



## **BASIC CARE FOR FOSTER CAMP CATS AND KITTENS**

Thank you for participating in Best Friends Foster Pet Camp!

Now that you've brought home your new foster camp cat or kitten, you might be thinking: Now what? Please read the following information and **watch the video** our amazing cat-behavior expert Samantha has created just for you.

### **Setting up a safe space**

- Start by bringing the supplies you were given into the room where you will keep your foster kitty.
- Set up the litter box, water and food bowls and bed with blankets.
- As you set up the room be sure to place the litter box away from the food, water and bedding. You wouldn't want your toilet next to your bed, would you? You also wouldn't want your kitchen table next to your bed or your toilet. Keep all this in mind when setting up a space for your cat.
- If your foster cat has medicine and other supplies, be sure to put them in a cabinet where the cat cannot reach them. It is also good to hide toilet paper rolls, plants (some are poisonous to cats) and decorations that the kitty could knock them over, rip apart and scatter all over the floor.

### **Litter box 101**

If you have kittens, you should have received litter training information from your foster camp coordinator. But there are a few important things to remember.

- The litter box should have low sides so your cats can easily get in and out.
- Scoop the litter box at least twice a day — more if you have a large litter or the kittens have diarrhea.
- If you have an adult foster camp cat, you will want to scoop the litter box at least once a day and dump and clean the whole litter box once a week or more often if needed.
- Praise your felines by saying “Good job” in a sweet friendly voice when they finish using the litter box.

## Creating a happy place

- Cats love to relax in a sunny spot, so if possible, place your foster cat's beds and blankets next to a window.
- Some cats like to perch in high places. For example, they might feel comfortable on the back of a chair or couch, on a shelf, windowsill or bookshelf. When you notice where your foster cat prefers to sit, you can always put a bed or a blanket in that favorite spot.
- Cats also enjoy watching birds and other outside activities. Just be sure the window is closed so that no one escapes.

## Grooming

Some cats love to be brushed. If your foster cat likes to be petted, let her sniff the brush and if she rubs against it, try gently brushing her fur. If she turns away from the brush, then leave her alone. Some cats love having their back brushed and some do not.

Remember to start out brushing very gently. Brushing helps remove excess fur, which reduces shedding. It also helps keep your cat's fur clean and, if your foster cat has long hair, it can help minimize tangles and matts. Brushing also reduces the amount of hair a cat swallows while grooming, which helps reduce the possibility of hairballs.

## Feeding your foster camp cat

Be sure to give cats and kittens fresh water every day. Kittens may need their water dish replaced a couple of times a day.

Cats and kittens should also get fresh food every day. If you foster kittens, you will soon learn they can be messy! It is important to clean the wet food off the kittens and off the floor, bedding and blankets.

If you are interested in what bottle-feeding newborn kittens is like, [watch this short video](#).

## ACTIVITY

Download our activity sheet on basic [cat care](#).

## CREATE

Grab an old T-shirt, pillowcase, piece of fleece or other soft material. [Download instructions](#) from our Best Friends Family Fun page to make a comfy cat blanket.

As you watch the video, you will meet some amazing cats from Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. Be sure to have your fabric cut out and ready to go before [watching the video](#).

## READ

Curl up with your foster cat and read your favorite book. If your cat is shy, sitting quietly in the room and softly reading your book might encourage her to come out and explore. Do you want to read a new book? Check your local or school library for *Cats: A First Discovery Book* by Gallimard Jeunesse and Pascale de Bourg.

## PLAY

Gather cat beds, cat blankets and various pillows and play a feline version of musical chairs.

### How to play

- If you have five people playing the game, you will need four cat beds with cat blankets.
- Set the beds in a circle.
- Play the music and have your friends or family members walk around the perimeter of the cat bed and cat blanket circle.
- When the music stops, everyone must immediately sit on the cat bed.
- The one person left standing is out.
- Remove another cat bed and continue until only one person is left.

## SHARE

Help teach others about caring for cats.

**With the permission of your parents or guardians,** post a picture of your foster camp cat to social media.

Here are some cat photo subject ideas:

- While being brushed
- While lying a favorite sunny spot
- While watching birds out the window
- While eating
- While drinking out of the fresh water bowl
- While playing with a favorite toy
- While cuddling with his or her favorite person

Make sure to add a few lines in the description box. For example, if you post a photo of your foster camp cat being brushed, you can say: “Brushing your cat a couple of times a week is healthy for your cats’ fur and reduces shedding.”

Be sure to add **#BFFCamp #BFFamilyFun**.

Most of all, have fun and celebrate the fact that you are helping to save a life!



**#BFFPetCamp**