



## Example Survey Questions and Automatic Advice For Foster Caregivers of Cats Over 8 Weeks of Age

The following survey questions, selected survey answers, and automatic advice are examples from the “Your First Day Together” Survey for foster caregivers of cats over 8 weeks of age.

**Please note:** This may not be a comprehensive showing of all survey questions, answer options, or automated advice available in the app. The database is quite extensive, and questions/advice may change based on increased or decreased severity of selected issues over time (e.g., if issue is better, same or worse in subsequent surveys, like from Day 1 to Day 3). Additionally, if an option is selected (ex: diarrhea) within the following survey, then that survey may include immediate follow up questions specific to that issue (e.g., frequency, consistency, severity, etc.). The following example only displays answer options that have automated advice.

### Components of a Survey Response:

QUESTION	
SELECTED ANSWER OPTION	AUTOMATIC ADVICE BASED ON SELECTED ANSWER

### Example Survey:

Check all that apply. Is Smokey experiencing any of the following?	
Difficulty breathing	If your foster cat is having trouble breathing – showing signs of difficulty or fast breathing, and sometimes panting – this could be a very serious and potentially life threatening emergency. Please contact your foster coordinator immediately at +1-(555) 555-5030. For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Difficult or Labored Breathing in Cats</a> .
Worms in poop and/or vomit	Two common types of worms are roundworms and tapeworms; however, there are many other kinds of intestinal parasites. Roundworms look like spaghetti and can be found in vomit and/or poop. Tapeworms look like pieces of rice and can be found in poop or stuck on your foster cat's rear end. Please contact your foster coordinator to describe what you are seeing. You may need to get a de-wormer for Smokey or you may need to bring in a stool sample for microscopic exam. For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Intestinal Parasites in Cats</a> .



<b>Coughing (more than once)</b>	<p>An occasional cough can be normal for a cat, actually helping clear the airway. However, it can be a sign of a viral or bacterial infection, and sometimes more serious medical conditions, like pneumonia or asthma. If the coughing persists, becomes worse, or brings up discolored or bloody mucus, please contact your foster coordinator to make arrangements for your foster cat to be seen by a veterinarian.</p> <p>For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Coughing in Cats</a>.</p>
<b>Nasal discharge and/or sneezing (more than once)</b>	<p>If your foster cat's sneezing and nasal discharge is mild and he has a normal appetite and energy level, it is OK to monitor your foster cat for the next couple of days. Sneezing and nasal discharge can be a sign of a contagious condition. Therefore, we recommend that you keep your foster cat separate from other cats until the veterinarian gives the OK.</p> <p><b>Watch for these signs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sneezing and nasal discharge for more than just a few days.</li><li>• Amount of sneezing or nasal discharge increases.</li><li>• The nasal discharge changes, e.g., from a clear liquid to a yellow/green mucus.</li><li>• Rubbing the nose or pawing at the face.</li><li>• Noisy breathing due to a stuffed up nose.</li><li>• Additional signs of illness like decreased appetite, vomiting, lethargy, and weight loss.</li></ul> <p>If you see any of these signs, please contact your foster coordinator to arrange for veterinary care for your foster cat. For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Sneezing and Nasal Discharge in Cats</a>.</p>
<b>Eye discharge</b>	<p>If your foster cat's eye discharge is mild and he has a normal appetite and energy level, it is OK to monitor him. If Smokey allows it, you can try to wipe his eyes, to remove discharge, with a water-moistened cotton ball. Do not use over-the-counter eye drops unless your veterinarian specifically instructs you to do so.</p> <p>Don't let the symptoms go too long without treatment because irreversible damage, though rare, can occur to an eye left unattended.</p> <p><b>Watch for these signs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eye discharge for more than just a few days</li><li>• Amount of eye discharge increases</li><li>• Eye discharge changes (e.g., from a clear liquid to a yellow/green mucus)</li><li>• Eye(s) become swollen, cloudy, or can't open</li><li>• Additional signs of illness like lethargy, reluctance to eat, and weight loss</li></ul> <p>If you see any of the above signs, contact your foster coordinator to arrange for veterinary care. For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Eye Discharge in Cats</a>.</p>
<b>Jerky movements/seizures</b>	<p>Please contact your foster coordinator immediately at +1-(555) 555-5030 to arrange for emergency veterinary care for</p>



