



**Heartland  
Humane  
shelter & care**

## **CAT ADOPTION HANDBOOK**

**Heartland Humane Shelter & Care**

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## IMPORTANT KITTEN INFORMATION

Kittens are beautiful, delicate creatures that bring love and entertainment into our lives. *Please remember that they are completely dependent upon us to care for and protect them!*

Make a vet appointment for your new kitten as soon as possible! Keep the kitten quarantined away from all other household animals until a vet examines it.

Keep the kitten in a warm, confined area when nobody is home, complete with litter box, bedding, toys, food and fresh water. Look for safety hazards such as broken screens, exposed solvents/cleaners, poisonous plants, open toilets, small wires, choking hazards, exposed electrical outlets. If you plan for the kitten to be an inside/outside cat, keep the kitten inside until it is spayed or neutered!

Do not leave the kitten out with other animals or young children without adult supervision! She is very young and fragile and may not be able to defend herself or get away from a situation she finds threatening.

Feed a high quality canned kitten food 2 – 3 times a day IN ADDITION to dry kibble. Her jaws are young and weak and will tire before she has eaten a nutritious amount of dry food. Canned food also helps prevent dehydration, which can be deadly to a young kitten. You can increase water content by mixing in warm tap water or chicken broth with the canned kitten food. NO COW'S MILK – kittens are lactose intolerant!!! Cow's milk may cause diarrhea and dehydration.

ALL KITTENS CAN BE ALTERED (SPAYED OR NEUTERED) AS EARLY AS 8 WEEKS, BUT MUST BE ALTERED NO LATER THAN 6 MONTHS OF AGE!! Call your vet for an appointment. At this time, you can start to treat your kitten as an adult cat and reduce the amount of canned food given.

## SPAYING AND NEUTERING, THE GIFT OF LIFE

The most important step you can take to protect your pet's health and help HHS combat pet overpopulation is to have your cat spayed or neutered as soon as possible. Please have adult cats surgically sterilized within thirty days, and kittens must be altered by the time they are six months of age. Give the "VET" copy of your adoption and medical records to your veterinarian to have your spay/neuter deposit amount credited towards your surgery bill.

Spayed or neutered cats are protected from cancer and are less likely to develop feline leukemia. An altered pet is likely to roam, be aggressive, mark territory by spraying, or engage in other destructive behavior.

Equally important, you can help HHS reduce the number of unwanted pets brought to animal shelters annually by making sure your pet does not contribute to the problem. It is the goal of HHS to decrease the animal euthanasia rate, and place as many adoptable animals into good, lifelong homes as possible.

## FREE VETERINARY EXAM

HHS encourages you to take your pet to a veterinarian for a free routine health examination within one week to be sure your pet is healthy. If you pet becomes seriously ill or has a defect, you may return the animal within 10 days for a refund. If you choose to treat an ill pet, medical fees become your responsibility.

It is not uncommon for a cat or kitten, when brought to a new home, to develop an upper respiratory infection from the stress of moving to a new location. Most cases of upper respiratory are easily treated with veterinarian prescribed antibiotics.

## IDENTIFICATION

**COLLAR AND ID TAGS.** HHS provides your cat a collar, ID tag, and a microchip. We recommend a personal ID tag with the cat's name and your contact phone numbers on it.

The ID tag should be attached to a stretch or breakaway collar so the cat does not become entangled. **A City of Corvallis ordinance requires cats allowed to roam within city limits to wear ID at all times.** HHS receives hundreds of lost cat reports annually. Even indoor cats can escape and many of those reports are for "inside only" cats. Remember, identification is your cat's way back home.



**MICROCHIP.** Effective July 1, 2004, all cats and kittens adopted from HHS are implanted with a microchip. Microchips are a permanent form of identification. The microchips are approximately 1" x 1/16". The chips are implanted in the fatty tissue over the shoulders just before the cats leave for their new homes. If you see a scab in this area over the next 10-14 days, do not remove it! Removal could allow the microchip to back out of the implant track.

