



Congratulations, and thank you for adopting a cat from the Asheville Humane Society!

Table of Contents:

- 2...Spay/Neuter After-Care Instructions
- 3...Bringing Your New Cat Home
- 5...Introducing Your Cat to a New Cat
- 7...Nail Trimming Guide
- 8...Cat Declawing: Q and A
- 9...FIV Positive Means Pawsitively Adoptable
- 11...Feline Upper Respiratory Infection Fact Sheet
- 12...Microchip Information
- 13...Maddie's Pet Assistant App
- 14...Cost of Care
- 15...Miscellaneous Information
- 16...Veterinary Referral List

Spay/Neuter After-Care Instructions

If an ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance patient is experiencing a post-operative complication, please call:

(855) 434-9285

This phone line is open 24/7/365.

Spay/Neuter Post-Operative Instructions:

- **No running, jumping, swimming, or other strenuous activity for 7-10 days.** Keep the animal as calm as possible. Animals must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry, and warm. No baths during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash and cats must be kept indoors.
- **Check incision site twice daily.** Redness and swelling should be minimal. Do not allow the animal to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, a cone must be applied to prevent additional licking and/or chewing that could cause infection. Females should have no drainage. Males may have a small amount of drainage/discharge for up to three days.
- **Appetite should return gradually within 24 hours of surgery.** Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours post-op, diarrhea or vomiting, are not normal and the animal should be taken to your regular veterinarian. Dogs may have a slight cough for a few days after surgery.
- **Do not change the animal's diet at this time** and do not give them junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other "people food" during the recovery period. Feeding them their regular diet will help prevent gastro-intestinal upset.

If there are any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please call the office at (828) 252-2079.

After normal business hours, please call (855) 434-9285.

Bringing Your New Cat Home

It's important to set up your new cat's home environment properly, since their instincts remain virtually un-changed from their ancestors. They require a stimulating environment that meets all their needs, especially if they won't be exploring the outside world. **Keep in mind, it may take your new cat a little while to adjust to his/her new home. Start with a small space, until they are comfortable.**

Food

- Provide at least one food bowl per cat in the household.
- Locate their food bowls away from their litter box, as well as their water bowl.
 - Instinctually, cats don't like to drink water near where they eat because the water could be contaminated.
- Try to choose a food bowl that is both wide and shallow.
 - Wide bowls are ideal so that their whiskers don't bend while they eat. This seems silly, but cats' whiskers are very sensitive, and can sometimes affect their eating habits.
- If you have multiple cats, do not feed them in a group.

Water

- The same recommendation applies for water bowls-- wide bowls are best, to prevent their whiskers from becoming squished!
- Cats are naturally drawn to running water. If you find your cat playing in their water, or not drinking enough, try purchasing a running water fountain to encourage water intake.

Litter Box

Proper litter box setup will prevent issues with inappropriate elimination and improve overall happiness of both you and your cat. If you live in a multi-cat household, you will need one litter box per cat, plus one extra (ideally)

- **Do:**
 - Place your litter box somewhere that is easily accessible
 - Spread them out if you have more than one
 - Put them in the open, if possible, so that your cat has multiple "escape routes"
 - Cats like to have a full, open view of their territory. They have a survival instinct to avoid enclosed spaces.
- **Don't:**
 - Place the box in a high-traffic area
 - Put them where a loud noise could startle your cat, like a washing machine or garage door
 - Place them next to or near "nest items" like water, food, and beds
 - Cat's instincts tell them not to eliminate near these necessary items

Cat Trees and Vertical Territories

- Cats are hardwired to perch and rest in high places to avoid predators. Try to maximize their use of vertical spaces with the ideas below:
 - Placing a cat tree(s) in the home provides places for perching, climbing, and resting.
 - This is especially useful for multi-cat households! It increases the "territory" available to them and helps regulate interactions between cats. Cat trees can

boost the confidence of shy cats and lower the chances of others becoming bullies.

- Window seats and hammocks are great for viewing outside and napping.