	<p>your foster cat!</p> <p><b>What you can do in the meantime:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your foster cat from hitting his head on anything hard like furniture or walls. Carefully move your foster cat away from those things, and/or provide a barrier with pillows or bedding.</li><li>• Keep your foster cat away from stairs and from high areas from which he could fall.</li><li>• Record everything about the seizures (how long they last, whether there was jerking of the limbs or muscle twitching of body parts, whether your foster cat pooped or peed during the episode, etc.).</li><li>• Check your household for any evidence that your foster cat ingested something toxic. Have any plants been chewed on? Did the cat get into any chemicals or medications?</li></ul> <p>For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Seizures in Cats</a>.</p>
<b>Limping</b>	<p>Sometimes limping may improve with rest and restricted activity for 1-2 days, other times it's more serious and you need to contact your foster coordinator.</p> <p><b>Watch for these signs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limping for more than a few days</li><li>• Swelling of the affected leg</li><li>• Smokey is unable to walk or run normally</li><li>• Smokey is reluctant to perform an everyday activity, like jumping on a perch</li><li>• Unwillingness to bear weight on the affected leg</li><li>• Affected leg is at an unnatural angle</li><li>• Vocal behavior (e.g., yowling) suggesting that Smokey is in pain</li><li>• Limping accompanied by other signs of illness such as decreased appetite, vomiting, or lethargy</li></ul> <p>If any of these signs are seen, please contact your foster coordinator to arrange for veterinary care for your foster cat. Many cats may react aggressively if they are in pain, so please approach and handle Smokey with caution. Don't give your foster cat any medications without consulting a veterinarian first because some are toxic and dangerous to cats. For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Limping in Cats</a>.</p>
<b>Fleas</b>	<p>Please contact your foster coordinator to find out if your foster cat has been treated for fleas, and for advice about this problem.</p> <p>Heavy flea infestation in cats is uncommon, but can lead to death from anemia (blood loss). If your foster cat's gums are very pale, or if he is lethargic/weak, please contact your foster coordinator immediately at +1-(555) 555-5030. Your foster cat may need emergency veterinary care.</p> <p>For additional information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Fleas in Cats</a>.</p>
<b>Ear problems (excessive</b>	<p>If your foster cat is only occasionally scratching at his ear(s), especially if you know that he has fleas, it is OK to monitor</p>



debris, itching)

your foster cat for a day or two.

**Watch for these signs:**

- Excessive ear debris (brown/black or yellow)
- Constant scratching at the ears(s) and/or shaking of the head
- Backs of ear(s) are irritated or are missing hair
- Bleeding from the ear(s)
- Ear(s) that smell bad
- Swelling of the ear(s)
- Ear(s) are sore or painful
- Frequently tilts head to side

If you see any of these signs, please contact your foster coordinator as soon as possible.

For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Ear Problems in Cats](#).

**Approximately, how many times has Smokey vomited in the past 24 hours?**

**Four or more times**

While an isolated episode of vomiting may be nothing to worry about, frequent vomiting is cause for concern. This can cause dehydration and electrolyte imbalances. Contact your foster coordinator as soon as possible; a veterinary exam might be useful.

For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Vomiting in Cats](#).

**Approximately, how much is Smokey vomiting?**

**Large amount(s)**

While a small volume of vomit may be nothing to worry about, vomiting moderate to large amounts might be cause for concern. This can cause dehydration and electrolyte imbalances. Contact your foster coordinator as soon as possible; a veterinary exam might be useful.

For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Vomiting in Cats](#).

**Approximately, how many times has Smokey had diarrhea in the past 24 hours?**

**Four or more times**

While a small amount of soft stool or diarrhea can be expected for a day or two as a cat adjusts to a new environment or new food, what you have described sounds more serious. It can lead to dehydration, which can be very dangerous, or might be a sign of an underlying medical issue.

Contact your foster coordinator as soon as possible. A veterinarian might need to examine your foster cat.

For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Diarrhea in Cats](#).

**Which of the following best describes the consistency of the diarrhea?**

**Watery**

While a small amount of soft stool or diarrhea can be expected for a day or two as a cat adjusts to a new environment or new food, what you have described sounds more serious. It can lead to dehydration, which can be very dangerous,



or might be a sign of an underlying medical issue.  
Contact your foster coordinator as soon as possible. A veterinarian might need to examine your foster cat.  
For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Diarrhea in Cats](#).

#### Check all that apply. How would you describe the diarrhea?

##### Bloody (large amounts of blood)

While a small amount of soft stool or diarrhea can be expected for a day or two as a cat adjusts to a new environment or new food, what you have described sounds more serious. It can lead to dehydration, which can be very dangerous, or might be a sign of an underlying medical issue.  
Contact your foster coordinator as soon as possible; a veterinarian will likely need to examine your foster cat.  
For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Diarrhea in Cats](#).

#### When Smokey is straining to pee, how much urine is coming out?

##### Large amounts

Urination should be a comfortable and easy process for your foster cat. There should be a steady flow of pee and a fair amount, if well hydrated.  
Cats who are straining have an underlying medical problem. Contact your foster coordinator as soon as possible to schedule a veterinary appointment.  
In the meantime, be sure to offer Smokey plenty of fresh water and add some water to his food. This may be a good time to offer canned, wet food.  
Contact your foster coordinator immediately at +1-(555) 555-5030 to arrange for emergency veterinary care for your foster cat if other symptoms such as excessive drinking, lethargy or vomiting develop, or if he is only urinating small amounts.  
For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Straining to Pee](#).

#### How lethargic is Smokey?

##### Extremely lethargic (barely moving, difficulty holding head up)

You should contact your foster coordinator immediately at +1-(555) 555-5030. It sounds like your foster cat needs emergency veterinary care!  
For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Lethargy in Cats](#).

#### Is Smokey not putting weight on one or more leg(s), e.g. lifting paw?

##### Yes

This is a concern as it is an obvious sign of pain and discomfort. Call your foster coordinator to arrange for veterinary care for your foster cat as soon as possible.  
Some causes of limping are obvious and require immediate veterinary care. In general, a cat will not walk on a broken or dislocated leg and you may observe swelling of the leg and/or see that the leg is at an awkward angle. If your foster cat has signs of a broken leg, contact your foster coordinator immediately at +1-(555) 555-5030.  
For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Limping in Cats](#).



