

Tails of the Free

Caring for Cats in Stores

When entering the store, please identify yourself to staff as a Tails of the Free Rescue volunteer if you have not met them before.

****** Make Sure You Sign the Sign-in / Log sheet ******

Be friendly to those interested in the cats and offer to give them information if they seem interested.

CLEANING CAT CAGES

GENERAL

Not only does a thorough and effective cleaning prevent the spread of communicable diseases, it creates a better environment for animals, staff, and visitors. Animals enter our care from different locations with unknown medical histories and varied past exposure to disease. Cleaning cat cages correctly will ensure a healthy, less stressful stay. All cat cages should be cleaned and disinfected at least once daily.

REMOVE CAT FROM CAGE TO PLAY

Let the cat out of the cage to exercise and play in the designated area, hold the cat, or place the cat in a portable cat carrier or crate. You can also use the cage divider when cleaning the cage if necessary. Disinfect the carrier after each use to prevent the spread of disease. Some cats are allowed to interact with other cats during the cleaning process, if they get along and are not sick.

REMOVE BLANKET/TOYS/BOWLS ETC.

Shake the blanket or towel over the garbage can or cage pan (before you clean it) to remove any spilled litter or food. When the blanket or towel is considerably soiled, place it in the laundry basket or take it home and wash it. Replace soiled bedding with clean bedding. Otherwise, set it aside to put back into the cage later. Place toys with the blanket or towel. When a toy or dish is soiled, however, please wash/disinfect it. Wash with soap and water and replace or put in the designated storage area and put out a new bowl and toy.

REMOVE SOLID WASTE

All waste is removed from the litter pan and placed in the garbage can. Add clean litter if needed. If the litter pan is excessively dirty, empty the entire contents, wipe down the pan (if needed), and replace with clean litter. If a deodorizing powder is available, sprinkle or mix with litter.

REPLACING ARTICLES

After the cage is clean, put the towel or linen back in, and place the litter pan back in the cage; add the cat's filled food and water dishes, and toys.

FEEDING CATS

FOOD

The cats are fed dry food. Cats are fed after cages have been cleaned. Dry cat food is provided for cats on a free-feeding basis, because they tend to eat several small meals during the day. Be sure that the cat food dishes are placed as far away as possible from the litter pan. If available you may also feed cats wet food. This does not necessarily need to be done every day or for every cat. Use your judgment. Please divide one can of wet food between the cats. Do not give a whole can to only one cat.

WATER

All cats are given fresh water each day, and water bowls should be washed and refilled when necessary.

MEDICATING CATS

MEDICAL RECORD (Intake Sheets)

Beginning with entry into the Store, a medical record is maintained for all animals, including information on inoculations, deworming, and flea treatment. This information tracks the dates each animal is scheduled for a distemper inoculation or for de-worming and flea treatment and also provides pet adopters with a complete medical history of the animal while housed at the shelter. The medical record is kept inside the binder and is made available to potential adopters. It stays with the animal, whether the animal is at the store, vet, foster, or adopter.

MEDICATION CARD

A brightly colored note on the cage card identifies cats receiving medical treatment at the store. Such treatment includes medications for upper respiratory infection (URI), ear mites, a skin disorder, etc. This information is recorded by volunteer for each cat receiving medication and initialed each time the animal is treated.

SICK CATS

If you believe a cat is sick, please let someone know. You can post to the private FB group, let the store point person know or let the intake coordinator know.

Any cats who are not feeling well should have their cages cleaned thoroughly each day, ensuring the bowls are washed with warm, soapy water.

Please keep a record of medications on the back of each animal's intake sheet in the binder. This could be eye ointment, flea treatment, dewormers, etc, so the information can be passed on with the animal.