## NEW CAT SUPPLY CHECK LIST

Prepare for your cat's arrival with the following items:

- \*High quality kitten or cat food
- \*Litter pan, litter, and scoop
- \*Plant sprayer or squirt gun
- \*Scratching post or pad
- \*Flea treatment (Advantage, Frontline)
- \*Collar, HHS ID, Microchip, Cat carrier – we supply
- \*Food & water bowls
- \*Bedding
- \*Personal ID tag
- \*Cat toys
- \*Flea comb

## THE RIDE TO YOUR NEW HOME

Car transportation can be traumatic for your new kitten or cat. Please confine your cat to a carrier when leaving the shelter and during trips to your veterinarian. Please do not let your new cat loose in a car, and don't allow children to excite him. Do not leave the cat unattended in the car. On a hot day the cat may be overcome by heat exhaustion, within minutes, which can be fatal. Keep kitty in the carrier until you are inside your home.

## KITTEN / CAT ADJUSTMENT

When you bring your new cat home, take a moment to consider the kind of life your new pet has had. Your new kitten may have been abandoned by a previous guardian or recently separated from his mother and littermates. The kitten recently adjusted to a kennel environment and its stress. Now, the kitten is in a strange new home with all new people. These new experiences, pleasant or traumatic, may have an impact on the kitten's behavior.

Your new adult cat may have been lost, abandoned, or rejected. This cat may have been separated from a familiar home and forced to break a bond with human companions and other pets. Your new home means he must adjust to new surroundings again. Luckily, cats are resilient, adaptable animals, eager to bond with new humans. **JUST REMEMBER TO GIVE YOUR NEW CAT OR KITTEN TIME TO ADJUST!** This could take a few days, weeks, or even months.

Give your new kitty several weeks to feel comfortable in his new surroundings. During this acquaintance period, confine the cat indoors to keep him safe. The cat needs to get to know you as the provider of love, shelter, and, of course, his meals. Keep all windows and doors closed to prevent a sometimes-scared cat from escaping.

It is not unusual for cats to display behavior problems during the first few days in a new home – the older the cat, the longer the adjustment period in most cases. These behavior problems usually disappear when new guardians handle the cats with patience and understanding. New cats often fly under furniture; some spend hours or even days in hiding. Leave your new pet alone during this time and don't try to drag him out. Cats will come out of hiding when they are ready. Keep the noise level down where your cat is hiding. Sit and talk calmly to the cat and try offering a treat. Be sure food, water, and litter are nearby. If you must move the cat, carry him gently to a quiet room.

Sometimes a stressed cat in a new home will have an attack of diarrhea, miss the litter box, or vomit. If this persists, see your veterinarian.



## THE NEW HOME

Introduce your new cat to your home gradually, restricting him to one or two rooms. Isolate other pets from your new feline at this time. Remember that kittens can become lost in a new home. Supervise children and advise them to be gentle with the new pet. Have the litter pan ready when you remove the cat from the carrier. Show your cat where the pan is located. Offer water, but do not provide food for an hour. Your new pet will be bewildered, fearful or curious. Do not overwhelm him with attention or demands. Try to keep all doors and windows closed, and be sure your cat has its HHS ID tag on at all times. Try to spend several hours with your cat, as he becomes accustomed to your home. It is not uncommon for a pet to fast himself during this time of adjustment. He will begin to eat and groom himself when he is feeling settled.

## SLEEPING AREA

Cats like to sleep in places where they can be comfortable, warm, and free from drafts. Providing your kitty with a bed may discourage him from sleeping on the furniture. A cozy box with bedding or a cat bed placed in a quiet corner makes wonderful sleeping area. Some cats enjoy picking new, surprising sleeping areas. If your cat sleeps on the furniture, a washable towel can be placed on his favorite sleeping spots. A cat's sleeping area should be respected. Don't allow children to disturb your cat when he is sleeping. Cats need solitude and quiet time.

## INTRODUCING YOUR NEW PET TO ESTABLISHED PETS

The ability of pets to get along together in the same household depends on their individual personalities. In relationships between animals, there will always be one dominant pet. A new cat will often try to upset the existing hierarchy, or the old cat will try to establish a leading role immediately. Handling the "get acquainted" period wisely is an important factor in the successful introduction of a new pet. The first week or two may be hectic, frustrating, and time consuming. The adjustment may take time, so be patient.

