



KEEPING YOUR FOSTER CAMP KITTY SAFE

Because new environments can cause stress to cats and kittens, it is normal for them to hide for hours, days or weeks. If they are scared, they might try to escape, so please be cautious while opening and closing doors. **Please read the following information and [watch the video](#) our amazing cat specialist, Samantha, has just created for you.**

CAT-PROOFING YOUR HOME

When cats come from a shelter or even if they have previously lived in a home, we don't always know how they will react in a new environment. So, before bringing your foster cat home, you'll want to survey her new living area and do the following:

- Remove anything that would be unsafe or undesirable for the cat to chew on, and securely latch any cupboards.
- Cats like to climb up on shelves or bookcases, so it's best to remove anything that can be knocked down.
- People food and chemicals can be very harmful to cats, so store them in a place where the foster cat cannot reach them.
- Make sure that all trash cans are covered or latched and keep them inside a closet. (Don't forget the bathroom trash bins.)
- Keep toilet lids closed.
- Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off all counter tops.
- Move houseplants out of reach, because many of them are poisonous to cats, who like to chew on them.
- Make sure to keep aquariums or cages housing hamsters or other small animals secured and away from your foster cat.
- Remove medications, lotions or cosmetics from any accessible surfaces.
- Move and secure all electrical and phone wires out of reach so that cats can't chew on them or get tangled up.
- Pick up any clothing items with buttons or strings, which if swallowed, will harm your foster cat.
- Relocate knickknacks or valuables that your cat could knock down.

ACTIVITY

Please review the foster cat safe items and unsafe items, and [download our activity sheet](#) on cat safety.

Safe items

- Bed
- Bowl of water
- Cat toy
- Cardboard box
- Paper bag
- Sofa or chair

Unsafe items

- Cords
- Plants
- Chocolate
- Aspirin
- Grapes
- Curtains
- Screens
- Open doors
- Open windows
- Plastic bags
- Other animals
- Ribbons
- String
- Dental floss
- Yarn
- Rubber bands and hair ties

CREATE

Knowing how to “read” a cat’s movements allows you to understand when it is safe to pet cats and when they need their space. The project below, a great introduction to cat body language, is an activity to do alone or with friends.

Grab some clay or Play-Doh and a paper plate. If you don’t have clay, you can make some with items in your kitchen.

Clay recipe

Mix 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt and $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup water (one tablespoon at a time) to form clay.

Open the [cat body language sheet](#) and watch this [video on cat body language](#). Use the clay to mold into friendly and unfriendly cat poses.

Here’s another fun video to check out:

[Four Fun Cat Facts](#)



READ

Sit quietly with your foster camp cat and read her a book. If your foster cat is shy, just find a comfy spot to sit and read. Don't try to coax her out. She will listen from an area where she feels safe.

You can read along with guest author Cathy Rosenthal, *The Happy Tale of Two Cats*. This story is about two cats who live on the same street but have very different homes.

PLAY

What is your foster cat trying to tell you? Cats express themselves by moving their tails, ears, eyes, bodies, fur, legs, ears, whiskers and by making sounds.

It is important to learn what these movements and sounds mean so that you can better understand your cat. Review this [cat body language PDF](#) and see if you recognize any of the following postures and emotions.

If your foster cat displays signs of stress or fear, do not try to touch her. If her ears are back or if she is hissing or growling, give her some space.

After reviewing the above information, gather your family or friends and play Pictionary.

- Print out the [cat body language PDF](#) and cut out each image and accompanying description.
- Fold the descriptions and put them in a bowl.
- Split into two teams.
- Set a timer for 30 seconds (or decide on a time that works for your group).
- Have one person on your team draw a body language position and the rest of the team guess what the cat is trying to say.
- The team with most correct answers wins.

SHARE

Oh, Theodore Guinea Pig Poems by Susan Katz and illustrated by Stacey Schuett is a great book that includes many poems about guinea pigs. Use the book to inspire you to write a short poem about your foster cat or kitten, and **(with the permission of your parents or guardians)** post your pet poem on social media with a cute photo of your foster pet or one of your cat clay sculptures. Use the hashtags **#BFFosterCamp** and **#BFFamilyFun**. If you're not able post to social media, don't worry. Share your poem with your family and friends.

Thank you for participating in Best Friends Foster Pet Camp. You are helping to Save Them All!



#BFFPetCamp