Creating a Stimulating Environment

- Add scratching posts or pads for a simple stress reliever (and to keep kitty off your furniture!)
 - Try both vertical and horizontal scratching posts to see which model your cat prefers.
- Cat tunnels are ideal for hiding places, playtime, and making your cat feel safe.
- Place bird and squirrel feeders near your windows to add a little outdoor entertainment!
- Food and treat puzzles can come in handy when you're out of the house but still want your feline to get enough exercise during the day.

Toys

- Inanimate toys - These can be as simple as mice or jingle balls.
- Battery-operated toys - These are great for those long working days when your furry friend needs to get out some pent-up energy while you're away.
- Interactive toys - These toys can be things like laser pointers, wands with ribbon, or feathers that can be used to complete what we call a "prey sequence."
- You'll want to have a variety of toys available for your cat; try to switch them out every so often to keep them from getting bored.

Introducing Your Cat to a New Cat

Stage One: Decompression/Alone Time

- The longer you can keep your two cats separate, the more likely you are to succeed
- Confine your new cat to a smaller room, like a bathroom, bedroom, or spare room
- Swap their bedding to they can get accustomed to each other's scents
- Do not proceed to Stage Two until both cats are consistently showing calm and relaxed behavior

Stage Two: Build a Positive Association

- Associate good things (treats/food) with the sight of the other cat. It's best to do this around feeding time, when you know both cats are hungry!
- Secure a baby gate in the doorway of the room where they are separated. Cover the gate with a blanket so they can't see each other.
- Remove the blanket briefly to let the cats see each other. Toss some tasty/smelly treats to both cats, and place the blanket back over the gate.
- Repeat this 5-10 times, for a few days. If both cats are remaining calm when they see each other, you can begin leaving the gate uncovered for longer
- After a few days, uncover the gate and put their food down on either side of the gate, at least 10 feet away. Gradually move the bowls closer to either side of the baby gate as long as both cats are eating (and not focused on staring, hissing, or growling at each other!).

Stage Three: Play Time

- Get each cat their own toy so they can play separately, but near each other
- The best type of toy for this is a wand-type toy or a "Cat Dancer" which is sold in our store
- Start with short play sessions near the uncovered baby gate. You may need to have a second person help you to play with the other cat.
- Slowly increase the length of the play session (from seconds, to a few minutes)
- If both cats are calm and/or playful, you can remove the baby gate and continue playing with the cats.

Stage Four:

- Remove the baby gate, with the cats under your supervision. They should now be eating and playing calmly in each other's presence but watch closely for any signs of stress or bullying.
- Distract or redirect the cats with a toy or treats if an interaction goes poorly, and don't punish either cat for a negative interaction (it could only make things worse).
- Gradually extend the time that you allow the cats to be in the same area under supervision.
- Until you are confident the cats can co-exist, place them back in separate areas if you aren't supervising or have to leave home.

We understand not everyone has the time or space to complete all four stages, which could take a few months. If you can only complete Stage 1 and Stage 2, that is better than nothing!

Keep it positive and take your time. It will pay off.

Nail Trimming Guide

Does your kitty disappear when the clippers come out? Do you have to wrap her in a towel to give her a manicure? Follow these steps to help your cat relax while you trim.