**NEW CAT / ESTABLISHED DOG.** Keep your dog confined until the cat feels secure in his new home. Introduce your pets indoors with your dog under control on a leash. Don't allow the dog to chase or corner the cat, even if the dog is playing. Supervise them carefully and don't tolerate any aggressive behavior from your dog. Your cat should have a safe retreat, either up high, or in a room inaccessible to your dog. A cat may swat at the dog to set limits. Don't leave them alone together until they have accepted each other. Allow your pets to accept one another when they are ready. Never force interaction. Many pets become companions and playmates, while others learn to just tolerate each other. Be sure to give your dog lots of extra attention to avoid jealous reactions.

**NEW CAT / ESTABLISHED CAT.** Spayed or neutered cats are generally more accepting of other cats. Adult cats are generally more accepting of kittens than of other adults. Two altered cats often become friends in the same home. An intact (not neutered) male cat established in a home is unlikely to peacefully accept another male and may try to dominate a female. Let your original cat sniff the carrier while your new cat is still confined. Then temporarily confine the established cat to one room while the new cat becomes familiar with the surrounding, including the other cat's scent. Do not force or rush their introduction. Grooming and acceptance of food are signs that your new cat is settling in and may be ready to meet his housemate. Pick up the new cat and take him to a quiet room while your established cat inspects the new cat's carrier and territory. Bring the new cat into the area. Never force an introduction or interfere with two cats getting acquainted unless a fight erupts. If a squabble occurs, toss a blanket over one cat or squirt the cats with a light spray of water. Remember that you are introducing a new cat into the territory of another. Hissing and stand-offs are to be expected. Allow the cats to get used to one another on their own terms. This process may even take weeks or months.

Be sure each cat has his own food, water bowl, and litter pan. Try to allow equal time for each pet. Do not leave the cats alone together until they have accepted each other. Since many problems are caused by jealousy, try to give your original cat extra time, attention and treats.



**NEW CAT AND OTHER PETS.** Birds, rodents, and fish should be protected from possible harassment from a new cat. These pets are the natural prey of cats and may be stressed merely by the presence of a cat. Cats and rabbits generally live harmoniously together with the rabbit assuming a dominant role. Watch early interactions closely in case your cat should manifest a prey reaction, and never leave your pets unsupervised until their relationship is friendly.

## FEEDING

Select a high quality commercial food labeled "nutritionally complete". Kittens under one year must have kitten food, designed to meet the needs of a growing animal. Many cats are satisfied with a bowl of dry food available throughout the day supplemented with a portion of canned food once or twice a day. HHS suggests high-quality veterinarian recommended food. There is a broad range of options:

**DRY FOOD** helps to clean the teeth and should be the bulk of the cat's diet. It is easily stored and does not spoil in the dish.

**CANNED FOOD** provides extra water and comes in a wide variety of flavors. Most cats benefit by having some canned food each day.

**SEMI-MOIST** food doesn't require refrigeration and is often popular with cats. However, since it is often filled with ingredients such as sugar and preservatives and tends to form plaque on the teeth, it is best used as an occasional treat or behavior reward, not as a part of your cat's regular diet.

Generic brands and other nutritionally deficient foods should be avoided, and dog food should never be fed to cats, as their nutrient needs are quite different.

Fresh water is essential to a cat's diet and should always be available. Cats cannot properly digest milk and will develop diarrhea. This can be particularly serious for kittens, which become quickly dehydrated when suffering from diarrhea.

Too much liver or oily fish, such as tuna or salmon, can be nutritionally dangerous. Uncooked meat, poultry and fish, pork and chicken bones can be potential hazards. Unprocessed corn or other vegetable oil occasionally added to food in small quantities can benefit the coat.

## INDOOR, OUTDOORS, OR BOTH?

Whether or not your cat is allowed outdoors is a decision you make after weighing the pros and cons. Do you live on a busy street with many automobiles? Outdoor cats are prone to injury, accidents, and wounds from fights. They may get lost or stolen, and are exposed to parasites and diseases. Outdoor cats have shorter life spans than indoor cats. Outdoor cats may hunt birds and damage gardens, along with other nuisance behaviors like, yowling at night, and spraying to mark territory. **A City of Corvallis ordinance requires cats allowed to roam within city limits to wear ID at all times.**

The decision to confine a cat indoors should be made when he is a kitten, if possible. Confining an adult cat with outdoor habits requires time and patience, but is certainly a healthy and worthy process.

