

## **Protocol for Minimum Daily Care of Shelter Cats**

### **Holding area**

1. Hiding box upon intake (or towel covering front of cage)
2. Clean water at all times
3. Dry food available at all times
4. Clean litter box
5. Soft bedding
6. Toys to play with
7. Social interaction with humans (calming talk and petting)
8. Auditory enrichment – soft soothing music played during the daytime (turned off at night)

### **Adoption area**

1. Clean water at all times
2. Dry food available at all times
3. Clean litter box
4. Soft bedding
5. Toys to play with
6. Social interaction with humans (calming talk, petting, play)
7. Auditory enrichment – soft soothing music played during the daytime (turned off at night)
8. Time outside of cage at least 2-3 times each week to stretch and scratch (provide scratching post)

### **Colony Room**

Some cats are housed in the colony room with other cats. Observations should be made on a daily basis to make sure that all cats are comfortable in this setting. Cats who are hiding constantly or who are bullying other cats may need to be removed and placed in a single cage. Staff should insure that each cat has access to the food and water bowls and is using the litter box.