### Which best describes Smokey's appetite? My foster pet:

**Doesn't seem to be interested in food.**

It's common for cats to not eat or only eat very little when they are adjusting to a new home.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- Provide dry food in an easily accessible location throughout the day.
- Feed a smelly canned food (e.g., fish flavor), maybe slightly warmed, and offer it three to four times per day.
- Use clean food and water bowl. Don't add food on top of previous food remnants.
- Place food and water bowls away from litter boxes and in a quiet, private, and accessible location away from the path of people and other animals.
- Some cats are social eaters, so you might try to talk quietly and offer some head scratches during mealtime.

Contact your foster coordinator if the problem continues or there are other signs of illness (e.g., lethargy, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea).

Tips on making Smokey's transition to his new home less stressful are available at [San Francisco SPCA: Bringing Your New Cat Home](#). For more information about appetite issues, visit [Maddie's Fund: Appetite Issues in Cats](#).

### Does Smokey have ringworm or is suspected to have ringworm?

**Yes**

If your foster coordinator is unaware of this problem, please contact them immediately at +1-(555) 555-5030. Smokey will likely need further diagnostics and/or treatment.

Please note that if Smokey has ringworm, humans and other pets can get it! Ringworm is a fungus and not a worm.

**Take the following precautions:**

- Wash your hands after handling your foster cat.
- Wear gloves and a long-sleeved shirt when handling your foster cat.
- Vacuum and disinfect areas that your foster cat has spent time in.
- Disinfect using chlorine bleach diluted 1:10 (1 ½ cups in 1 gallon of water). Avoid exposing pets or people to chlorine bleach fumes.

Keep Smokey away from visitors and other pets in the household. Ringworm left untreated can get progressively worse, and/or can increase the likelihood of spread to other pets and humans.

For more information, visit [Maddie's Fund: Ringworm in Cats](#).

### Is it easy to Lime Dip Smokey?

**No**

Lime dipping cats can be challenging!

We recommend that you watch the following video: [Austin Pets Alive!: Cat Ringworm Treatment Training](#).

If you are still having problems lime dipping your foster cat(s), please contact your foster coordinator. He or she may be able to give you additional advice or arrange for someone else to lime dip the cats for you.



### Is it easy to give Smokey medication by mouth (orally)?

No

Giving oral medication to cats can be challenging!

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- Check out the links below to learn how to give medication. Knowing how to do it can make a huge difference.
- Find an assistant to help hold your foster cat.
- Hide pills in tasty treats (e.g., cheese, butter, canned cat food meatball).
- Mix liquid medication in with canned cat food, and/or with tuna juice.
- Cats sometimes spit out or refuse to eat medications that are hidden in food. Watch them closely to make sure they swallowed their medication!
- Wrap your foster cat in a towel to help restrain them.

**Additional information:**

- [PetMD: How to Get Your Cat to Take Medicine](#)
- [Wikihow: Give a Cat a Pill](#)
- [VeterinaryPartner: Pilling Dogs and Cats](#)

### Has your foster cat been in direct contact with family members other than you, visitors to your home, dogs or cats?

Yes

Ringworm is contagious to other pets and to people. Children and people with weak immune systems (e.g., HIV/AIDS patients, cancer patients, etc.) are especially prone to it.

**Helpful Tips:**

- Contact anyone who has had direct contact with the ringworm-infected foster cat. If they find any skin abnormalities, they should see their doctor.
- If any of your own pets have been directly exposed to your foster cat, contact your veterinarian.
- If any other foster pets have been exposed to the ringworm-infected foster cat, contact your foster coordinator.
- Everyone handling the ringworm-infected foster cat should be careful. Wear gloves and a long sleeved shirt and wash your hands frequently. Vacuum and disinfect areas where your foster cat has been.

**Additional information:**

- [Maddie's Fund: Ringworm in Cats](#)
- [CDC: Healthy Pets Healthy People: Ringworm](#)
- [PetsWebMD: Ringworm in Cats](#)
- [eHow: How to Disinfect for Ringworm](#)

