



Champaign Area Trap Spay / Neuter and Adoption Program

CAT ADOPTION PACKET

Thank You!



**CATSNAP – Champaign Area Trap Spay/Neuter and
Adoption Program**

PO Box 456 Savoy, IL 61874

Website: catsnap.org

Email: catsnap@catsnap.org

Phone Number: (217) 689-0770

From CATSNAP Team,

Congratulations on adopting a rescue cat! In this packet, we have compiled information regarding your cat's health, safety and overall well being. Take the necessary time to learn about the various ways you can take care of your cat - especially if you are a first time adopter! We wish you a long life with your new furry friend!

CATSNAP is always here to help! We are an email catsnap@catsnap.org away for whatever your needs are. You can also reach us on Facebook Page [CATSNAP](#) and send us a private message. We try to respond as soon as we can.

CATSNAP team members appreciate feedback and updated photos of your cat at his new home! We thrive on updates – updates on our pets in their new homes is what keeps us going to save the next animal in need!

If for any reason the new adoption doesn't work out, the cat must come back to CATSNAP– no questions asked!

REMEMBER, the first weeks with your new cat are the toughest on both of you. Your new cat will be confused about where she is and what to expect from you. We hope that the information in this packet will help you ease into the transition for you and your new best friend!

Also, be sure to start out with the food that we feed the cat so that you can provide the same in the beginning, again to ease the transition. After the pet has settled in, talk with your veterinarian about switching to the food of your choice. **Right now we feed our cat Hills Science Diet Chow. We use non clumping clay litter and pine pellet litter. You can use non-clumping or clumping litter for your needs. We recommend using unscented litter, and avoiding lightweight litter for the well being of the cat.**

Checklist for New Adopters

Before you bring your cat home

Congratulations on adopting a pet! You are embarking on a wonderful and rewarding relationship. Because adopting a new pet comes with a lot of change for both pet and pet parent, we've compiled a checklist to help make the transition as smooth as possible.



Shopping Checklist:

It may be a good idea to wait until you select your new pet before you begin shopping for supplies. For example, some items, such as food and water bowls depend upon the size of the pet you will be adopting.

Once you've selected your pet, here's a checklist of supplies you may need:

Necessary Items for Cats:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and water preferably glass bowls and Food (canned and/or dry) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cat bed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cat Water fountain – keeps water fresh and encourages cats to drink more | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of toys (toys including catnip are a favorite) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter box and scooper | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of treats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitty litter | <input type="checkbox"/> Brush or comb (depends on your pet's coat length and type) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hard Plastic Carrier | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers | |

When you plan to pick up your new cat, you will need to bring: A clean carrier with a clean blanket/towel inside it; Your Identification; Adoption fee is either in cash or check or you can make the donation online via catsnap.org (PayPal, Debit, or Credit Card works).

Tips to Keep Your Cat Happy Indoors

Help your kitty discover the Great Indoors

It's a myth that going outside is a requirement for feline happiness. Playing regularly with a cat and providing their entertaining toys can easily satisfy their stalking instinct, keep them stimulated and provides the exercise they need to stay healthy and happy.

Here are some tips for making the great indoors an interesting, feline-friendly environment that meets all of your cat's needs.



Tip #1 Start 'em young

Kittens who are kept indoors are usually happy to stay there as they grow up.

Tip #2 Hang out

Install a perch indoors near a sunny window; padded perches can be purchased at many pet supply stores, through catalog retailers or at our online store.

Tip #3 Tree's company

Buy a ready-made cat tree (often called a "kitty condo"), or make your own. A cat tree can be short, or may stretch from floor to ceiling. It provides great climbing opportunities and, in multi-cat households, creates more play and rest areas by taking advantage of vertical space. If you can, locate the cat tree next to a window so your cat can watch the action outdoors.

Tip #4 Play time

Play with your cat each day. Try different types of toys that allow your cat to stalk, chase, pounce and kick. When you've tired out your cat, store toys that could harm them (such as toys with strings attached) out of reach. When you can't be there to supervise, leave out "toys" such as paper bags (with the handles removed) or cardboard boxes. Be sure to switch the toys from time to time so that they seem "new" and more interesting to your cat.

Tip #5 Clean house

Cats can be neat freaks, so clean the litter box regularly. Research tips for preventing and solving litter box problems.

Tip #6 Chip in for safety

CATSNAP cats are microchipped and registered with your name and address. This keeps your contact information with the microchip registry up to date. If you do lose your cat, contact your local animal shelter immediately to file a report.

