



**HAVEN
HUMANE
SOCIETY**



Adoption Packet

Caring for Your New Cat



HavenHumane.org

Congratulations

on Adopting Your New Family Member!

This is an exciting time for you and your new companion. The joy, the love, and the companionship you'll share will change the lives of both you and your pet.

How your pet develops now depends largely on you. All learning is built on previous experience, and this is true of the first four to twelve weeks in your home. Taking the time now will help your pet make a smooth transition to their new home.

Haven Humane Society pledges to assist and work with you, our adopters, to help your adoption be successful and strengthen the bond between you and your pet. During your pet's stay at Haven Humane, our staff and volunteers worked to give them the very best start on their new life: medical care, nutrition, manners training, and love. We want to continue to assist you, the new guardian, once your animal moves to your home.

Just as you will always be there for your pet, we are always here for you to provide any assistance and information to help your adoption become a lasting success.

Please help us meet our monthly donor goal by becoming a Haven Hero at HavenHumane.org today!





Quick Resources

Morgan Adoption Center

(530) 241-1653

adoptions@havenhumane.org

Haven Humane Veterinary Hospital: (530) 241-1658

Staff Behavior Specialist

training@havenhumane.org

More Help Guides:



Adoption Survey:

We'd appreciate your feedback



Your New Cat's Arrival

Bringing a cat into your life is an exciting experience. Your cat will need to acclimate to their new home and their role as your family's companion.

We recommend providing a personal space for your new cat when you bring them home. A small room with all the items they need will allow your cat to adjust to their new environment at their own pace. As your new cat demonstrates comfort in the new environment, gradually introduce them to all areas of your home. Studies have shown that it can take an adult cat up to eight months to fully integrate into a new home, especially when factors such as children or other pets are present. Be patient and provide your new cat with a lot of affection and positive reinforcement.

Your new pet will most likely hide for the first few days. Don't worry! Do not try to pull them from the hiding place. As soon as they feel comfortable, they will start coming out. Visit your new cat often but don't force any interaction. Simply sit in the room with them. Bringing in a dish of tuna fish or other yummy treats can also help lure the cat out and help to form a positive association with you. Once the cat stops hiding and comes out to you when you visit you can let them out into the whole house.



Feeding

You've heard that cats are finicky. This is often true when it comes to their appetite! Your new cat needs to establish healthy eating habits as soon as they get home. Cats not eating for 36 to 48 hours after arriving in a new home can develop life-threatening health problems. If your new cat rejects the food Haven Humane sent home with you, offer alternative canned and dry foods. Contact your veterinarian if you suspect that your cat is not eating.

Make Carriers Happy Places

Getting your new cat used to the carrier means vet visits and travel will be much easier—and it's super easy to do! Just set the carrier up in a spot where your cat or kitten likes to hang out and keep it out all the time. Prop the door open, place some comfy bedding inside, and feed a treat in the carrier at least once a day. You can also use play to get your cat running in and out of the carrier. If your cat rests in their carrier regularly, mission accomplished!

Introductions

How you introduce your new cat to other household pets may influence long-term relationships between animals. Allow your new cat and your existing pets to experience gradual positive interactions over the course of a few days. It is best to keep your new cat separate from your existing pets in your absence until you are confident in their interactions.

Dogs Introductions

The primary goal for a dog and cat relationship is to teach your dog to not chase your cat(s), and for them to live in harmony. Some dogs simply will not respond to training not to chase a cat. Start with the dog on a leash until you know for sure that the cat is not in danger. Once your new dog and cat seem fine together, you should still make sure that your cat always has an escape route to get away from your dog. A baby gate in a doorway that your cat can jump over or run under to escape the dog is best.

Never grab or pick up any frightened animal and never separate fighting animals with your hands. If you feel you must break up a fight, use a hose or squirt bottle filled with water. Plan short periods of play time, and treat time, and give attention to each pet separately and together. Serve meals at the same time, but start out feeding them in separate locations. **Be patient, the adjustment time takes days and often weeks.** As the dog and cat become more comfortable around each other, they will sort out their relationship.

Children Introductions

Until you are certain that your new cat and children are safe together, make sure that you keep them separate unless supervised. Young children must be closely supervised at all times with kittens as they may accidentally injure the kitten.