1. Choose a chair in a quiet room where you can comfortably sit your cat on your lap. Get her when she's relaxed and even sleepy, such as in her groggy, after-meal state. Take care that she isn't able to spy any birds, wild animals or action outside nearby windows—and make sure no other pets are around.
2. Gently take one of your cat's paws between your fingers and massage for no longer than three seconds. If your cat pulls her paw away, don't squeeze or pinch, just follow her gesture, keeping in gentle contact. When she's still again, give her pad a little press so that the nail extends out, then release her paw and immediately give her a treat. Do this every other day on a different toe until you've gotten to know all ten.
3. Your cat should be at ease with the sound of the clippers before you attempt to trim her nails. Sit her on your lap, put a piece of uncooked spaghetti into the clippers and hold them near your cat. (If she sniffs the clippers, set a treat on top of them for her to eat.) Next, while massaging one of your cat's toes, gently press her toe pad. When the nail extends, clip the spaghetti with the clippers while still holding your cat's paw gently. Now release her toe and quickly give her a treat.
4. The pink part of a cat's nail, called the quick, is where the nerves and blood vessels are. Do NOT cut this sensitive area. Snip only the white part of the claw. It's better to be cautious and cut less of the nail rather than risk cutting this area. If you do accidentally cut the quick, any bleeding can be stopped with a styptic powder or stick. It's a good idea to keep it nearby while you trim.
5. With your cat in your lap facing away from you, take one of her toes in your hand, massage and press the pad until the nail extends. Now trim only the sharp tip of one nail, release your cat's toe and quickly give her a treat. If your cat didn't notice, clip another nail, but don't trim more than two claws in one sitting until your cat is comfortable. Then, reward her with a special treat.
6. A nail-trimming every ten days to two weeks is recommended. If your cat refuses to let you clip her claws, ask your vet or a groomer for help.
7. If your cat resists, don't raise your voice or punish her. Never attempt a clipping when your cat is agitated, or you're upset. And don't rush—you may cut into the quick.
8. Don't try to trim all of your cat's claws at one time.
9. Do NOT declaw your cat. This surgery involves amputating the end of a cat's toes and is highly discouraged by the ASPCA. Instead, trim regularly, provide your cat with appropriate scratching posts, and ask your veterinarian about soft plastic covers for your cat's claws.

Cat Declawing: Q and A

While declawing *used* to be a more commonplace veterinary procedure, most vets are declining these requests now, as we learn more about the welfare concerns and behavioral issues that arise from declawing.

Isn't declawing painless, since it's just "removing the claws?" - Declawing is much more than just "removing the claws" or "a nail trim"—the process of declawing actually amputates the cat's first joint in each of their toes. That means they're undergoing 10-20 amputations! The cat's paws must be bandaged tightly following the surgery, and there is always a risk of bleeding or infection during the healing process. They will also need to be on medication for pain management.

What if I just declaw the front paws? Aren't cats okay as long as they have their hind claws? - The paws, including each toe, support the muscles, tendons, and body structure of the cat. They help the cat balance. The claws contain blood vessels and nerves. Even the cat's first joint (which is completely removed during declawing) is a critical part of its anatomy, even on the front paws! Cats use their front and back claws for:

- **Stretching/Exercising:** Cats scratch to stretch and tone their back and shoulder muscles.
- **Grooming:** They use their claws to scratch that itch!
- **Play/Hunting:** Claws are necessary for catching prey or toys, which are normal cat behaviors.
- **Climbing:** Cats have a natural need to perch in high places and climb.
- **Kneading:** Cats are naturally hardwired to "knead" when they are content or comfortable.
- **Marking Territory:** Scratching to mark territory leaves a visual and olfactory cue to other cats.
- **Defense:** Cats use their claws to defend themselves when frightened or aggravated. If we take this away, most cats eventually resort to biting, which can grow more severe over time.

What are potential side effects of declawing? - A cat without claws will almost always resort to biting when they feel threatened or irritated by us, our kids, or other animals. This means that instead of getting a harmless scratch, we could potentially end up with a deep, infected bite wound that will likely require medical attention.

Furthermore, since the surgery itself is so painful (and can also result in chronic pain), many cats develop litterbox issues over time. Since using the litterbox results in a painful sensation for them, they may simply stop using it and decide to eliminate elsewhere (like your carpet) instead.

How can I prevent my cat from scratching furniture or me/my kids? - There are many great alternatives! First, remember that cats shed the layers of their claws naturally by scratching, so **provide plenty of appropriate places to scratch**. You can also **trim their nails**, so they are blunt rather than sharp and pointy. Many vets will do this for a small fee. You can also teach your kids how to **play with the cat using wand toys**, rather than getting their hands too close. Additionally, **Soft Paws®** are soft, silicone caps that can be applied to your cats' nails to protect your furniture and hands! They can be applied at home or by your vet, and usually last 2-3 months.

FIV POSITIVE MEANS *Pawsitively* ♥ *Adoptable!*

Q #1: Is FIV deadly?

A: **FIV is not a deadly virus.** FIV is not Feline AIDS. (See Question #3).

Q #2: Will an FIV+ cat have a good quality of life?

A: FIV+ cats with homes can and DO live long, healthy, normal lives, when given the chance. There are many reported cases where **FIV+ cats live well into old age without ever showing any symptoms.** Typical causes of death are usually *geriatric*. “FIV positive” is just a diagnosis that someday a problem might develop.