Indoor cats need a stimulating environment for play and exercise, which should include access to window sills, toys, scratching post and comfortable sleep and perching spots. Don't let your indoor cat sit on open window ledges or on a balcony high above the ground. Thousands of cats are killed annually when they leap for a bird or lose their balance.

If your cat spends time outside, be sure he has adequate protection from the cold, rain, and hot sun. HHS recommends access to a house through a cat door. Your cat can come and go as needed. The cat door can be closed at night to prevent unwanted cats, raccoons, and skunks from visiting. It is advisable to confine your cat indoors at night.



## LITTER TRAINING

Most cats and kittens are easily trained to use a litter pan. Place the litter box in a place away from the cat's food and family traffic. When you bring kitty home, show him where the litter box is immediately. Any accidents should be cleaned and the area washed with a 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water or a veterinary recommended odor neutralizer. Perfumes do not work.

A trained cat's failure to use a litter pan may have many causes:

- The cat has not yet learned the location of the litter pan – common with little kittens.
- The cat does not like the brand of litter and it should be changed
- The litter pan is dirty. The pan should be poop-scooped daily!!!!
- The litter pan has been disinfected and not rinsed thoroughly. (Phenol-based disinfectants are harmful and distasteful to cats.)
- The cat is attracted to an area soiled by a previous pet. Odor removers and repellents are available at your veterinarians and a white vinegar/water solution will help.
- The cat is reacting to family or household changes or stress.
- Another pet is keeping the cat away from the litter pan or another cat is using the pan. Some cats will not share a pan.
- A pet or child is terrorizing the new cat causing fear-related defecation.

Remember that any new cat may make a mistake. Put any mistake into his litter pan. Then, put him gently on the pan and help him cover his mistake. If you see him sniffing around a soiled area, carry him to the litter pan again. When he uses his pan, praise him generously. If he is still making mistakes, you may try confining your cat in a rug-less room with his food; water, bed, and litter pan while you are away. Do not punish your cat if he makes a mistake! Patience, understanding, and praise are important to successful litter box training. If you still have problems, call HHS.

## ATTENTION AND PLAY

When you play, avoid wrestling or roughhousing with your cat. This only teaches kitty that it is okay to use teeth and claws on you, and it is a difficult habit to break. Use cat toys, balls, and knotted socks. Cats will play with almost everything that moves.

Cats do not need or expect constant attention every day. A brief play period and the privilege of being near you will satisfy your pet once he knows this will happen regularly. If you are away all day, allow your pet to be in the house with you in the evening. Try to play with your pet briefly every day. Letting your cat sit on your lap or against you will add much happiness to your pet's life, and yours!

## CHILDREN AND CATS

A cat can be a child's companion, playmate and confidante. The relationship between children and pets can be magical. Children must be taught to handle animals properly. Tell your children that cats cannot be played with or handled constantly. Show them how to love, respect, and care for their new pet.

You should teach children:

- The proper method of handling – one hand under the chest and one beneath the hind-quarters when picking up a cat.
- To respect the cat's need to eat, sleep, and use the litter pan undisturbed.
- Not to chase the cat around the house. A frightened, cornered cat may bite or scratch in self-defense or become timid and skittish.
- Don't leave young children alone with a new pet.





There is a difference between playing and teasing. Schedule a play period with the child and the cat to encourage safe play. Cats enjoy "hunting" with toys, hiding in bags, and enjoying catnip. Never give loose yarn or string to a cat as he could swallow it.

All family members share responsibility for care of the pet. Don't expect children to do it all, even if your goal is to teach responsibility. If the pet is returned or given away because the children aren't taking care of it, then the lesson becomes one about disposable pets. Encourage children to learn more about their pet. Check out a book from your local library on cats. Surf the internet.

## GROOMING

The cat uses his tongue and saliva to wash and comb his coat. However, you should still brush him regularly with a soft-bristled brush to remove loose hair and stimulate his coat and skin. A narrow toothed steel flea comb will remove fleas and dirt. The flea comb provides sufficient grooming for shorthaired cats if used three times a week.