Kids sometimes do things to and around cats that make them nervous or afraid. Things like hitting and kicking a cat can cause the cat to defend themselves. But even behaviors like hugging, kissing, and laying on top of the cat can also trigger fear and cause the cat to act aggressively to stop the unwanted interaction. Please teach your children to respect your cat's boundaries.



Cat Introductions

Step 1: Cats Are Kept Separated

Just before you bring your new cat home, confine your resident cat to one room so the cats are unable to see each other. Do not give your resident cat an opportunity to approach the new cat in their carrier. This can be extremely frightening for the new cat.

Bring your new cat directly into their own quiet room. Be sure the door to this room stays closed.

This will allow the two cats to smell and hear—but not see or touch—each other. This helps reduce stress by not overwhelming either cat with too much change too quickly.

Each cat should have essential items within their respective spaces: food, water bowl, litter box, scratching post, and places to hide (cardboard boxes make for easy and inexpensive hiding spots). Do your best to avoid changing your resident cat's environment and routine as much as possible..

During this period of separation, teach the cats to associate each other's scent with positive experiences:



- **Feed the cats treats near the door that separates them** so they learn that coming together (even though they can't see each other) results in a pleasant experience.



- **Offer each cat something that smells like the other cat**, such as bedding or a towel rubbed on each cat's head and cheeks. Place a treat on the bed or towel to help the cats make a positive association with the other cat's smell.



- **Play with each of the cats near the door.** Encourage them to paw at toys under the door. Eventually, the cats may play “paws” under the door with each other.



If your resident cat is not showing signs of stress and your new cat is exploring confidently, eating well, and using the litter box, switch the cats' locations so they can investigate each other's smell. This also allows your new cat to explore a different section of your home.

Cat Introductions continued...

Step 2: Cats Can See Each Other

Only move onto this step if there are no signs of aggression (hissing, growling), both cats are eating well, using their litter box, and otherwise not showing any signs of illness or stress. Remember to take it slow!

Decide if you will use a baby gate for this step or just crack the door open slightly. **Your goal is to allow the cats to see each other, but not interact.** If you use a gate, be sure it is securely in place before opening the door. Use this method with caution because a cat can easily jump over even a tall gate.

- If possible, ask a friend or family member to help by handling one cat while you handle the other on opposite sides of a closed door. Before starting, give each cat a play session and a meal.
- Allow the cats to see each other. When one cat notices the other, offer them a tasty treat or engage them with a favorite toy. Avoid forcing them to get closer. It's important to let the introduction happen at their own pace.
- Let the cats see each other for just a few minutes and end each session while both cats are still relaxed. Continue to keep the cats fully separated between these sessions.
- Over the next few days, continue to feed meals, offer treats, and play with the cats near the barrier. Gradually lengthen the amount of time the cats see each other.

Step 3: Cat Time Together!

Hold off on this step until the cats are completely relaxed during step 2 and show no signs of conflict or aggression. Supervise these initial face-to-face interactions carefully and keep the interactions short at first.

It's a good idea to play with each cat while they can see each other through the barrier, then feed them a meal before removing the barrier. This helps ensure both cats are calm when they spend time together.

Start with brief sessions, gradually increasing the time they spend together. Carefully watch both cats for signs of stress and avoid forcing them to approach each other.

Keep a large towel handy in case the cats begin to fight. If they do fight, do not touch them. Use the towel to block them from seeing one another, then lure them away from each other. Go back to step 2 for about another week, then try removing the barrier again.



Litter Box Training

Cats are not born knowing how to use the litter box. It is something that is taught by those who help to guide them on the right path through confinement and redirection. Cats instinctively want to dig and bury their urine and excrement.

Change is one of the most common catalysts for cats developing litter box problems and one huge change is being adopted and going into a new home! To make the transition as successful as possible it is best to follow these simple guidelines:



One Box

One large lid-free box per cat in the household as a minimum. Your cat has been using a litter box without a lid at Haven and using the same type in your home will make it more likely your pet successfully transitions.



Location

Select a location that is away from high traffic areas and easily accessible. If there are dogs in the home, make sure that they do not have access to the litterbox or food (a dog startling a new cat in a litterbox can lead to problems).



Scoop 2x

Thoroughly scoop the box twice a day. Once a week, dump and clean the box with soap and water (do not use lemon scented or strong scented soap).



Food

Food and boxes should not be in the same space.



