



New Adopter Packet

A note to our adopters:

Congratulations on your newest family member! We know you're going to have a lifetime of love and companionship! With the proper care that can be a very long time for your new kitty. We thank you for adopting from us and want you to know that we are always here to guide you or answer questions you may have. In this packet are some commonly asked questions, what to expect when you first bring your new kitty home, how to keep kitty healthy, and some tips and tricks we've learned along the way. Thank you for loving your kitty as much as we do!

Now what?!

Your kitty will be a bit nervous when you first arrive home. The best way for everyone to feel comfortable and safe is with a slow introduction. Before you get home, designate a certain room for kitty, this can be your bedroom, a spare room, or even a large bathroom. Set up the designated room for your new kitty to stay in for the first 7-10 days. It should have food, water, litter box, bed, blankets, toys, etc....After this time, you can start letting kitty explore more of their new home. By now, they will trust you and be ready to fully move in!

How to introduce current pets

We recommend waiting to introduce kitty to any current pets until they are comfortable and trusting of you. To prevent anyone from being scratched out of fear, we recommend putting kitty into a carrier for this first introduction. Allow your current pet to come in slowly and sniff. Hissing, growling, and even a swat can be perfectly normal. Remember this new kitty is meeting a stranger for the first time and is scared. It may take several of these types of introductions before everyone is comfortable around each other. Be patient with all pets involved, they should not be punished for being uncertain of each other during this time.

First Vet Visit

We require all adopted cats to visit their veterinarian within the first 7 days. Veterinarians can be booked weeks out, so be sure to call and schedule their wellness appointment immediately. All cats/kittens have received age appropriate vaccines, as well as deworming and flea prevention. Please bring their records to the vet with you on your first visit so your vet can administer any further treatment. Take this opportunity to ask your Dr any healthy living questions and address any concerns you may have about your cat.

How often will my cat need to see the veterinarian?

Kittens receive an initial series of vaccines during their first 6 months. These include FVRCP, Bordetella, and Chlamydia. Once kitty is 4 pounds they'll need a rabies vaccine. After this initial series, these vaccines will be required just once a year. Some of these vaccines are available in a 3 year dose option. An annual wellness visit should be scheduled with your family veterinarian every year for life. Your veterinarian will also discuss flea prevention options, deworming, diet, training, and any concerns you may have.

Declawing

Hoffmeyer cats and kittens are absolutely not permitted to be declawed! Declawing causes a lifetime of pain and deterioration of health. Declawing a cat actually means amputating the last bone of every toe. This is similar to having every finger cut off at the knuckle! Tips to stop unwanted scratching: Keep claws trimmed, provide stable scratching posts, ask your veterinarian about plastic cat claw caps, and attach a special tape (like sticky Paws) to furniture to deter cats from scratching.

What treatment has my kitty already had?

Your kitten will have received at least their first vaccines with us. If your kitten is big enough, they will have also received a rabies vaccine. Adult cats are up to date on all vaccines. All cats have also received deworming medication and monthly flea preventative. Many cats/kittens come to us sick and require treatment, all treatments are listed on your cat's adoption paperwork and should be taken to your veterinarian at their initial visit within the first 7 days after adoption. Your kitties' health history will be discussed and provided to you at time of adoption. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions regarding your cat's health history! We are always here for advice if your kitty feels under the weather, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Is my kitty spayed or neutered?

All of-weight Hoffmeyer cats have been spayed or neutered prior to adoption. This procedure is included in your adoption fee. We love to see our kittens be able to go home and bond with their new family, so if your kitten is not yet of weight, this surgery will be provided to you once they are big enough. To schedule your surgery, simply reach out to us by email: HuguetteHoffmeyerRescue@gmail.com.

The Kitty Cold

Cats/kittens in a rescue environment can be exposed to many common viruses including upper respiratory infection (URI), feline herpes virus, and calicivirus. Symptoms include runny nose, congestion leading to open mouth breathing, coughing, discharge from eyes, lethargy, and sometimes fever. Most cats will recover on their own in 7-10 days. Please have your kitty seen at their veterinarian if any of the following symptoms should arise: Infection of the eyes, nose, or mouth (yellow/green discharge), limping, fever, swelling of the face or limbs, weight loss, loss of appetite, diarrhea, or lethargy.

Parasites:

Coccidia, Giardia, Roundworms, Hookworms, and Flea Tapeworms are common parasites that can live in the intestinal wall of your pet. Some Hoffmeyer cats/kittens have been treated for these based on symptoms and fecal testing. We strongly recommend you to have your veterinarian test for these at their initial visit by getting a fecal float. They can often present with no symptoms. Symptoms of these include: soft to watery stool that can sometimes have a green tint and occasionally contains blood, stool may also have excess mucus and have a sour smell, vomiting, weight loss, and dehydration. If any of these symptoms are present, please seek help from your veterinarian.