Longhaired cats need daily grooming with a brush and plastic comb to prevent matting and tangling of the coat. Swallowed hair can lead to hairballs that can cause dangerous intestinal blockage and vomiting. Give your pet a commercial hairball remedy.

Your cat's claws should be trimmed with clippers by cutting through the clear part of the nail below the quick. Be careful – incorrect clipping causes pain, bleeding and infections.

## TRAINING

Your cat may require training to prevent him from scratching furniture, climbing drapes, jumping on kitchen counters, begging or stealing your food, getting into garbage, bothering your houseplants, or stalking pet birds. Your best line of defense for unacceptable behavior is a squirt gun. Very few cats will continue the undesired activity when squirted with water. A stern "NO", along with the squirt of water will reinforce your intentions. This method keeps cats out and off of unacceptable areas. A cat should **NEVER** be hit or physically reprimanded.

For furniture scratching, you must provide an alternative. The ideal cat scratching post is a log with bark or a chemical free fireplace log. Some will use scratching posts covered with rough material or fiber; the texture of a log is a true favorite – just like the great outdoors.

Put the log or scratching device near the cat's favorite sleeping spot. Cats like to scratch when they first wake up. Praise your cat when he uses the post.

Training a cat requires consistency, patience, and a sense of humor. If you let your cat get away with bad behavior some of the time, he will never learn to cooperate.

## HEALTH

**FLEAS:** Fleas can torment your cat and cause anemia, flea allergy dermatitis, skin infections, hair loss and tapeworm infestation. You must treat your pet and the environment for adult fleas, larvae, and eggs. **Adult fleas feed on the cat and you.** They lay eggs, which fall to the floor, grass and bedding. Eggs hatch into larvae which feed on debris, spin cocoons and hatch into pesky adults.

Read labels carefully, follow instructions, and be sure the product is safe for cats and kittens. If you use a water sprayer to discipline your cat, a powder or mousse will work best for flea control. Flea collars are the least effective method – they irritate your cat's skin, cause toxic reactions, and can get caught on branches and fences. The veterinary recommended trend today is to use topical flea treatment like Advantage or Frontline. Although the manufacturers advise monthly use, HHS finds that one application lasts much longer than one month. Remember it is still a chemical you are applying to your pet, so use restraint in over applying. You may find you only need to use topical flea treatment a couple of times a year. It is wise to treat your house at the same time as treating your cat.





A cat will soon become reinfested if the environment is not treated. Clean all areas your cat uses thoroughly. Follow with a treatment of powder, spray, or fogger, designed to kill both larvae and adult fleas. Severe infestation may take months to control. Look for insect growth regulators on the market that prevent fleas from hatching.

If your cat develops flea related skin problems, take him to the veterinarian. Regular grooming with a flea comb is an effective non-toxic method of flea control when supplemented with powder or spray. Fleas removed should be drowned in soapy water. Never crush fleas – if it is an egg laying female, the eggs can scatter and hatch.

**EAR MITES:** Ear scratching and head shaking could mean your cat has ear mites. Ear mites are uncomfortable and lead to bacterial infection. If you have more than one cat, all your cats may have ear mites. See your veterinarian. Treatment for ear mites is simple and effective.

## PARASITES

**WORMS:** Worms are common in cats. Cats are prone to roundworms, tapeworms, and whipworms that infest the intestinal tract. Tapeworm segments break off and visible in the cat's stool. When you take your cat to the veterinarian, bring a stool sample for examination so the proper treatment can be prescribed. Untreated worm problems cause severe anemia, weight loss, intestinal irritation, dull coat, diarrhea, and vomiting. Almost all kittens contract worms.

## DISEASES

Several diseases may affect cats. Kittens are particularly prone to viral infections; viruses are transmitted through the air, or carried on clothing and shoes. Preventative health care and routine vaccinations will help protect your pet.

The following symptoms may indicate a viral or bacterial infection:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- fever (normal temp should not exceed 102.5)
- loss of appetite
- sneezing
- coughing
- eye or nose discharge
- blood in urine
- inability to urinate
- weakness
- labored breathing
- weight loss
- unresponsive while lying in a huddled position.