Q #3: Will an FIV+ cat develop AIDS?

A: Feline AIDS is claimed to be the 4th and final stage of FIV by researchers. Those researchers also agree that **most cats never reach that stage.** It is impossible to predict the long-term outlook for any particular cat diagnosed as FIV, just as it is with a non-FIV cat. As we mentioned earlier, the asymptomatic ‘stage’ can, and usually does, extend for many years.

Q #4: Is the FIV virus a threat to other cats, pets or even humans?

A: FIV is species-specific to felines. **Dogs, other pets, and humans are absolutely immune.** The virus itself is astonishingly frail. It can live outside of the body for only a few seconds. The virus is extremely slow acting and transmission requires serious physical interaction. “Deep bite wounds are, by far, the primary mode of the virus’ transmission,” says Dr. Julie Levy, DVM, PhD (confirmed by several other researchers).

Normal social interactions between FIV and Non-FIV cats, such as grooming, sharing food and water bowls, and community litter boxes have no known risk of transmission.

Q #5: Will a kitten who tests positive have FIV for life?

A: If a mother cat has FIV antibodies, her kittens have a good chance of possessing them at birth. In the case of kittens under 6 months of age, a ‘positive’ result can mean the kitten has inherited antibodies from its mother—not that it has the virus. **These inherited antibodies usually go away by 6 months.**

Thinking of adopting an FIV+ Cat? (Go for it!)

FIV+ cats can live long, healthy lives as beloved companions. They are susceptible to the same ailments as all other cats. While they may become ill due to progression of the virus after many years, non-FIV cats may die young, too. Statistically, most FIV cats live as long as their indoor counterparts (13-18 years), and much longer, in fact, than cats that live outdoors (3-8 years). There are many reported cases where FIV+ cats live well into old age without ever showing any symptoms.

Adapted from FIV Cat Rescue (<https://www.fivcatrescue.org/>)

Feline Upper Respiratory Infection Fact Sheet

What is Feline Upper Respiratory Infection?

Feline URI is a highly contagious disease affecting the nasal passages and sinuses of cats/kittens. It is common in animal shelters, catteries, multiple-cat households, and free-roaming cat populations. Almost all cases of feline URI are caused by infection with one of two viruses: feline herpesvirus and feline calicivirus. These two viruses are “species specific,” meaning they only infect cats and kittens, not dogs or humans.

How is it transmitted?

It is transferred between cats by fluid discharged from the mouths and noses of infected cats. They can shed the virus through the air by sneezing, coughing, or breathing; or by physical contact with cages, toys, food bowls, even the hands and clothes of people handling them.

What are the signs?

Symptoms of URI include sneezing; fever; runny nose or red, watery eyes; nasal congestion (shown by drooling or open-mouth breathing); ulcers in mouth or tongue; mild to severe lethargy; lack of appetite or thirst. Kittens infected with feline calicivirus may develop what is known as “limping kitten syndrome,” featuring fever and painful swelling of the joints. Symptoms of feline URI are generally mild at first and worsen within 1-3 days. The illness can last 1-4 weeks, depending on the cat’s immune system.

Which cats can get it?

Any cat who is stressed by overcrowding, poor nutrition, cold or heat, age, fear, or infection with another disease is susceptible to feline URI. Cats who are high risk include unvaccinated cats, kittens, and cats whose immune systems are already compromised by another disease. Even recently vaccinated cats with healthy immune systems can be susceptible, but symptoms are usually very mild and short-lived—typically 3-5 days of sneezing with no fever or loss of appetite.

How is Feline URI treated?

Good news—it is easily treatable! Treatment of feline URI is aimed at strengthening the cat’s immune system to help them fight the virus, and usually consists of vitamins, good nutrition, and quality care. Antibiotics are commonly prescribed to prevent or treat secondary bacterial infections that may accompany the viral infection. Sick cats may stop eating or drinking, and may require intervention to combat any dehydration or malnutrition. While URI is easily treatable, if it is left untreated the infection can lead to fatal pneumonia.

How can Feline URI be prevented?