Tips for the First 30 Days of Cat Adoption

Before You Bring Your Cat Home:

- Cats are territorial, and coming into a new home leaves them feeling really uneasy. There's all that unexplored space, and who knows what may lurk there. Do the cat a favor and provide a small area to call his own for the first few days or weeks. A bathroom or laundry room works well. Furnish the room with cat amenities, such as food, water and a litter box. You'll want to spend time with your cat, so make sure there's a comfortable place for you to sit as well.
- Fill a litter box with one or two inches of litter and place it in his room where he can use it undisturbed. After all, everyone deserves a modicum of privacy when pottying, and giving him that will help forestall litter box aversion.



Set up a feeding station with food and water bowls. Locate it away from the litter box.

- Cats love to get away from it all in small places, and you can provide one for your new cat as his own little safe haven. If he came home in a cat carrier, that might be a good choice. You can also make one by cutting a doorway for her in the end of a box. If you prefer, you can buy a covered cat bed at a pet supply store. In either case, make sure the space is big enough for the cat to stand up and turn around in.
- A cat's claws need to be worn down, and they do this by scratching on things. Since you prefer that it not be your chairs and sofa, provide your cat with a socially acceptable scratching place. Some types are made of corrugated cardboard and lie on the floor; others are posts which have to be tall enough so that the cat can extend himself upward to scratch. You can encourage your cat (once he has arrived) to use the post by sprinkling it with catnip or dangling a toy at the top. He'll get the idea. You'll probably want a scratching post in each room where there is soft furniture, perhaps blocking access to it. You can also install sticky tape (available at pet supply stores) to corners of upholstered furniture to dissuade scratching.
- Look at your house with a curious cat's eye view for its climbing and exploring potential. When your cat is acclimated to your home, you may be surprised to find him on top of the upper kitchen cabinets, so make sure there's nothing on display there or on other high shelves that can be damaged or knocked off.
- Look for holes or registers that leave ductwork accessible and cover them up. A kitten can easily slither into one of these. You won't want firemen in the house, jackhammering the concrete floor to extract your cat.



- If possible, buy a cat tree for your new family member. Cats like to survey their territory, so a high perch is often a favored resting place.
- If there are other human family members, go over the ground rules about your new pet. Remind them not to startle him and to keep the door to his room shut.

First Day:

- Now, you are ready for your cat's homecoming. Bring her home in a cat carrier. It will feel safer to her. She has seen a lot of excitement, so take her directly to her new room. (Make sure the toilet lid is down, if she's to acclimate in your bathroom.) Ideally, you would restrict her exposure to the whole family, but naturally, everyone is going to want to see her. Remind them of the ground rules you've set up.
- Sit on the floor and let her come to you. Don't force her. Just let her get acquainted on her own time. If she doesn't approach, leave her alone and try again later. Some cats are particularly frightened, and she may retreat to her hidey hole and not come out when you're around at all. She may only come out at night when the house is quiet. Give her time.
- Your newly adopted cat may not eat much or at all at first. It's best to give your cat the same food she had at CATSNAP, at least at first. Keeping some things familiar will make her feel more secure. Be sure to change her water frequently and make sure that she is drinking. If your cat hasn't eaten for more than one day, call your vet to ask for advice.



Following Weeks:

It may take your cat a week or two to adjust. Be patient.

- Within a week of being adopted, take your newly adopted cat for her first wellness visit with a veterinarian. Take the record of immunizations that you obtain from us. Don't have a vet? Ask us for vet recommendations.
- As your cat adjusts, she'll show signs that she wants to explore outside her safe haven. Make sure other pets or family members won't startle her while she gradually expands her territory. She may be ready to play, so you can furnish some toys. Many cats like feather wands from the pet supply store, but homemade toys are often favored. A wad of a tissue paper to bat around or a paper bag to hide in can be fun.



Congratulations! If you follow these tips, you'll be on your way to having a well-adjusted feline family member.

Source: <https://www.petfinder.com/cats/bringing-a-cat-home/tips-for-first-30-days-cat/>

Declawing cats: Far Worse than a Manicure!

People often mistakenly believe that declawing their cats is a harmless "quick fix" for unwanted scratching. They don't realize that declawing can make a cat *less likely to use the litter box* or *more likely to bite!* Declawing also can cause lasting physical problems for your cat.

Many countries have banned declawing. The Humane Society of the United States opposes declawing except for the rare cases when it is necessary for medical purposes, such as the removal of cancerous nail bed tumors.