### Where are you keeping your foster cat?



<b>Confined to one carpeted room</b>	<p>Ringworm can be very difficult to eliminate from carpet and furniture.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confine your foster cat to one room, a small non-carpeted room (e.g., bathroom).</li><li>• Do not keep your foster pet in a room with fabric-covered furniture, which would be difficult to disinfect; these items may need to be discarded in order to eliminate ringworm spores from the environment.</li></ul> <p>For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Ringworm in Cats</a>.</p>
<b>Please check all that apply. How are you cleaning Smokey's environment?</b>	
<b>Household cleaners (e.g., Clorox wipes, 409, Mr. Clean, Comet)</b>	<p>Ringworm is a fungus that produces spores. The spores can survive for a long time and be very difficult to remove from carpet and furniture.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Household cleaners will not kill ringworm spores.</li><li>• Disinfect with a 1:10 dilution of chlorine bleach (1 ½ cups chlorine bleach to 1 gallon of water).</li><li>• This website gives great advice on how to disinfect: <a href="#">eHow: How to Disinfect for Ringworm</a>.</li></ul> <p>For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Ringworm in Cats</a>.</p>
<b>Chlorine bleach - other dilution</b>	<p>Ringworm is a fungus that produces spores. The spores can survive for a long time and be very difficult to remove from carpet and furniture.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Household cleaners will not kill ringworm spores.</li><li>• Disinfect with a 1:10 dilution of chlorine bleach (1 ½ cups chlorine bleach to 1 gallon of water).</li><li>• This website gives great advice on how to disinfect: <a href="#">eHow: How to Disinfect for Ringworm</a>.</li></ul> <p>For more information, visit <a href="#">Maddie's Fund: Ringworm in Cats</a>.</p>
<b>Check all that apply. Smokey:</b>	
<b>Peed, but it wasn't in the litterbox.</b>	<p>Cats sometimes pee outside of the litter box when there are big changes in their life, like staying in a new home.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medical problems can cause a cat to pee outside of the litter box. Sometimes, inappropriate elimination happens once or twice, and never happens again. Other times, it might be a more serious issue. Please contact your foster coordinator.</li><li>• Scoop the litter box once to twice daily. Many cats won't eliminate in dirty litter boxes.</li><li>• Provide one more litter box than there are cats in your home (e.g., two cats need three boxes).</li><li>• Clean soiled areas with an enzyme cleaner formulated to break down urine.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">San Francisco SPCA: Cat: Bringing Your New Cat Home</a></li></ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Common Cat Behavior Issues – Litter Box Problems</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Tree House Humane Society: Litter Box 101</a></li></ul>
<b>Pooped, but it wasn't in the litterbox.</b>	<p>Cats sometimes poop outside of the litter box when there are big changes in their life, like staying in a new home. <b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medical problems can cause a cat to poop outside of the litter box. Sometimes, inappropriate elimination happens once or twice, and never happens again. Other times, it might be a more serious issue. Please contact your foster coordinator.</li><li>• Scoop the litter box once to twice daily. Many cats won't eliminate in dirty litter boxes.</li><li>• Provide one more litter box than there are cats in your home (e.g., two cats need three boxes).</li><li>• Clean soiled areas with an enzyme cleaner formulated to remove stains and odors.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">San Francisco SPCA: Cat: Bringing Your New Cat Home</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Common Cat Behavior Issues – Litter Box Problems</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Tree House Humane Society: Litter Box 101</a></li></ul>
<b>Has not peed yet.</b>	<p>Cats normally pee 2-4 times per day. Reasons your foster cat hasn't peed include not drinking enough water, fear of new people or a new environment, or a medical problem. It's also possible that your foster cat peed, but it was outside the litter box.</p> <p>If the cat seems sick (e.g., straining to urinate, vomiting, lethargic), contact your foster coordinator as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">San Francisco SPCA: Bringing Your New Cat Home</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Best Friends: Bringing a New Cat Home: How to Prevent Problems from Day One</a></li><li>• <a href="#">HSUS: How to Help a Frightened Cat</a></li></ul>
<b>Has not pooped yet.</b>	<p>Most cats poop 1-3 times per day. Some reasons Smokey may have not pooped include: not eating, not drinking, constipation or diarrhea. He might be pooping outside the litter box, and you haven't found it yet.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the amount of physical exercise to help stimulate him to have a bowel movement. Encourage him to play or chase toys.</li><li>• If Smokey is shy or scared, provide hiding places, food, water and litter boxes in a quiet room.</li><li>• Sometimes it helps to increase fiber intake. Adding 1 to 3 teaspoons of canned pumpkin to his food may be helpful. Make sure it is just pumpkin, and not pumpkin pie filling.</li></ul> <p>If your foster cat has not defecated at all within 48 hours, has other signs of illness, or the above tips don't help him to defecate in the next 24 hours, contact your foster coordinator.</p>



**Additional information:**

- [San Francisco SPCA: Bringing Your New Cat Home](#)
- [Best Friends: Bringing a New Cat Home: How to Prevent Problems from Day One](#)
- [HSUS: How to Help a Frightened Cat](#)

**How scared does Smokey appear to be toward you?**

**Terrified**

Fearful behavior is common when cats move to a new home.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- **Help your foster cat feel safe.** Provide a quiet room for him to live in for the first 1-2 weeks, while he adjusts to your home.
- **Provide hiding places.** Scared cats like to hide – usually either up high or in a dark, quiet space. Don't approach Smokey while he is hiding.
- **Take it slow.** Visit Smokey several times a day, but keep quiet and still – allow your foster cat to get used to your presence. Bring a special treat every time you visit.
- **Give him space.** Don't pick up, hug, or pet Smokey unless he 'requests' attention.

If your foster cat's fear is worsening or not getting better, please contact your foster coordinator.

**Additional information:**

- [Petful: 6 Tips for Bonding with a New Cat](#)
- [San Francisco SPCA: Bringing Your New Cat Home](#)
- [Catster: 9 Tips for Socializing a Shy Cat](#)

**How scared does Smokey appear to be toward other adults?**

**Terrified**

Many cats are uncomfortable around people they don't know. A cat who is scared or terrified needs help to improve his welfare. Helping your foster cat will also increase the safety of visitors to your home. If a fearful cat can't move away from visitors, sometimes they resort to aggression as a way to protect themselves.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- **Help your foster cat feel safe and give him privacy.** Keep your foster cat in a different part of your home where he won't have contact with visitors. Advise your visitors to stay out of the room where your foster cat is staying.
- **Give your foster cat hiding places.** Scared cats like to hide – usually either up high or in a dark, quiet space. Reducing stress aids recovery from fear and anxiety.
- **Your foster cat doesn't need to interact with visitors.** Some shy cats become more comfortable with visitors over time if you let them progress at their own pace. Others don't and it's important to know that some cats will be happier if they are always kept separate from visitors to your home.