If your pet shows any of these symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Here are descriptions of common cat diseases:

**FELINE DISTEMPER** (panleukopenia) – This viral infection is highly contagious and potentially fatal. The distemper virus attacks the brain and intestine cells. Protection requires a series of vaccinations, followed by yearly booster.

**UPPER RESPIRATORY VIRAL INFECTIONS** – Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis and Feline Calicivirus are the most prevalent diseases that affect the cat's eyes, nose, and throat, similar to a cold or flu. These diseases may range from mild to serious infections with bacterial complications. Vaccinations are required for protection.

**RABIES** – Rabies is a virus transmitted in the saliva by a bite from an infected animal. Skunks, foxes, raccoons, and bats carry rabies. Vaccinating your cat can protect your cat and your family, as rabies is transmissible to humans.

**All animal bite incidents must be reported to your local County Health Department. Biting animals must be quarantined and observed for 10 days.**



**FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS (FeLV)** – This virus is transmitted through the saliva, blood, feces or urine of an infected cat. However, not all cats exposed to FeLV become ill. Some become carriers, posing a threat to other cats. Symptoms are fever, loss of appetite, lethargy, weight loss, diarrhea, vomiting and swollen lymph nodes. A blood test is required for diagnosis.

Please have your pet properly vaccinated for this fatal cancer-causing illness. Upon request, your cat may have been tested for FeLV. HHS will provide you with your new cat's shelter health record. This form contains vaccinations and treatments your pet received in our care. Please give this form to your veterinarian.

**FELINE UROLOGICAL SYNDROME (FUS)** – FUS is the blockage of the lower urinary tract. Symptoms are frequent urination, straining during urination, and passage of blood of the urine. Ill cats behave restlessly and may urinate outside the litter box. FUS causes a build up of toxic wastes in the bloodstream and kidney damage, even death, may result.

Your cat should see a veterinarian at the first sign of FUS. FUS is caused by a mineral imbalance in food. High quality cat food can help prevent FUS. This disease is most common among young, inactive males, however, females and cats of all ages may be affected.

**TOXOPLASMOSIS** – Cats can become infected with this disease, caused by protozoa, by eating birds, rodents, raw pork, beef or coming in contact with contaminated cat feces. Cat carriers of toxoplasmosis are usually symptom free. Symptoms, if they do occur, are lethargy, appetite loss diarrhea, coughing, and labored breathing. This disease is transmittable to humans and poses a threat to newborn babies whose mothers are infected. Pregnant women should have someone else clean the litter pan and wash after handling the cat. The best way to prevent infection is to wear gloves and scoop and/or disinfect the litter box daily.

## DECLAWING

Declawing is the surgical removal (amputation) of the claw, and all -- or part -- of the terminal bone (amputation) of the toe. Declawing may cause hemorrhage and deformity. It is a painful surgery and permanently affects the cat's natural ability to climb and defend itself. Declawing may sometimes lead to a personality change. Declawed cats are more likely to bite. We recommend vinyl nail caps, which can be obtained through your vet or a pet store.

HHS recommends teaching cats not to scratch by using behavior-training methods. Problem scratching of furniture should be addressed with a scratching post, log, regular claw trimming, or use of repellents. **HHS discourages declawing except as a last resort (after trying all behavioral and training methods,) before rehoming or euthanasia.**

## POISONS

Many household substances and garden plants are toxic to cats. Licking substances from their coats or paws can poison cats. Symptoms of poisoning are similar to those of other diseases. Poisoning requires **IMMEDIATE** veterinary care. Take the suspected poison container or plant sample with you to the vet's office.

**TOXIC CHEMICALS:** rat and mouse poisons, pesticides, pheno-bases disinfectants (Lysol), antifreeze, paint, turpentine, boric acid, aspirin, chocolate, and lead. Note: "Sierra" brand antifreeze is non-toxic.

Be sure all toxic products are stored in tightly closed containers in cupboards. Hang houseplants out of reach. Barriers in the plant pots such as tiles, large rocks or crumpled foil may help keep cats out of plants, as will cat repellents.

**SPOILED FOOD** can also poison cats, so be sure all food is fresh.

**POISONOUS PLANTS:** Philodendron, Ivy, Laurel, Oleander, Marigold, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Creeping Charlie, Asparagus Fern, Mistletoe, Poinsettia, Marijuana, and Dieffenbachia.