It cannot be totally prevented in a shelter environment. Many enter the shelter already infected, and the stress of a shelter environment leads to full-blown URI. Preventative vaccination, sanitation programs, health checks, and isolation/treatment of sick animals are all in effect. Taking care to lower stress levels for the first 1-2 weeks the cat is in a permanent home will aid in preventing and outbreak of URI.

Microchip Information

Did you know that your new pet is microchipped and registered to you? Here are your instructions to access the account and update information.

HOW TO: Create a Pet Owner Account

1. Upon landing on found.org, click on the left-hand option to identify yourself as a Pet Owner.
2. Click on “Register” in the upper right-hand corner.
3. Enter email twice. Entering it twice ensures that there are no typos.
4. View and accept Terms and Conditions.
5. Opt-in to our newsletter.
6. Create password. Passwords must be at least 6 letters and contain no special characters.
7. Enter first name, last name, and mobile number. We will text, call, and email you if your pet is lost and then found and scanned.
8. Enter full address.
9. Enter Emergency Contact(s). Your emergency contact(s) will receive phone calls and text messages should your pet become lost and then found.
10. Enter veterinarian information. Your veterinarian will receive phone calls and text messages should your pet become lost and then found.
11. Click on “Finish Account.”
12. Account is created. It is your responsibility to update your information (address, phone number, etc.) if it changes.

HOW TO: Update Pet Owner Information

1. Click “Sign In” at the top right-hand corner.
2. Enter your email (username) and password.
3. Click “Sign In”.
4. On your dashboard, on the “My Information” tab, click “Edit” on the right.
5. Click through different tabs listed “Contact,” “Location,” “Emergency,” and “Vet” to update account information.
6. For each piece of information that is updated, click “Save Changes” to update account.

Found.org

Michelson Found Animals Registry

CONGRATULATIONS!



Thank you for adopting!

Today is the beginning of many new, happy moments together. Whether a first-time or experienced pet guardian, you're bound to have questions along the way.

There's an app for that!

Introducing **Maddie's Pet Assistant**. Send feedback about your pet, receive helpful tips, send adorable photos, keep up to date with vaccinations, and more!

Simply download the FREE app from Google Play or the iTunes Store. You'll receive an email with your login details.

To learn more, visit MaddiesFund.org/MPA



MADDIE'S®
Pet Assistant



Cost of Care

When it comes to the costs of a cat, there's a wide range of prices for nearly every necessity you can think of. The cost of caring for a cat depends on your individual pet's needs and your personal budget. The chart below will give you an idea of what to expect!

<u>Expense</u>	<u>First Year</u>	<u>Each Following Year</u>
Adoption Fee	\$0 - \$50	Not Applicable
Food	\$110 - \$500	\$110 - \$500
Bowls	\$10 - \$50	Not Applicable
Treats	\$10 - \$100	\$10 - \$100
Collar	\$6 - \$50	\$0 - \$50
Litter Box	\$10 - \$200	\$10 - \$200
Litter	\$70 - \$150	\$70 - \$150
Toys	\$20 - \$50	\$20 - \$50
Scratching Post	\$20 - \$300	\$20 - \$300
Cat Bed	\$20 - \$100	\$20 - \$100
Carrier	\$20 - \$75	\$20 - \$75
Veterinary Care and Vaccines	\$110 - \$550	\$110 - \$550
TOTAL	\$406 - \$2125	\$390 - \$2075

*This chart does not include: emergency vet care (which can range from a few hundred to a few thousand, pet sitting services, and professional grooming (which is necessary for certain breeds).

Miscellaneous Information

A Note About Preventatives

Animals adopted from Asheville Humane Society have been given flea and heartworm preventatives as needed. Please note that flea and heartworm preventative should be given per the instructions on the package, and you should follow up with your veterinarian to get prescriptions and refills for these preventatives. Asheville Humane Society is unable to provide prescriptions and refills for these preventatives.

Medical Care

We recommend establishing a veterinarian for your newly adopted animal as soon as possible! Please note that the Asheville Humane Society is unable to provide medical care after adoption.

Please refer to the Veterinary List on the next page to find your new veterinarian!