Type

Cats prefer sand-type litters without strong perfumes.

Microchips

What is it?

A Microchip is about the size of a grain of rice, and provides an identification number that is maintained by a national registry. This number can be traced to a pet's guardian.

Why is it important?

A microchip implant is a great way of ensuring your pet's identification. **Every dog and cat adopted from Haven Humane goes home with a microchip identification implant from HomeAgain.** New owners should buy a collar to display an ID tag, rabies tag, and microchip tag. Other animal shelters or rescue groups, as well as veterinarians, can scan lost pets for microchips.

Your HomeAgain microchip comes with extra free benefits your first year, but your microchip will always work without any fee.

IMPORTANT!

If you move or change phone numbers, be sure to update your information with the microchip provider.



HomeAgain® offers the essentials for pet recovery and safety

With a HomeAgain microchip, your pet gets:

- Lifetime registration in the HomeAgain National Pet Recovery Database!
- 1 year of HomeAgain membership benefits FREE, renewable annually (see below)
- And, FREE updates in the HomeAgain National Pet Recovery Database



HomeAgain National Pet Recovery Database

Every pet with a registered HomeAgain microchip has a permanent listing in our National Pet Recovery Database. Be sure to complete your profile with your contact information, emergency contacts, your pet's photo, and any additional details about your pet.

HomeAgain Membership Benefits

After the first year, renew membership benefits annually.



24/7 Lost Pet Specialists

Lost Pet Specialists are trained to respond to lost pet emergencies by quickly sending rapid Lost Pet Alerts and providing you with a list of animal shelters and veterinary clinics in your area.



Rapid Lost Pet Alerts & Lost Pet Posters

Dedicated Recovery Specialists send rapid Lost Pet Alerts to the HomeAgain Pet Recovery Network of volunteer veterinarians, shelters, and Pet Rescuers in the area where your pet went missing. You can also create a Lost Pet Poster on the HomeAgain website to begin your search promptly.



24/7 Emergency Medical Hotline (\$65 value per call)

HomeAgain membership includes FREE, anytime telephone assistance provided by licensed ASPCA veterinarians.



Found Pet Travel Assistance

HomeAgain offers complete protection when your lost cat or dog has traveled over 500 miles away. Up to \$500 of travel expenses red to fly your pet back home.

Declawing

There is a simple alternative to declawing that is available for your cat. [Introduce a scratching post.](#)

You can make it yourself or it can be purchased. Your cat's scratching post should be tall enough so your cat can stretch completely when scratching, and stable enough so it won't wobble when being used. It should be covered with a strong, heavy, rough fiber like the backside of carpeting and lined with catnip.

Make the post a fun place by placing toys around it or rubbing it with catnip. You can place it near a window complete with a bird or squirrel feeder in sight. If you're trying to discourage your cat from scratching a particular piece of furniture, try placing the post in front of it, and gradually moving the post aside as your cat begins to use it regularly.

Clipping the nails every week or two keeps nails short and less able to do damage. With the owner's patience and training, most cats will allow nail trimming. If possible get your kitten used to having its feet handled and nails clipped while young. Your veterinarian can show you how to trim your cat's nails. The only equipment necessary is a good pair of nail clippers. Don't forget to praise your cat while you clip the nails, and reward with a treat.

Declawing is illegal in many cities and countries and is strongly discouraged by the animal welfare community.

We strongly discourage declawing your cat. It's the equivalent of amputating the tip of a person's finger at the last joint. Declawing actually includes the removal of tendons, ligaments, bone, nerves as well the claw.



Toys + Exercise

Adult cats sleep an average of eighteen hours a day! Small balls*, wand toys, and mouse-prey substitutes are great for prey-driven cats. Toys that dangle from a pole, on strings that wriggle, or that can be pulled along will also make a cat that wants to chase happy. More sedate cats may enjoy catnip-filled toys and treats sprinkled around the house allowing the cat to hunt for food.

****Small balls are discouraged if dogs are present in the home as they may present a choking hazard***



Scratching

Cats have the innate need to "scent mark" and exercise the tendons in their feet. Scratching posts provide areas in your home where you can allow your cat to scratch. If you can, get your cat interested in a material that doesn't replicate surfaces in your home (cardboard or sisal as opposed to carpet or fabric), so your cat will be less likely to destroy your furnishings. If your cat is a vigorous scratcher, you can use a deterrent material (like sticky tape or metallic materials like aluminum foil) to redirect your cat to a dedicated scratching area.

