

Well-Baby Check Up

As part of your adoption, you are entitled to a free well-baby check up through the Presque Isle Animal Hospital or the North County Animal Hospital within 30 days of adoption. We encourage you to make an appointment as soon as possible.



This first check up is a good time for your Veterinarian to make sure everything is current and your kitten is in good health.

Your Vet will also recommend when your kitten would be ready for spay/neuter surgery.

Vaccinations

Your kitten has already received some age-appropriate vaccinations while at the Rescue and is due for the following through your Veterinarian:

Declawing

Declawing is the amputation of the first digit on the paw. It is painful and can have permanent negative consequences: avoidance of the litter box, aggressive behavior, mobility issues, and arthritis. Please consider every alternative before considering this permanent surgical method.

Problems?

If you experience any problems with your new kitten, please contact us. We are here to help you and your kitten enjoy a long, happy and healthy relationship.

Phone 999-1075 and leave a message or try reaching us through our Facebook page: facebook.com/halfwayhomepetrescue

If for any reason you are not able to keep this kitten in your home, please contact us. We will accept the kitten back to HHPR.

Handouts

We offer the following handouts free of charge:

- How to Introduce Your New Cat to Other Cats
- How to Cat-Proof Your Home
- How to Prevent Litterbox Problems
- How to Manage Your Cat's Claws
- How to Trim Your Cat's Claws

YOUR NEW KITTEN

From Halfway Home to Your Home

Congratulations on adopting a kitten!

Whether this is a first kitten or an addition to a family with other pets, we want you to enjoy many years of happiness.

During the adoption process, one of our volunteers covered a lot of information with you and we know that's a lot to digest. So, we offer this brochure to help.

We also offer other handouts that cover key concerns in greater detail.



Adoption Facility
489 Main Street, Caribou ME 04736
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 488, Caribou ME 04736
Phone: 207-999-1075

Bringing Kitty Home

We recommend that you isolate your new kitten in a safe room for the first couple of days. Kittens at the rescue have been cleared of infection and parasites but sometimes they may harbor an illness that can be brought out with stress. If you have other pets in your home, we want you to protect them from any infection your new kitten may be carrying.



Warning signs of ill health

- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Discharge from eyes or nose
- Bleeding
- Tires easily or lethargic
- Diarrhea or straining to use the litter box
- Loss of appetite
- Change in behavior

If you notice any of these or you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact us or your Veterinarian for advice.

Feeding and Watering

Kittens at the Rescue are offered Kitten Chow in a dish for free will eating. In addition, they are given a morning and evening feeding of canned chicken-based food. Providing both wet and dry food is recommended. Kittens can digest chicken better than any other meat.

It is important for kittens to have access to fresh water daily. We recommend having more than one water bowl available around your home. Cats will sometimes not drink water if it is too close to their food. Some cats enjoy water that is moving, like they would find it in the wild. You may find your kitten playing in the sink. Pet fountains are available at most pet departments. Some cats will only drink out of ceramic or glass containers and some enjoy ice or very cold water. Your kitten is an individual and will try to let you know what it likes.



Litterbox

Your kitten comes already knowing how to use the litterbox. It is recommended that you continue to use the same sort of litter that the kitten was using at the Rescue. As they get older, you may want to



gradually change the litter to a low-dust clumping type. Most cats do not like perfumed litter but there are many varieties on the market.

General rule: One Litter box per Cat - Plus One. This is to avoid territorial issues in a multi-cat household.

Litter boxes should be cleaned at least once daily.

Scratch pole training

Scratching is a natural activity for kittens. It is an exercise that strengthens their muscles and tones their joints. It is also a way for cats to mark their territory.

Kittens can easily be trained to use appropriate locations to do their scratching, such as on specially made scratch poles made of sisal rope, platforms made of cardboard or mats made of natural fibers that encourage rubbing and scratching. Kittens trained to use their own surfaces will rarely touch your furniture.

For more information on scratching, see our handout [How to Manage Your Cat's Claws](#).