Veterinary Referral List

All Pets Animal Hospital

7 Reynolds Mountain Blvd.
Asheville, NC 28803
(828) 645-5252

Allen Animal Hospital

24 Critter Trail
Weaverville, NC 28787
(828) 658-2287

All Saints Animal Hospital

720 A. North Grove St.
Hendersonville, NC 28792
(828) 697-1717

Animal Hospital East

1275 Tunnel Rd.
Asheville, NC 28805
(828) 298-6585

Animal Hospital of North Asheville

1 Beaverdam Rd. Asheville, NC 28804
(828) 253-3393

Animal Hospital South

1304 Hendersonville Rd.
Asheville, NC 28803
(828) 277-0600

Appalachian Animal Hospital

68 N Main St.
Weaverville, NC 28787
(828) 658-8989

Arden Animal Hospital

3927 Sweeten Creek Rd.
Asheville, NC 28803
(828) 684-6372

Asheville Veterinary Associates

South 1275 Sweeten Creek Rd.
Asheville, NC 28803
(828) 274-0646

Asheville Veterinary Associates

West 50 New Leicester Hwy.
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 253-0451

Avery Creek Pet Hospital

565 Long Shoals Rd.
Arden, NC 28704
(828) 651-8868

Beacon Veterinary Hospital

101 Whitson Ave.
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 686-3828

Blue Ridge Animal Hospital

306 West State St.
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-8719

Brevard Animal Hospital

1985 Asheville Hwy.
Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-4775

Carolina Pet Care

485 Old Country Home Rd.
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 254-4224

Cat Care Clinic of Asheville

364 Weaverville Hwy.
Asheville, NC 28804
(828) 645-7711

Cedar Ridge Animal Hospital

184 Charlotte Hwy.
Asheville, NC 28803
(828) 575-2430

Charlotte St. Animal Hospital

180 Charlotte St.
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 232-0440

Fairview Animal Hospital

867A Charlotte Hwy.
Fairview, NC 28730
(828) 628-3557

Fletcher Animal Hospital

5515 Hendersonville Rd.
Fletcher, NC 28732
(828) 684-4244

Fox Run Veterinary Services

130 Weaverville Hwy.
Asheville, NC 28804
(828) 645-2908

Haw Creek Animal Hospital

1007 Tunnel Rd.
Asheville, NC 28805
(828) 298-1678

Haywood Animal Hospital

2846 Haywood Rd.
Hendersonville, NC 28791
(828) 697-0446

Health Care For Pets

417 Haywood Rd.
Mills River, NC 28759
(828) 891-4848

Laurel Park Veterinary Hospital

1824 Windsor Dr.
Hendersonville, NC 28791
(828) 697-5686

Madison County Animal Clinic

1800 S. Main St.
Mars Hill, NC 28754
(828) 689-5711

Mountain Animal Hospital

121 Barnardsville Hwy.
Weaverville, NC 28787
(828) 645-1616

Mountain Valley Veterinary**Hospital**

348 New Leicester Hwy.
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 254-2122

Open Door Veterinary Care

1419 Patton Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 417-7768

Pet Vet on Patton Animal**Hospital**

2 Hansel Ave.
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 232-9990

Pinnacle Animal Hospital

200 Julian Lane, Suite 240
Arden, NC 28704
(828)676-2332

Riversong Veterinary Clinic

4 Market Street, Suite 4105
Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 862-8450

Redwood Animal Hospital

1 Crockett Ave.
Asheville, NC 28805
(828) 298-1846

Skyland Animal Hospital

1588 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 252-8644

Smokey Park Veterinary**Hospital**

7 Pisgah Hwy.
Candler, NC 28715
(828) 665-1001

Sunvet Animal Wellness Clinic

251-A Haywood St. Asheville,
NC 28801
(828) 254-2221

Swannanoa Valley Animal**Hospital**

106 Highway 70
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 299-1433

Sweeten Creek Animal & Bird**Hospital**

3131 Sweeten Creek Rd.
Asheville, NC 28803
(828) 684-8875

White Oak Veterinary Hospital

3336 Hendersonville Rd.
Fletcher, NC 28732
(828) 687-2803

WNC Veterinary Hospital

2 Pond St.
Arden, NC 28704
(828) 684-3531