Lifetime of Wellness

The health of your pet is important to us, especially during their initial transition into your home.

Most of the animals entering our facility are stray animals with unknown histories, and many have never received any preventative veterinary care like vaccines, deworming or parasite prevention. In an effort to reduce the spread of disease, all animals entering our facility are dewormed and vaccinated for many common diseases.

In addition, they also undergo a brief medical assessment prior to adoption. Even with these measures we are unable to guarantee that all animals are 100% free of disease.

To start your pet off on the right track, it's very important to schedule an appointment with your family veterinarian for a new pet exam within the first week of adoption.

Your veterinarian will examine your pet, discuss proper care and nutrition, and address any questions you have about your new pet.

Be sure to bring a copy of your pet's adoption paperwork with medical history with you to your pet's first appointment.

What To Do If Your Cat Becomes Lost

Cats are more likely to go missing in their first few weeks in a new home.

During this time, they may feel anxious and disoriented, making them eager to explore or escape. New smells and sounds, including other cats nearby, can draw their attention. Family members may also accidentally leave doors or gates open.

If your cat does get lost, don't panic! Most lost cats are found within a third of a mile from home. A cat that is not used to being outside is likely to be hiding in bushes or under buildings very close to home. If you can't locate your cat, visit Haven Humane to check if they've been brought in and file a Lost Pet Report.

For more search help & tips, visit our website:
havenhumane.org/lost-pets



Adoption Program!

Adopt a dog or cat, get complimentary products!
(Limit one adoption program per customer)

Choose from a selection of healthy **food, treats, and toppers** to give your new pet the nutrition it deserves!



Take 15% off the rest of your first visit!

**Name, address, email and adoption paperwork required.
(530) 338-2160
1726 Churn Creek Road, Redding CA, 96002



Frequently Asked Questions



When do I need to take my new pet to the veterinarian?

Each pet adopted from Haven Humane has received (at least) their first set of vaccines, parasite prevention, deworming medication, a spay/neuter, and a health assessment by our staff.

Visit your family veterinarian within three (3) days of adoption to continue their vaccines and deworming, as well as start appropriate monthly heartworm and parasite prevention.



What should I do if my pet becomes ill?

If your pet shows signs of shelter related illness within 10 days of adoption, please schedule a free exam with our vet hospital.

After 10 days, all appointments must be made with your regular vet.



How will I know if my pet is sick?

Common signs of illness in animals can include, vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, sneezing, poor appetite, or lethargy. If you have any concerns about your pet's health, contact your family veterinarian.



What if I want to return my pet?

We recognize that some pet matches may not be successful through no fault of the person or the pet.

If you return your pet within 10 days of adoption, we will transfer your adoption fee towards the adoption of a different animal from HHS. You will have 90 days to pick your new animal.

Please bring any copies of medical records with you when returning your pet.

More Community Support

Stray Cat Services

We have free and reduced-price spay/neuters for stray cats in our community.

Vaccine Clinics

Every Wednesday, we hold low-cost Vaccine Clinics for the public.

Foster Program

Fosters save lives! They give our most vulnerable animals the care and time they need outside the shelter.



Please help us meet our monthly donor goal by becoming a Haven Hero at HavenHumane.org

What is Haven Humane?

Haven Humane Society is more than an animal shelter; we are a community-supported animal resource center providing compassion and care for all animals.

Since 1952, Haven Humane has offered lifesaving programs and services for animals and the people who love them in the greater Shasta County area. At our Anderson campus, we provide shelter, dedicated care, and new beginnings for thousands of our community's most vulnerable animals every year.

In addition to pet adoptions and fostering, we focus on programs and services aimed at helping people care for and keep their pets, such as free and low-cost spay/neuter and vaccines, a pet food pantry, and licensing services. In 2023, Haven Humane helped more than 7,000 animals through adoptions, rehabilitation, lost & found, veterinary services, Animal Regulations, and rescue.

Haven Humane is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our tax ID number is 94-1634752.

Contact Us:

Office: Haven Humane Society
7449 Eastside Road
Anderson, CA 96007

Email: adoptions@havenhumane.org

Phone: (530) 241-1653



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HavenHumane.org

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING