

Feline Behavioral Assessment

Cat's Name _____
ID# _____ Sex _____
Date of evaluation _____ Intake Date _____

Evaluator _____
Room _____
Source: Stray Owner surrender

While cat is in cage

Reaction to novel person

Approach and stand quietly in front of the cage and record behavior of cat.

- comes to front of cage right away – soliciting, rubbing against cage front, reaching out with paws
- does not come to front but looks at you – is calm, relaxed and friendly
- does not come to front but looks at you with indifference
- ignores you completely
- continues to hide (was hiding when you approached cage)
- attempts to hide upon your approach
- grumbles, hisses, growls or swats at you (circle response)
- charges at you

Speak quietly to the cat in a friendly voice for several seconds – enticing the cat to come forward for attention

- stays at front – continues to solicit attention, rubbing, purring, meowing
- comes to front of cage – soliciting, rubbing against cage front, reaching out with paws
- does not come to front but acts calm and friendly
- does not come to front but looks at you with indifference
- ignores you completely
- continues to hide
- attempts to hide from you once you start to speak
- grumbles, hisses, growls, or swats at you (circle response)
- charges at you

Reaction to touch

Open the door and try to touch the cat

- solicits petting and attention – rubs, chirps, meows
- seems indifferent to your presence and touch
- moves away from you to avoid being touched
- continues to hide from you – immobile when you touch him/her
- growls or hisses at you
- swats at you
- charges at you
- bites or attempts to bite

If cat appears friendly – try to pick it up so that you can take him/her to the evaluation room

- friendly, allows you to pick up
- slightly fearful, stiff, cautious but allows you to pick up
- retreats from you
- hisses, growls
- swats at you
- bites or attempts to bite

*******DO NOT remove cat for evaluation if he/she exhibits any aggressive behavior.**

Take cat into a quiet room

Social attraction

Sit quietly on the floor and record cat's behavior.

- solicits attention from you right away – rubbing on you or jumping in your lap
- more interested in investigating the environment
- fearful – hiding
- aggressive behavior (hissing or threatening you in any way) Describe _____

Interact with the cat in a friendly manner – call the cat to you

- interested in interacting with you
- makes eye contact
- approaches
- meow, purrs
- head butts
- watches you but makes no attempt to interact
- continues to hide
- retreats from you
- aggressive behavior (hissing, swatting, etc.)

Describe _____

Continuing to talk to the cat, hold out your hand near the cat

- sniffs, head butts, licks, rubs hand
- meows, purrs, chirps
- rolls on back
- retreats
- hisses, growls, swats at hand
- bites or attempts to bite hand

Stroke the cat several times from head to tail.

- rubs against you, head butts, meows, purrs, chirps
- rolls over on back
- retreats
- hisses, growls, swats
- bites or attempts to bite

Reaction to more invasive handling

Pick up and hug cat for 2 seconds

- relaxed
- affectionate – extends paw, meows, purrs, chirps
- accepts hug but is tense
- struggles to escape
- hisses, growls, stiffens and extends claws
- swats
- bites or attempts to bite

Tolerance for mildly aversive handling (kid test)

Squat next to cat, stroke along his/her back and then firmly grasp the base of the tail and pull up just enough to raise back feet off the floor. Hold for one second.

- shows no reaction
- meows, chirps, purrs
- struggles to escape
- hisses, growls, swats
- bites or attempts to bit

Interest in play

Engage the cat in play using a variety of toys such as string, feather dancer, ball, and toy mouse (no catnip)

- engages with toys – chases, bats at, tosses
- ignores toys – more interested in you
- ignores toys and you

Which toys did he/she like? _____

Recommendation for housing:

_____ Keep in holding for further evaluation

Re-evaluate on _____(date)

Implement the following stress-reduction procedures during this time:

- _____ hiding box
- _____ feliway (twice daily)
- _____ music
- _____ toys
- _____ social interaction with human (calm attention)
- _____ social interaction with humans (play)

_____ Find foster home (after 2nd evaluation if cat is still not adjusting well)

_____ Move to Adoption Floor

- _____ Single cage
- _____ Social housing – Adult only wing
- _____ Social housing – with quiet/shy or older cats
- _____ Social housing – with younger cats
- _____ Social housing - general

Recommendations for Adoption

_____ Would do fine in a home with children _____ of any age
 _____ older than 6 years
 _____ older than 12 years

_____ Needs a quiet home without children

Personality Traits (circle all that apply):

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bold | Shy | Timid |
| Very Social | Mildly-Moderately social | Aloof |
| Very playful | Mildly-Moderately playful | Uninterested in play |
| Likes petting | Tolerates petting | Ambivalent about petting |
| Likes being held | Tolerates being held | Doesn't like being held |