



P.O. Box 590056, Newton Centre, MA 02459  
781-893-CATS (2287)  
info@evaskitties.org  
www.evaskitties.org

## **FOSTER HOME GUIDELINES**

### SAFETY & SECURITY

All foster cats are never allowed outdoors. When transported to the vet, or for any other reason (i.e. for pet adoption day), the cat must be in a secure pet carrier (provided by Eva's Kitties, Inc.).

It is recommended to inform your neighbors that you have cat(s) so that they may be better able to assist you in case of a household emergency. Additionally, pet alert stickers are available online or at your local pet store. Display these on your doors to notify first responders.

All fostered cats need to be protected! To prevent an escape, train yourself, household members, and guests to look before opening an outside door. A breakaway collar (one that pulls apart if snagged on something) with a small bell will help you be aware of the cat's presence. Please be sure that the collar is not a buckle collar – these types of collars are extremely dangerous and could cause strangulation. Once placed around the cat's neck, be sure that you are able to insert two fingers easily under the collar. This will ensure a comfortable fit.

While cleaning your foster cat(s) room, you should first secure the cat(s) in the carrier or other secure area. A vacuum or mop could spook them and cause them to try to escape. At this point, no exit is too small.

Cats, especially young ones, are very curious. It is wise to “cat proof” your home prior to his/her arrival. Open flames, i.e. candles, stove tops, and fireplaces need to be supervised. Window blind cords must be secured out of reach of the cat to avoid strangulation. Open windows need strong, secure screens to prevent a scared or energetic cat from falling out. Expensive, tall, or fragile items like tall vases might be safer if put away while you are fostering. If there are other types of animals in your house (especially small animals), you might want to eliminate access to their areas. Be aware that some household plants are toxic to animals. Most of this is common sense, however, things you may take for granted beforehand may be a potential hazard for your foster. Better safe than sorry!

### SOCIALIZATION

While we encourage socialization from not only you and your family members, we also invite you to have your guests “visit” with your foster cat(s) as well. Please be sure to inform all of the “rules” beforehand. Hovering over a frightened cat will only spook them more. Make the introductions in a quiet, calm fashion. Very young children should not be allowed to interact with fosters to eliminate the possibility of being scratched or bitten.

### LITTER BOXES

Litter box areas and feeding areas should be separate. A litter box should be placed out of common areas that have a lot of activity, but in an area that is still easily accessible to cat(s). One litter box per floor of a house will reduce the chance of accidents. Maintenance of the litter box is also essential for healthy and consistent use. We recommend that you scoop often to remove solids. Empty, clean completely, and refill with new litter weekly. Multiple cats will require more frequent maintenance.

### FEEDING

Feeding areas should be refreshed as needed. Deep bowls are better for fresh water and dry food, while shallow bowls are better for wet canned food (it has been proven that most cats don't like their whiskers to be “crushed” against the sides of bowls while eating). We also recommend adding a tablespoon of water to wet food. Please inquire about your foster cat(s) feeding schedule and what types of food they should be eating.

## GROOMING

Grooming is a great way to develop trust between you and your foster cat(s). Use a soft-bristled brush, which is available at any pet store. Once you have established a routine and your cat is comfortable with it, you may advance to a stiffer brush that will remove the undercoat that could cause matting in longer or thicker haired cats. Nail trimming should be done periodically.

## SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Pet carrier (provided by Eva's Kitties, Inc.)  
Pet alert sticker  
Breakaway Collar with small bell  
Litter Box & Scooping Tool  
Food & water bowls  
Grooming brushes  
Nail trimmer

## DANGEROUS ITEMS

Needles  
Window blind cords  
Common houseplants – varieties such as azalea, rhododendron, sago palm, lilies, kalanchoe & schefflera  
People food – especially chocolate  
Human medications & Vet medications if used improperly  
Christmas tree water  
Tinsel, Thread, Dental Floss, Rubber Bands  
Electric cords  
Insecticides & Rodenticides – i.e. rat poison  
Household Cleaners  
Plastic Bags  
For more dangerous, hazardous, or poisonous items see:  
[www.catster.com](http://www.catster.com)  
[www.vetstreet.com](http://www.vetstreet.com)

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

If your foster cat experiences any new medical condition, you must report it immediately to one of our Foster Coordinators who will make arrangements for vet care:

Eva Miller, 781-893-CATS (2287), [evaskitties@verizon.net](mailto:evaskitties@verizon.net)  
Ellen Arsenault, 508-259-7655, [ellendavis@rcn.com](mailto:ellendavis@rcn.com)

Pet Poison Helpline, 800-213-6680, [www.petpoisonhelpline.com](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com)