Ringworm

Ringworm is very common in Florida! This is actually not a worm, but a type of fungus that occurs on the skin. Ringworm is usually easily treated, if your cat shows symptoms of ringworm do not fear! Ringworm symptoms include: circular area of hair loss, scaling or crusty skin, alterations in hair color, inflamed areas of skin, excessive grooming and scratching, and dandruff. Ringworm usually initially presents on the cooler areas of the cat ex: ears, face, tail, and paws. Ringworm can be detected by examining the patch under a blacklight, these patches will glow green. Over the counter treatment includes using diluted organic apple cider vinegar to wipe the areas, and applying Lotrimin for Ringworm cream twice daily for 2 weeks, this can be purchased at most pharmacies. Because it is highly contagious between cats/other mammals, including humans, you'll want to thoroughly wash hands after touching your cat during this time. Also, keep kitty quarantined separate from all other pets, use extra precautions with children.

What if my new kitten misses the litter box?

All cats/kittens that come from us have been litter box trained. Sometimes they simply get lost in a new home and forget where it is. Be sure to keep the box in the same spot until your new kitty gets the lay of the land. There are many types of litter, feel free to choose the one that suits your home best. Helpful tip: If kittens have a difficult time at first, try Dr. Elsey's Kitten Attract litter. It will be helpful to pick up the droppings and place them in the box to help kitty learn the proper place to go potty!

Other litter box issues:

Change in foods and even water can cause a little bit of tummy upset, or even softer stool. We recommend not changing food or a very slow diet change to ease any upset. If you see anything concerning as you scoop during this time, such as loose stool, blood, or gelatin-like substances, we recommend contacting your veterinarian right away and having a fecal float performed.

How do I properly change my cat's diet?

Our cats are fed Purina Cat Chow or Purina Kitten Chow if less than 1 year. If you are going to change their food brand, we recommend you do so using this technique: Transition by mixing the old food brand with the new food brand. Each feeding decrease the amount of the old brand and increase the amount of the new brand, do this slowly over a 21 day period.

Healthy Diet:

Cats of all ages require a constant supply of fresh water. Please be sure your cat has access to his/her water bowl or fountain at all times. Many cats prefer to use a water fountain, these promote better hydration. Cats should eat at least two meals per day, about 12 hours apart, while kittens should be fed three times daily. If you choose to feed your cat wet food, please do not leave it out as it will sour. Be sure to choose a well balanced food, look for a statement on the bag from the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) stating that the food is complete and balanced and meets the cat's nutritional requirements. Any kitten under the age of 1 year should eat a diet of Kitten food until their 1st birthday.

TOXINS and POISONS

There are many hidden household dangers that can be toxic and even deadly to your cat! It is very important to NEVER give your cat any human medication! You'll want to avoid giving kitty bites of your food also but especially dangerous foods are: Alcohol, caffeine, chives, chocolate, garlic, grapes, onions, raisins, and xylitol (found in toothpaste, gum, and candy). There are several types of plants and flowers that are toxic and even deadly to cats as well. These include: Aloe, Azalea, Chrysanthemum, Hyacinths, Lily, Marijuana, Mistletoe, Rhododendron, Sago Palm, and Tulip. Many of these are brought in our homes during the holidays so please use caution! Avoid contact with any household cleaners, including bleach, Lysol, Clorox wipes, and detergents. Never allow cats around Antifreeze, fertilizers, herbicides, or rodent/insect bait! Other household hazards include chicken bones, dental floss, yarn, or string, and holiday decorations, including lights and tinsel.

Cat/Kitten Supply list:

- Cat carrier for car rides. (Including the one home)
- Litter Box-There are so many options, anywhere from a simple box to a robot that does most of the cleaning for you!
- Litter-whichever brand works best for your family or your specific litter box
- Litter scoop
- Food and water bowls or a water fountain
- A balanced, healthy cat or kitten food
- TOYS! Cats of all ages need enrichment! Provide them with many types of toys and swap frequently. Cats can be very easily entertained by a simple cardboard box or tube! You can get as creative as you like with this! (Please be sure all toys are safe and "cat approved") -Other optional supplies include: Cat bed, treats, catnip, nail clippers, cat towers, trees, scratch posts, window seats, string toys, balls, feather toys, laser pointer, etc... HAVE FUN!

Other cat Tips:

- Be sure to provide your kitty with a constant supply of fresh, clean water
- Litter box should be cleaned daily. This can be done by scooping the clumping litter out and/ or dumping the entire thing and refilling.
- Kittens will be VERY playful, they can play-bite and scratch. Please use caution around children and never punish your kitten for simply being a kitten and playing! Many toys and climbers can be helpful and entertaining to them!
- Cats love scratch posts! The best way to prevent furniture scratching is to provide your cat with his/her own scratcher. They can be taught where it is appropriate to scratch by redirecting them to their scratch post.
- Cats are pros at hiding when they don't feel well, be sure to note any change in behavior especially not eating.
- Cats love to sunbathe! Open a window and allow them to safely catch some rays!
- Cats are not safe outdoors! There are numerous predators and cars! We require all cats adopted from Hoffmeyer to remain indoor cats only!
- A microchip is the fastest way to reunite lost cats to their owners! We provide them to all adopted cats, your cats microchip is already registered to you through us. Be sure to keep your contact information updated!

Phone numbers and resources:

Hoffmeyer Animal Rescue:

352-455-7421 Text/Call

HoffmeyerAR@gmail.com

296 Silverado Street, Tavares FL 32778

Hoffmeyer Surgery Scheduling:

HuguetteHoffmeyerRescue@gmail.com

Animal Poison Control

888-426-4435

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