If your foster cat's fear is worsening, please contact your foster coordinator.

**Additional information:**

- [San Francisco SPCA: Bringing Your New Cat Home](#)
- [Petful: How to Build Trust in Cats Who Are Shy Around People](#)
- [Catster: 9 Tips for Socializing a Shy Cat](#)

### How scared does Smokey appear to be toward children?

#### Terrified

Sorry to hear that Smokey is really scared of children. This may be the first time he has interacted with kids, causing him uncertainty and fear. Luckily, many problems between kids and cats can be avoided with good management and prevention. But be safe – some cats may behave aggressively when scared.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- **Help him feel safe.** Provide a safe, quiet spot for Smokey to retreat to where he can relax and observe without having to interact with people or animals. Consider confining your foster cat to a room for the first few days to weeks, to allow him to acclimate in a quiet environment.
- **Give him privacy.** If Smokey is in his safe spot or hiding, do not approach him, and instruct children to do the same.
- **Supervise interactions with children.** Teach children to interact with Smokey calmly and gently. Pay attention to Smokey's [body language](#), stopping if he appears fearful or anxious, and provide him with an escape route. Advise children not to pick up or pester your foster cat — no tail pulling, fur grabbing or chasing.
- **For the first week or two, don't allow children around your foster cat.** Give Smokey time to adjust to her new environment.

If your foster cat's fear of children is worsening, please contact your foster coordinator.

**Additional information:**

- [San Francisco SPCA: Bringing Your New Cat Home](#)
- [Catster: 6 Tips to Help Your Child and Cat Develop a Bond](#)
- [International Cat Care: How to Introduce Cats and Children](#)

### How scared does Smokey appear to be toward dogs?

#### Terrified

With time, many cats and dogs can live together in peace. The key is to have carefully managed introductions. Don't rush your pets into anything that they are not comfortable with.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- **Make your foster cat feel safe.** Provide a safe, quiet spot for Smokey to retreat, where he can relax and observe without having to interact with your dog. This could be behind a baby gate or a private spot on a cat tree.



- **Avoid interactions with dogs until he adjusts to your home.**
- **Next, perform controlled introductions.** Start after the dog has had a long walk or play session. Keep the dog leashed and practice some training exercises, like “sit/stay,” and “down.” Reward the dog with praise and treats for being calm and paying attention.
- **Reward your foster cat** for being calm, showing interest, and not running away during the introductions. Petting, play and treats help. Don’t force Smokey to interact.
- **Separate your foster cat and any dogs when they are unsupervised.** For example, put the two in different rooms with the door shut or keep the dog crated.

If your foster cat’s fear of dogs is worsening, please contact your foster coordinator.

**Additional information:**

- [Best Friends Animal Society: How to Introduce a Dog to a Cat](#)
- [PetMD: How to Introduce a Dog to a Cat](#)
- [Humane Society of the United States: Introducing Your New Cat to Other Pets](#)

## How scared does Smokey appear to be toward other cats?

### Terrified

It’s fairly common for new foster cats to be scared of their feline housemates. Smokey will need your help to improve his welfare and learn how to get along.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- **Make the foster cat feel safe.** Provide a safe, quiet spot where your new pal can relax and observe without directly interacting with other people or animals in the home. A separate room, away from other pets, is best at first.
- **Provide an acclimation period.** Allow at least 72 hours for your foster cat to adjust to his room and new surroundings. Make sure you spend time with him. Do not proceed to the next step until your foster cat is comfortable.
- **Introduce them to each other’s scent.** Begin by exchanging items like towels or blankets that each cat has rested on.
- **Allow exploration of the rest of the house.** After about a week, allow the new and resident cats to separately explore each other’s spaces a few hours per day, making sure they do not meet. Do this for 1-2 weeks.
- **Introduce them using rewards.** Check out the links below for tips!

If your foster cat’s fear of your resident cat is worsening, please contact your foster coordinator.

**Additional information:**

- [Best Friends Animal Society: Introducing Cats to Each Other](#)
- [PetMD: How to Introduce Cats](#)
- [Tree House Humane Society: Introducing a New Cat to Resident Cats](#)



### How scared does Smokey appear to be of loud noises?

#### Terrified

Depending on the cat's personality, some cats may not recover as quickly as others or may display an exaggerated response to these sounds.

#### Here are some helpful tips:

- **Give your foster cat hiding places.** Scared cats like to hide – usually either up high or in a dark, quiet space. Reducing stress allows recovery from fear and anxiety.
- **Prevent exposure to the fear-inducing sound while your foster cat adapts to the new environment.** Give Smokey time to adjust to his new territory. Prevent exposure to scary noises until he has had time to adjust to his new home, typically 10-14 days.
- **Help your foster cat feel safe.** Provide a safe, quiet spot for Smokey to stay when loud noises occur. For example, put Smokey in a bedroom before you vacuum in other parts of your home.

If Smokey's fear of noises is not improving or is worsening, contact your foster coordinator.