## VACATIONING WITHOUT YOUR PET

### PET SITTERS

If you plan to leave your cat in someone's care while you are away, please follow these hints:

- Instruct the pet sitter on proper care for your pet.
- Discuss feeding, watering, and exercise routines.
- Leave written instructions to ensure proper care.
- Make sure the collar and tag are on your cat.
- Leave your cat's toys, bowls, and bedding with the sitter.
- Insist that your sitter keep your cat confined at all times.
- Many pets become lost while guardians are away.
- Provide the sitter with your veterinarian's information and the numbers of friends or family willing to help in an emergency.
- Call regularly and check in with the sitter if you plan to be gone for more than a few weeks.

### BOARDING KENNELS / CATTERIES

After calling for availability and pricing, **VISIT** the boarding kennel or cattery! Does it look and smell clean? Does the staff seem to truly care for their client cats? You need to be comfortable with the business and facility before you drop your cat off.

- The boarding kennel or cattery will require that your cat is current on all its vaccinations.
- Take your cat's food, bedding, toys, and food dishes to make your pet feel comfortable.
- Leave your veterinarian's contact information with the boarding kennel / cattery staff.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET IS LOST

- Start searching in all areas of the house, yard, and neighborhood for several blocks in all directions.
- Enlist the help of neighbors, friends and family. Show them a picture of your cat and give out your telephone number.
- Visit Heartland Humane Society to look and file a Lost Pet report.
- Post signs in your neighborhood, at grocery stores, and at local schools. Include a description of your pet with a photo and phone number.
- Place an advertisement in the "Lost and Found" column of your local newspaper. Check the "Found" column daily.
- Place an advertisement in the "Lost and Found" section of your local Craigslist. Check the section daily.
- Many people keep lost pets for weeks before bringing them to a shelter. Sometimes pets may be picked up by someone and transported several miles before escaping and being at large again. A lost pet can wander the street for weeks, so keep looking.

## Benton & Linn County Veterinary List

Many veterinarians in our area offer a free vet exam for newly adopted pets. This exam must be scheduled within ten days. When you call to schedule your free exam, make sure to mention that you've adopted your pet from Heartland to confirm that your veterinarian will honor the free vet appointment. Bring your paperwork with you to the appointment as proof of adoption.

*\*We cannot guarantee that each veterinarian on this list will be accepting new clients when you adopt.*

<b>Benton County</b>	<b>Benton Co. Continued..</b>
<b>All Creatures Great &amp; Small</b> 4710 NE Elliott Cir, Corvallis 541-758-7280	<b>Willamette Vet Clinic</b> 650 SW 3rd St., Corvallis 541-753-2223
<b>Alpine Animal Hospital</b> 5120 NE Highland Dr, Corvallis	
<b>Ark Animal Hospital</b> 1100 Applegate St., Philomath 541-929-5061	
	<b>Linn County</b>
<b>Corvallis Cat Care</b> 620 NW 4th St., Corvallis 541-753-2287	<b>Albany Animal Hospital</b> 629 Madison St. SE, Albany 541-926-8817
<b>Corvallis Vet Hospital</b> 1543 NW 9th St., Corvallis 541-752-5595	<b>Lebanon Animal Clinic</b> 185 N. Santiam Hwy, Lebanon 541-451-1319
<b>Eastgate Vet Clinic</b> 33888 SE Peoria Rd., Corvallis	<b>Linn Vet Hospital</b> 6011 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany
<b>Pioneer Vet Clinic</b> 5610 SW Philomath Blvd., Philomath 541-753-4681	<b>Reid Vet Hospital</b> 933 Queen Ave. SW, Albany 541-928-8341
<b>Town &amp; Country Animal Hospital</b> 430 SW 53rd St., Corvallis 541-752-9914	<b>River's Edge Pet Medical Center</b> 202 NW Hickory St., Albany 541-924-1700
<b>West Hills Animal Hospital</b> 430 SW 53rd St., Corvallis 541-758-4509	<b>Sweet Home Vet Clinic</b> 1214 Long St., Sweet Home 541-367-3131