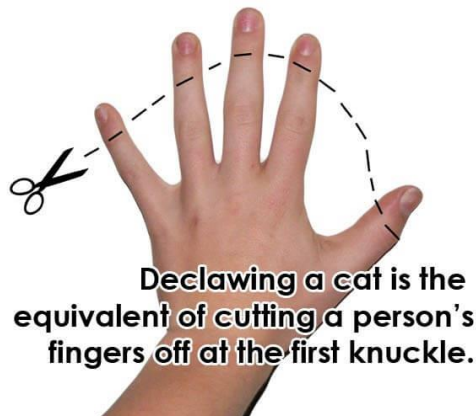
THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND SCRATCHING Scratching is normal cat behavior. It isn't done to destroy a favorite chair or to get even. Cats scratch to remove the dead husks from their claws, mark territory, and stretch their muscles.

Cats are usually about 8 weeks old when they begin scratching. That's the ideal [time to train kittens to use a scratching post and allow nail trims](#). Pet caregivers should not consider declawing a routine prevention for unwanted scratching. Declawing can actually lead to an entirely different set of behavior problems that may be worse than shredding the couch.



WHAT IS DECLAWING? Too often, people think that declawing is a simple surgery that removes a cat's nails—the equivalent of having your fingernails trimmed. Sadly, this is far from the truth. **Declawing traditionally involves the amputation of the last bone of each toe.**

It is an unnecessary surgery that provides no medical benefit to the cat. Educated pet parents can easily train their cats to use their claws in a manner that allows everyone in the household to live together happily.

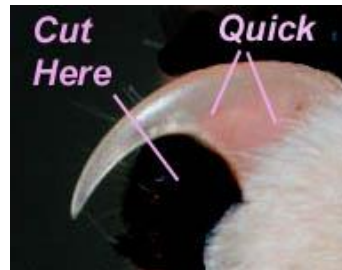


SOME NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF DECLAWING. Medical drawbacks to declawing include pain in the paw, infection, tissue necrosis (tissue death), lameness, and back pain. Removing claws changes the way a cat's foot meets the ground and can cause pain similar to wearing an uncomfortable pair of shoes. There can also be a regrowth of improperly removed claws, nerve damage, and bone spurs.

For several days after surgery, shredded newspaper is typically used in the litter box to prevent litter from irritating declawed feet. This unfamiliar litter substitute, accompanied by pain when scratching in the box, may lead cats to stop using the litter box. Some cats may become biters because they no longer have their claws for defense.

TIPS FOR STOPPING UNWANTED SCRATCHING. If you are worried about your cat damaging your home, or want to avoid unwanted scratching, start with these tips:

- [Keep their claws trimmed](#) to minimize damage to household items.



- [Provide stable scratching posts and boards around your home.](#) Offer different materials like carpet, sisal, wood, and cardboard, as well as different styles (vertical and horizontal). Use [toys](#) and [catnip](#) to entice your cat to use the posts and boards.
- Ask your veterinarian about soft plastic caps (like Soft Paws®) that are glued to the cat's nails. They need to be replaced about every six weeks.
- Attach a special tape (like Sticky Paws®) to furniture to deter your cat from unwanted scratching.



[Sticky Paws on Amazon.com »](#)
[Nail Caps on Amazon.com »](#)



DON'T SUBJECT YOUR CAT TO UNNECESSARY PROCEDURES. Declawing and tendonectomies should be reserved only for those rare cases in which a cat has a medical problem that would warrant such surgery, such as the need to remove cancerous nail bed tumors.

CATSNAP, Who Are We?

Established in 2005, CATsNAP seeks to reduce pet overpopulation and to improve the welfare of animals in the greater Champaign County Illinois area. Specifically, we strongly advocate that all animals are spayed and neutered, regardless of breed, sex, or age. By spaying/neutering, we are reducing the number of cats and dogs born into situations of inadequate care and abuse. We are also limiting the numbers of unwanted animals relinquished to shelters, where they are often euthanized for lack of space. CATsNAP does not endorse the buying of domestic animals from large-scale commercial breeders or from any of the outlets they supply.

CATsNAP of Central Illinois:

- Referral for a low income spay/neuter service.
- Adopts out cats and occasional dogs
- Provides educational materials to promote successful pet ownership
- Assists feral cat caretakers with spay/neuter information and resources
- Limited intake from high kill shelters, strays, Animal Control and other various places. **Seldom takes owner relinquishment.** Those animals are referred to Champaign County Humane Society (217) 344-7297 which does an excellent job of placing animals from Champaign County
- *All animals are in foster homes or at an off-site adoption partner site. Animals are never euthanized for space.*

For any inquiries please visit our website at catsnap.org or email us at http://catsnap@catsnap.org

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR FOSTER HOMES! Please visit our website catsnap.org and submit a foster application!