#### Additional information:

- [San Francisco SPCA: Bringing Your New Cat Home](#)
- [Best Friends Animal Society: Cat Scared of Noise](#)
- [Pet Wave: Helping Cat Overcome & Tolerate Their Fear of Noises](#)

### How scared does Smokey appear to be of your home (the environment) and/or unfamiliar objects?

#### Terrified

Some cats are inquisitive and explore new objects and environments, but others have a natural instinct to run and hide. For some cats, this instinct can be quite exaggerated and cats may hide for long periods of time.

#### Here are some helpful tips:

- **Help Smokey feel safe.** Provide a safe, quiet spot for your new pal to relax and observe the environment without having to interact with other people or animals in the home.
- **Give your foster cat hiding places.** Scared cats like to hide – usually either up high or in a dark, quiet space.
- **Prevent exposure to the fear-inducing object or location while Smokey adapts to his new environment.** Give him time to adjust to his new foster home. Prevent exposure to the item or setting that is causing fear until he has had time to adjust to his new home, typically 10-14 days.
- **Never force your foster cat to interact with anything that frightens him.** Doing so usually only increases his fear and makes things worse.

If Smokey's fearful behavior around new objects and/or environments is worsening, contact your foster coordinator.

#### Additional information:

- [San Francisco SPCA: Bringing Your New Cat Home](#)
- [The Humane Society of the United States: Bringing Your New Cat Home](#)



- [Best Friends Animal Society: Bringing Your New Cat Home: How to Prevent Problems from Day One](#)

**Check all that apply. Which of the following is occurring toward you?**

**Biting**

Aggression and biting can be a serious problem; however, aggression is sometimes the only way your foster cat feels he can communicate his discomfort.

**Here are a few helpful tips:**

- The first and most important thing to do is to seek medical attention for the bite. Your health and the health of others is our first concern, and we want to make sure that everyone is OK.
- Avoid doing whatever provoked the bite – repeating the action that resulted in a bite could lead to ANOTHER BITE, and we certainly don't want that!

Please contact Posey's Humane Society as soon as possible. We want to keep everyone safe and happy in the home.

**Additional information:**

- [Best Friends Animal Society: Cat Aggression Toward People](#)
- [ASPCA: Finding Professional Help](#)
- [American College of Veterinary Behaviorists](#)
- [Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists](#)

**Check all that apply. Within the past 24 hours, Smokey has shown grouchy or irritable behavior toward me when I:**

**Touch, pet, or pick up him.**

Most cats behave aggressively because they are scared. They feel that they can't get away from the person who is scaring them, and aggression is an effective way to get people to back off.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- Cats have varying tolerances for being petted and handled, and may become aggressive if their tolerance has been reached. Learn to recognize your foster cat's body language, and what your foster cat likes and doesn't like.
- Most cats enjoy being petted on the head and/or neck. Some cats don't like being picked up or petted on certain parts of the body. Once you learn your foster cat's preferences, respect those preferences and don't do things that Smokey doesn't like, unless it is necessary for medical reasons or safety.
- Never punish your foster cat for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.

**Additional information:**

- [San Francisco SPCA: Cat Overstimulation](#)
- [ASPCA: Cat Aggression](#)

**Brush or groom him.**

Cats have varying tolerances for being brushed and groomed, and may become aggressive if their tolerance has been exceeded or if the grooming is painful.



	<p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If your cat has mats or is in immediate need of grooming, consider taking him to a professional groomer. Start brushing your foster cat regularly (as described below) after the trip to the groomer.</li><li>• Consider using a different type of brush, with gentle bristles.</li><li>• Teach your foster cat to enjoy brushing and grooming by brushing her for short periods of time (10-20 seconds or even less if he is really uncomfortable) while your foster cat is eating canned food or treats.</li><li>• Don't groom your foster cat outside of the short training exercises. The goal is to teach your foster cat to enjoy grooming by associating it with good things (food!).</li><li>• Never punish your foster cat for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.</li></ul> <p>Aggression can occur due to pain or discomfort. Please contact your foster coordinator, tell them about your foster cat's behavior, and ask whether your foster cat needs a veterinary examination.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">San Francisco SPCA: Cat Overstimulation</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Cat Aggression</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Canine and Feline Behaviour Association: Grooming Aggressive Cats</a></li></ul>
<b>Approach him.</b>	<p>Most cats behave aggressively because they are scared. They feel that they can't get away from you when you approach, and aggression usually results in you no longer interacting with them, which is what your foster cat likely wants.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call your foster coordinator. Aggression is serious and it's important to seek guidance from knowledgeable sources.</li><li>• When you approach Smokey, talk to him and slowly and gently extend a hand when you are a few feet away.</li><li>• If Smokey moves toward you to interact with you, you're on the right track and it's usually OK to pet him.</li><li>• If Smokey doesn't approach or moves away, don't force interaction or follow him.</li><li>• Never reach for Smokey from under furniture or in a hiding spot, this will make him feel cornered.</li><li>• Never punish Smokey for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">HSUS: Fearful Cat</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Cat Aggression</a></li></ul>
<b>Reprimand him.</b>	<p>Cats should never be physically reprimanded. This could injure the cat, potentially make the behavior worse, or cause fear and avoidance of people.</p>



**Here are some helpful tips:**

- If Smokey does something you don't like, reprimanding him is very rarely the solution. It's always best to teach Smokey what you want him to do rather than what not to do.
- Often, reprimanding your foster cat only creates fear and does not correct the behavior that led to being reprimanded.
- If you feel that you must reprimand your foster cat, it is essential that:
  - You first consider other options. Can you manage the environment to prevent the situation from happening again?
  - The correction is not associated with you (e.g., is a loud noise, but not your voice).
  - The correction happens during or within one second of the misbehavior. If any later, Smokey will not understand the connection between the misbehavior and reprimanding.
  - The correction is noticeable enough to stop the misbehavior but not so noticeable that Smokey is frightened for several minutes (or longer) after the correction.

**Additional information:**

- [HSUS: Fearful Cat](#)
- [ASPCA: Cat Aggression](#)

**Check all that apply. Which of the following is occurring toward other adults?**

**Biting**

Aggression and biting can be a serious problem; however, aggression is sometimes the only way your foster cat feels he can communicate his discomfort.

**Here are a few helpful tips:**

- The first and most important thing to do is to seek medical attention for the bite. Your health and the health of others is our first concern, and we want to make sure that everyone is OK.
- Avoid doing whatever provoked the bite – repeating the action that resulted in a bite could lead to ANOTHER BITE, and we certainly don't want that!

Please contact Posey's Humane Society as soon as possible. We want to keep everyone safe and happy in the home.

**Additional information:**

- [Best Friends Animal Society: Cat Aggression Toward People](#)
- [ASPCA: Finding Professional Help](#)
- [American College of Veterinary Behaviorists](#)
- [Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists](#)

**Check all that apply. Within the past 24 hours, Smokey has shown grouchy or irritable behavior toward other adults when they:**

**Touch, pet, or pick up him.**

Most cats behave aggressively because they are scared. They feel uncomfortable with the way someone is interacting





	<p>with them, and aggression can get people to back off.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If Smokey behaved aggressively when picked up, try not to pick him up. If you must, cover him with a thick towel beforehand.</li><li>• If Smokey behaved aggressively when you were touching or petting him, avoid that part of his body.</li><li>• Cats have different preferences for being petted and handled. Learn to recognize Smokey's body language, and what he likes and doesn't like. Once you learn his preferences, respect them. Don't do things Smokey doesn't like, unless it is necessary for medical reasons or safety.</li><li>• Teach others about Smokey's preferences, and monitor how they interact with him.</li><li>• Never punish Smokey for aggression. This can worsen his fear and is often ineffective.</li></ul> <p>Aggression can occur due to pain or discomfort. Please contact your foster coordinator, tell them about your foster cat's behavior and ask whether Smokey needs a veterinary examination.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">San Francisco SPCA: Cat Overstimulation</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Cat Aggression</a></li></ul>
<b>Brush or groom him.</b>	<p>Cats have varying tolerances for being brushed and groomed, and may behave aggressively if their tolerance has been exceeded or if the grooming is painful.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If your cat has mats or is in immediate need of grooming, consider taking him to a professional groomer. Start brushing your foster cat regularly (as described below) after the trip to the groomer.</li><li>• Consider using a different type of brush, with gentle bristles.</li><li>• Teach Smokey to enjoy brushing and grooming by brushing her for short periods of time (10-20 seconds or even less if he is really uncomfortable) while your foster cat is eating canned food or treats.</li><li>• Don't groom Smokey outside of the short training exercises. The goal is to teach your foster cat to enjoy grooming by associating it with good things (food!).</li><li>• Never punish your foster cat for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.</li></ul> <p>Aggression can occur due to pain or discomfort. Contact your foster coordinator, tell them about your foster cat's behavior, and ask whether Smokey needs a veterinary examination.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">San Francisco SPCA: Cat Overstimulation</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Cat Aggression</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Canine and Feline Behaviour Association: Grooming Aggressive Cats</a></li></ul>



<b>Approach him.</b>	<p>Most cats behave aggressively because they are scared. They feel that they can't get away from the person who is approaching them, and aggression usually results in the person no longer interacting with them, which is what your foster cat likely wants.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach people to talk to your foster cat and slowly and gently extend a hand when they are a few feet away from Smokey.</li><li>• If your foster cat moves toward the person to interact with them, you're on the right track and it's usually OK to pet him.</li><li>• If Smokey doesn't approach or moves away, instruct people not to force interaction or follow your foster cat.</li><li>• Teach people to never reach for your foster cat from under furniture or in a hiding spot, this will make the cat feel cornered.</li><li>• Never punish your foster cat for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">HSUS: Fearful Cat</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Cat Aggression</a></li></ul>
<b>Reprimand him.</b>	<p>Cats should <i>never</i> be physically reprimanded. This could injure Smokey, potentially make the behavior worse, or cause fear and avoidance of people.</p> <p><b>A few tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If Smokey does something you don't like, reprimanding him is very rarely the best move. It is always best to teach Smokey what you want him <i>to</i> do rather than <i>not</i></li><li>• Reprimanding often creates fear and does not correct the undesired behavior.</li><li>• If you feel you must reprimand Smokey, it is essential that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ You first consider other options. Can you manage the environment to prevent the situation from happening again?</li><li>○ The correction is not associated with you (e.g. is a loud noise, but not your voice).</li><li>○ The correction happens during or within one second of the misbehavior. If any later, Smokey will not understand the connection between the misbehavior and reprimanding.</li></ul></li><li>• The correction is noticeable enough stop the misbehavior but not so noticeable that Smokey is frightened for several minutes (or longer) after the correction.</li></ul> <p><b>Helpful Links:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Cat Aggression</a></li><li>• <a href="#">HSUS: Fearful Cat</a></li></ul>



**Check all that apply. Which of the following is occurring toward children?**

**Biting**

Aggression and biting can be a serious problem; however, aggression is sometimes the only way your foster cat feels he can communicate his discomfort.

