how long to socialize. If you sense the anxiety or stress level of the cat rising, it might be best to return the cat to its kennel and try again next time.

Remember, this program focuses on a very specific population of cats and progress may be made in small incremental steps rather than giant leaps after one session. Sometimes a cat may not "come around" for a few weeks or longer, but don't give up! Every session, no matter how short or long, is making a difference to the cats.

2) Provide chosen cats with one-on-one enrichment

Activities: Below is a list of the daily activities that will be assigned weekly by Animal Behavior and Training staff. These activities are designed to engage all five of the cats' senses as well as provide novel experiences to alleviate boredom.

Volunteers and staff should check the Activities board in the Cat Adopts kitchen and implement that day's activity. Supplies are located in a bin marked 'enrichment supplies' in the kitchen. Please only use the supplies in this bin for enrichment activities. Please inform AB&T staff or the Volunteer Manager if any supplies are running low and feel free to ask if you have any questions. You may also choose and implement an activity out of the Enrichment Menu, found at the end of this manual, for each cat.

Paper ball – get a stack of scratch paper from Customer Service, crumple the paper, and give to the cats.

CD – AB&T will bring a CD player and CD of soothing music or bird sounds to Adopts and collect them at the end of the afternoon.

Mobile – AB&T will bring a mobile and stand to Adopts; room personnel should move the stand to different places in the room every 15 – 30 minutes so all cats have a chance to watch it.

Rattle – give each cat a "rattle" – a small plastic capsule with a dried bean inside; remove and replace to bin for disinfection after a couple of hours.

Egg with food – this should be done as close to noon as possible so that it does not interfere with normal meal time; smear about half a teaspoon of canned food inside a half of a plastic Easter egg; remove after half an hour and clean.

Scent – draw a few drops of cinnamon extract across the paper in the cage; make a wiggly line that is a bit longer for cats who are more confident; shy cats can receive a few drops near where they are resting/hiding.

Treats – give two or three treats; shy cats should be given treats near where they are lying; more outgoing or busy cats should have the treats spread around the cage (on the shelf, under the corner of the bedding, in opposite corners, etc.).

Zoom Groom – brush each cat for about 30 seconds with the Zoom Groom; this brush has massaging properties so can be soothing to cats, more so than regular grooming; watch for signs of discomfort or over-stimulation (twitching tail or muscles, sudden head orientation toward the brush, etc.) and stop when they occur.

Toys: Grab a wand, or some other kind of interactive toy, and give a kitty a one-on-one play session either inside or outside of their kennel.

Grooming: Cats who have been earmarked for grooming by volunteers and staff will have a picture card slipped into their kennel card holder. Cats can be groomed in or outside of the kennel. Please note the temperament of each cat *before* beginning a grooming session.

Spot Checks: Check to see that each cat in the adoption room has each of the following:

- Fresh Water
 - When refilling water bowls be careful not to touch the kennel bars with the can tip.
 - Filling the dish too high may cause water to spill, so only fill it up half-way.
- Bedding
 - Each cat should have a brightly colored fleece bed. These blankets are handmade by Busy Fingers volunteers. Extra blankets can be found in the Cat Adopts kitchen or in the laundry room
- A plastic riser or shoe box
 - Each cat should have a place to perch and/or hide.
- Toys
 - Each cat should have at least one toy in their kennel to provide mental stimulation.

If a cat is missing one or more of the above items, and you are unsure of where to find something, ask a staff member.

Note that volunteers should not be prepping empty cages for cat transfers as this is a procedure that is delegated to staff only. If a staff member asks you to prep a cage, politely decline and explain that this is not a procedure you have been trained to complete.

Social Eaters: Some of the cats who are in Cat Adopts may have waning appetites. These are cats who are stressed and do not eat when alone. To identify a social eater, look into kennels to see who has not touched their food. Then, follow the classical conditioning steps as outlined below to socialize these cats in-cage to encourage them to eat.

If there is a cat whose meal you would like to supplement - please ask for clearance from an attending staff member before giving additional wet food. We monitor eating very closely and by circumventing the process without pre-approval you may be actually harming the cat unintentionally. If in doubt - ask a manager.

Socialization Supplies

Remember to utilize a variety of supplies such as toys, brushes, and straws located in the volunteer office for your socialization time with the cat. These supplies can be found in the white Cat Program cabinets against the back wall.

- If any of the supplies are running low, please notify the Volunteer Services Department.
- Supplies must be disinfected or discarded after each use (that is, between cats) unless you are leaving the toy with the cat in their kennel.
 - Use the sink and wash area in the Cat Adoption Room or in the Clean & Preen Room to do so.
Remember to return the supplies to the Cat Program cabinet when you are finished.
- When using treats, they should be given in small amounts and used to create a relationship with the cat and to reward social behavior. If a cat responds positively to the treats, you should make a note of the type in the socialization log. This will help the next volunteer know exactly when and what type of treats the cat was given.

3) Teach cats proper etiquette to attract adopters.

Reward Training – Review from Cat Care I

Help cats practice appropriate behavior when people approach and open kennel doors.

- **DO** wait for the cat to show the tiniest sign of desirable behavior, then immediately reward them with both yummy treats and increased social distance – i.e., dropping a treat and immediately retreating from their cage. Desirable behaviors include not hissing or spitting, eye contact, curiosity, and approaching calmly with no signs of aggression.
- **DO** repeat until the cat learns to control social distance by offering calm, confident behaviors instead of threat displays.
- **DO** slowly increase the amount of calm and confident behaviors the cat must show before you retreat.
- **DO** wait for the cat to show the slightest sign of positive behavior (such as not hissing, showing an interest in you), then reward them and end the session.
- **DO** acknowledge that a show of stress indicates that you have progressed too quickly.
- **DO NOT** request or encourage a behavior; **DO** wait for a desirable behavior.

Treat runs: Classically conditioning cats to accept, if not enjoy, the approach of people by walking through the room and tossing a treat into every cage. Do not pressure the cat to come forward or solicit any specific behavior. Treat runs should be quick, quiet and should place no pressure on a cat.

Petting crawls : Classically conditioning cats to accept, if not enjoy, petting by briefly petting each cat in the room. This will help cats to be less defensive as they learn that not all petting by personnel will lead to removal from the cage or other undesired interactions. This will also maintain friendly behaviors in cats who are not wary of handling.

Start on one end of the room and slowly approach a kennel, popping in a couple of treats, and gently opening the kennel door. Then, speak softly to the cat, encouraging them to come forward by offering additional treats and light petting. Watch the cat closely for any signs of arousal or stress and stop working immediately if they spit, growl, or swat. Give over-aroused cats at least an hour to settle before attempting work again, and work more slowly. If cat allows continued petting, offer another treat and stroke them gently for another few minutes. Then quietly withdraw, close kennel, disinfect your hands and move onto the next cat.

Graceful Kennel Exits: Classically condition cats to exit their kennel calmly and politely by rewarding good behavior.

Quietly approach the kennel and open door, soliciting the cat to come forward. If cat shows desirable behaviors, such as approaching, making calm eye contact, sniffing hand or solicit affection, offer pets and praise. Gently remove cat from the kennel and walk to bench or windowsill for five minutes of quiet time. Afterwards, place cat back in kennel and offer treats for good behavior.

Post-Socialization

- Return the blue plastic carrier to Receiving and place it in the large disinfectant tub. Staff will take it out after an appropriate time.
- You may choose to socialize another cat. If so, please repeat these steps each time to interact with another cat.
- Once the cat is back in their kennel, tidy up the counseling room you used. Clorox wipes are located in the Cat Socialization cabinets and multi-purpose room to disinfect the table or any other surface the cat may have been on. Please note that this does not include the floor.

3) Document activities and notes on each cat

Properly document each activity carried out in the Feline Enrichment Log. This log allows volunteers and staff to monitor the progress of each cat while tailoring their interactions with that individual.

By entering your observations on each cat's behavior and personality, you'll not only help other CCII volunteers target their enrichment efforts, you will also help us gain more knowledge about the cat's character and ideal adoptive family.

As in Cat Care I, volunteers are also asked to note each interaction with each cat on the Cat Socialization Tracker located in the Cat Adopts kitchen. A list of cats in the room is printed each morning and placed on a clipboard. Volunteers should be checking to see which cats in the room have not yet been socialized, and then marking socialization between cats. This ensures that each cat in the room is receiving quality socialization several times a day. Socialization can include time outside or inside the kennel.

CAT PROFILES & HANDLING

The following procedures are the standards for all staff and volunteers working with cats and should be followed at all times. Consistency is key.

Kennel Cards

The kennel card is the most important document for each cat, as it contains all health, temperament, and behavior information for an animal. If at any point you do not understand, cannot read, or have forgotten what a notation or symbol means – ask a shelter staff member.

Volunteers should not write on the kennel cards.

Kennel Signage

In addition to the kennel card, you should remain aware of the cat's physical condition and attitude, as well as additional notes in the kennel card holder.

Do not remove a cat from the kennel if any of the following signs are present:

- **“Waiting for Test Results”** - which means the cat cannot be removed from the cage, shown or adopted until the results of the Feline Leukemia test are recorded by the clinic.
- **“Adoption Pending”** – A person is in the midst of the adoption process and is awaiting approval
- **“I'm Adopted”** – This cat is going home with someone and the adoption has been approved
- **“I am not available for adoption at this time”** – various health or behavioral issues may be the reason for this sign, or the cat may be sent to a breed rescue organization.
- **“Hold for BSR”**- This cat will be specifically held for the behavior department so that a behavior assessment could be preformed. For your own safety as well as others, do not remove this cat from their kennel. This also means that if this cat is on the adoption floor, he is not available for adoption until the hold is removed.

Volunteers should also never remove a cat from a kennel when a transfer slip is in their kennel card holder. These cats may be ill and by removing them germs will spread throughout the room.

Addressing Problem Behaviors:

Interrupt and redirect any undesired behaviors. For example, offer a toy to cat who is play biting. Feel free to ask questions of the room staff or Animal Behavior & Training team if you are unsure of how to interact with an animal or if you have concerns about an animal's behavior.

Removing Cats from their kennels

- **Approach** the kennel talking to the cat in a calm and friendly voice.
- **Wait** for the cat to show the tiniest sign of desirable behavior, then immediately reward them by opening the cage and putting in treats.
 - Desirable behaviors include approaching, making calm eye contact, rubbing against the cage door, sniffing at the hand, or soliciting affection or attention.
- **Watch** the cat closely for any signs of arousal or stress and stop working immediately if they spit, growl, or swat.
 - If the cat is displaying a friendly, calm demeanor, move onto the next step.
 - Give over-aroused cats at least an hour to settle before attempting to remove them again. If an adopter is interested in only that particular cat, call upon a staff member for assistance.
- **Lift** the cat out of the cage, supporting the cat's body, keeping the cat's head away from your face.

Additional Removal Notes

- If a cat is reluctant to leave their cage, do not force them out. Try to soothe the cat in the cage by talking softly, petting, or possibly brushing him. This low-key approach often works to bring the cat out from the back of the cage. You may then try to remove them, but sometimes it is best to just socialize the cat in the cage. Often times, just kind words and a calm voice will do the trick.
- Do not socialize two cats at the same time unless these cats are kenneled together.

Removing Cats from the Adoption Room

Once in a carrier, volunteers should move the cat to a quiet, private, enclosed space for the socialization session.

- Pick up a dry blue plastic carrier from the Receiving Department.
- Slowly take the cat out of their kennel and place it in the blue plastic carrier.
- If you are working with a shy cat, bring their blanket along too.
- Be sure to close the kennel door as well as the latch of the carrier.
- Place the following socialization card in the kennel card holder so staff and volunteers know the cat is out of their kennel being socialized:



- You may use any of the counseling rooms located near the Volunteer Office to socialize the cats. Counseling room #5 is the quietest and should be your first choice.
- You may also use the multi-purpose room in the Volunteer Office for socialization.

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- Place a sign on the window of the room door so that others know what is happening in the room. These signs can be found in the Cat Socialization supply cabinet or in the multi-purpose room.
- When transporting a cat from the adoption room to a counseling room, it may be helpful to place a towel over the carrier to help minimize any additional stress or anxiety the animal may feel. You never know when a loud or large dog or group of people will be coming down the hallway scaring the cat even further.

Working with Shy Cats

There is bound to be a time when a cat is not yet comfortable leaving the cage. In this case, there are several things that you can do to make the cat more comfortable.

First, turn sideways and stand or crouch by the cage. Being sideways ensures you will not end up leaning into the cage which could overwhelm the cat. You may extend your hand toward the cat, but should stop two or three inches away. This is an invitation to the cat and will let you know if the cat is interested in meeting you.

- If the cat leans forward to sniff and doesn't move away, it is likely fine for you to gently pet the top of its head, scratch its chin or softly rub its cheek. If the cat enjoys this, pull your hand back a few inches to attempt to lure the cat forward for more attention. If the cat comes forward or becomes more active in the cage, you should spend another minute petting and talking to the cat. You may then attempt to remove the cat for a visit on a bench. If the cat isn't prepared for this, you may continue to pet the cat while he is in the cage.
- If the cat retreats, you shouldn't reach farther back to pet the cat, but wiggle your fingers and encourage the cat to return to the front of the cage for more attention. Also, watch for signs that indicate the cat is becoming over-stimulated, and stop petting if need be.
- If the cat does not accept the invitation for attention, entice the cat to play using a straw, pipe cleaner or pencil (move it slowly back and forth on or under the paper or blanket a few inches away from the cat; if the cat watches it but doesn't paw at it, move the item up the wall of the cage or across the top of the cat's hiding box if it is under one). You may use a wand toy to use, but begin with the stick end and not the toy end. Again, if the cat seems to be interested but isn't playing, offer the toy end (a Cat Charmer is often the most successful toy) but move it above and do not flick or throw the toy at the cat.
- Treats may also be used to encourage the cat to come forward for attention. If possible, break the treat into two or three pieces. Offer a piece to the cat. If he eats it, offer another piece and then create a trail of treats from the cat toward the front of the cage. After the cat eats a few treats, you may again extend an invitation for petting.

Please do not remove (or succumb to pressure from staff or volunteers to remove) a shy cat that is not ready to come out of their cage. Forcing a cat in this situation will only make it more fearful and more difficult for personnel and future visitors.

Difficulty Returning a Cat to their Kennel

At times volunteers may encounter a cat who does not want to return to their kennel with ease. In such cases, volunteers are encouraged to try the tips below:

- Lure the cat into the kennel using a treat. Place several treats in your hand, allowing the cat to sniff, but not eat the treats. Once at the kennel toss the treats toward the back corner, allowing the cat to follow them into the cage.
- Sometimes a cat may become nervous returning to their kennel due to the sight of other cats. Attempt to limit their view of the other felines by using your body to block their sight line.

- When all else fails ask for a staff member for assistance.

Hygiene

Hygiene is a vital aspect of your responsibilities as a shelter volunteer.

- Volunteers are required to wash their hands before and after each cat encounter.
- At times, there may also be hand sanitizer available – use as often as possible.
- In addition, hand-washing is required if a volunteer comes in contact with a fomite (i.e..any object that may potentially be carrying a germ), feces, blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, exudates or articles contaminated by these substances.
- Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking; after using the restroom; after cleaning animal cages or animal-care areas; and whenever hands are visibly soiled.
- Disinfect any surface or tool that has come into contact with a cat after each use. For assistance disinfecting, ask a staff member for a quick demonstration of the current method being utilized.

GROOMING CATS

As you volunteer you may notice some cats who have Clean & Preen request cards slipped into their kennels. These are cats that should be prioritized for grooming. You may also notice a cat without a card who is in desperate need of a bath. In this case be sure to check that the animal has not undergone a spay or neuter surgery within the past 10 days before proceeding.

Brushing a Cat

When brushing or combing most cats you should move your tool in the same direction as the hair growth. When the cat has long hair they need to be “back brushed.” To do this, brush with the hair, then against the hair, and then back with the hair. This way you can brush out mats and make sure they don’t have tangles. Always remove the hair from the tools you’ve used and disinfect them when finished which will prevent the spread of germs.

Nail Trimming

Volunteers should make it daily practice to touch and handle cat’s paws. This will desensitize them to being touched – making nail trimmings much easier for volunteers, staff, and future adopters.

Please use your best judgment when considering whether or not to trim a cat’s nails. Many cats find this to be an invasive process – so it’s important to only clip claws as needed and for cats whose temperaments will allow it.

Only trim nails when it is quiet and calm in the adoption room as cats can become easily stressed during times of high activity, making it difficult to trim. Many cats become aggravated when receiving a 'mani/pedi' which can result in them being less receptive to meet and greets with adopters.

If you do not feel comfortable trimming a particular cat, but see that it is needed, notify another volunteer or staff member for assistance.

Details on how to properly trim a cat’s nails can be found in the appendix of this manual.

Bathing

It is a **very rare thing** that a cat needs a bath. If such a request is made from staff, do not undertake the task alone, but ask a staff member for assistance.

CONCLUSION

On behalf of the animals and staff - thank you for your time spent socializing the cats!

Your efforts will help those animals having difficulty adjusting to shelter life get adopted at a faster rate. The shelter environment is stressful for the cats, and every little thing we can do to help them adjust will relieve some of this stress. No doubt, human interaction is the best medicine for some of these cats, and even just hearing a calm, soothing, kind voice will help a cat ease its stress and open up to allow its true personality to shine through.

As a group of elite volunteers, we appreciate your efforts to work with these cats on a regular basis and hope you understand that the progress you make with the cats—no matter how small—goes a long way for both the cat and its eventual adopter.

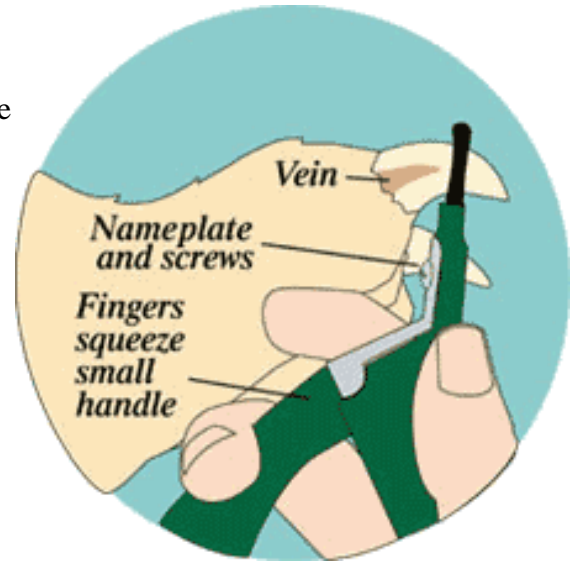
THANK YOU



Appendix

Trimming a Cat's Nails

1. Assemble what you will need - a high quality pair of trimmers and kitty treats.
2. Remove the cat from their kennel following the Cat Adopts procedures outlined earlier in the manual. Sit down on a Cat Adopts bench and place the cat in your lap, or have someone hold your cat on a table.
3. Hold the cat's paw firmly and push on their pads to extend the nail. Locate where the quick (or vein) ends. If the quick is not visible, do not trim the cat's nails.
4. Using the nail trimmer, cut the nail below the quick on a 45-degree angle, with the cutting end of the nail clipper toward the end of the nail. You will be cutting off the finer point. The quick is generally easy to see, and you can cut the excess away with one cut.
5. After each cut praise the cat verbally and offer treats.
6. If the cat will tolerate it, do all four feet this way. If he will not, take a break. If you can continue, do not forget to trim the dewclaws. If not clipped they can become so long they curl up and grow into the soft tissue, like a painful ingrown toe nail.
7. If you accidentally cut the quick, wipe off the blood and notify a staff member.
8. After trimming the cat's claws, spend some time socializing and petting the cat so he does not form a negative association with the experience.
9. After placing the cat back in the kennel, sanitize the nail trimmers.



Adoption Match Category Descriptions:

 **Novice Cat**

Things to know about me...

Declawed?

- Yes Front Back No




Lived with children?

- Yes Pre-school Grade-school High-school No Unknown

Lived with pets?

- Yes Cats Dogs No Unknown

As a Novice cat, I...

-  am ideal for a first-time pet owner
-  will do well in almost any home
-  need an average amount of play and training time daily

Novice Cat = a cat (probably adult) who will likely integrate quickly and easily into household; has no known or discernable behavior issues; will not require a specific training and/or exercise regime; probably okay for first-time cat owner; probably okay for home with children and/or other animals
 Example: 3+ -yr old cat who enjoys being handled and has no/little negative reaction OR has a positive reaction to other animals

 **Intermediate Cat**

Things to know about me...

Declawed?

- Yes Front Back No





Lived with children?

- Yes Pre-school Grade-school High-school No Unknown

Lived with pets?

- Yes Cats Dogs No Unknown

As an Intermediate cat, I...

-  need a family that has some knowledge of cat behavior
-  have some special requirements of my new home
-  need more than the average amount of play time daily
-  need an average amount of training

Intermediate Cat = a cat or kitten who has displayed some degree of activity or behavior training need; may not be suitable for first-time or timid cat owners; probably okay in home with older, considerate children; probably okay in home with other pets who are “cat savvy”; has shown no/little negative reaction OR a positive reaction to other animals
 Example: an active kitten who climbs and is easily excited; an adult cat who occasionally is over-stimulated;

★ Special Cat

Things to know about me...

Declawed?

- Yes
 Front
 Back
 No

Lived with children?

- Yes
 Pre-school
 Grade-school
 High-school
 No
 Unknown

Lived with pets?

- Yes
 Cats
 Dogs
 No
 Unknown

I require care that the average cat doesn't need. This includes...

Special Cat = a cat or kitten who has exhibited behavior or has a medical condition that is above the abilities of the average cat owner to handle; will require an experienced owner; probably not recommended for home with children; will need to consider if individual cat is appropriate for home with other animals; a cat who has been at ACS for an extended amount of time

EXAMPLE: a kitten/cat who play bites with some consistency and pressure; a cat who is too afraid to visit outside of its cage; a cat with physical impairment/chronic medical needs

**Please note that there is no advanced category for cats*