**Here are a few helpful tips:**

- The first and most important thing to do is to seek medical attention for the bite. Your health and the health of others is our first concern, and we want to make sure that everyone is OK.
- Avoid doing whatever provoked the bite – repeating the action that resulted in a bite could lead to ANOTHER BITE, and we certainly don't want that!

Please contact Posey's Humane Society as soon as possible. We want to keep everyone safe and happy in the home.

**Additional information:**

- [Best Friends Animal Society: Cat Aggression Toward People](#)
- [ASPCA: Finding Professional Help](#)
- [American College of Veterinary Behaviorists](#)
- [Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists](#)

**Check all that apply. Within the past 24 hours, Smokey has shown grouchy or irritable behavior toward children when they:**

**Touch, pet, or pick up him.**

Most cats behave aggressively because they are scared. They feel uncomfortable with the way a child is interacting with them, and aggression is an effective way to get children to back off.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- Don't allow children to touch, pet or pick up your foster cat. If it's difficult to avoid interaction, keep your foster cat in a different area of your home (away from children) until you are able to seek skilled guidance about this issue.
- Cats have varying tolerances for being petted and handled, and may become aggressive if their tolerance has been reached. Learn to recognize your foster cat's body language, and what he likes and doesn't like.
- Teach children about your foster cat's likes and dislikes, and very carefully monitor how they interact with him. Supervise all interactions between your foster cat and children.
- Never punish your foster cat for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.

Aggression can occur due to pain or discomfort. Please contact your foster coordinator, tell them about your foster cat's behavior and ask whether your foster cat needs a veterinary examination.

**Additional information:**

- [San Francisco SPCA: Cat Overstimulation](#)
- [ASPCA: Cat Aggression](#)



<b>Brush or groom him.</b>	<p>Cats have varying tolerances for being brushed and groomed and may behave aggressively if their tolerance has been exceeded or if the grooming is painful.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If Smokey has mats or is in immediate need of grooming, consider taking him to a professional groomer. Start brushing Smokey regularly after the trip to the groomer.</li><li>• Consider using a different type of brush, with gentle bristles.</li><li>• Don't allow children to brush and groom your foster cat – Smokey has shown signs that he doesn't enjoy this activity and it puts your children at risk of injury.</li><li>• Brushing and grooming should be performed by adults.</li><li>• Never punish Smokey for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">San Francisco SPCA: Cat Overstimulation</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Cat Aggression</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Canine and Feline Behaviour Association: Grooming Aggressive Cats</a></li></ul>
<b>Approach him.</b>	<p>Most cats behave aggressively because they are scared. They feel that they can't get away from the child who is approaching them, and aggression usually results in the child no longer interacting with them, which is what your foster cat likely wants.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call your foster coordinator for advice. Aggression is serious and it's important to seek guidance from knowledgeable sources.</li><li>• Don't allow children to interact with Smokey until you speak with someone about this issue. Tell kids to ignore Smokey – repeating the same action could result in a bite.</li><li>• In some situations, it's best to keep your foster cat separated from children, except during controlled interactions where you teach kids how to positively interact with your foster cat (likely via play with wand-type toys and/or treats).</li><li>• Don't let children pursue or handle a fearful cat. Never let children reach for Smokey from under furniture or in a hiding spot, this could make him feel cornered.</li><li>• Never punish Smokey for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">HSUS: Fearful Cat</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Cat Aggression</a></li></ul>



**Reprimand him.**

Cats should *never* be physically reprimanded. This could injure the cat, potentially make the behavior worse, and/or cause fear and avoidance of familiar people.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- If your foster cat does something that you don't like, reprimanding him is very infrequently the best course of action. It is always best to teach your foster cat what you want him TO do rather than what you want him NOT to do.
- In many situations, reprimanding your foster cat teaches your foster cat to be scared of you and does not teach him to stop doing whatever it was that resulted in your reprimanding him.
- Explain to children that they should NEVER reprimand your foster cat. If your foster cat does something they don't like, they should inform an adult of the cat's behavior.

**Additional information:**

- [HSUS: Fearful Cat](#)
- [ASPCA: Cat Aggression](#)
- [HSUS: Training Your Cat with Positive Reinforcement](#)

**Check all that apply. Which of the following is occurring toward dogs?**

**Biting**

Aggression and biting can be a serious problem; however, aggression is sometimes the only way your foster cat feels he can communicate his discomfort.

**Here are a few helpful tips:**

- The first and most important thing to do is to seek medical attention for the bite. Your health and the health of others is our first concern, and we want to make sure that everyone is OK.
- Avoid doing whatever provoked the bite – repeating the action that resulted in a bite could lead to ANOTHER BITE, and we certainly don't want that!

Please contact Posey's Humane Society as soon as possible. We want to keep everyone safe and happy in the home.

**Additional information:**

- [Best Friends Animal Society: Cat Aggression Toward People](#)
- [ASPCA: Finding Professional Help](#)
- [American College of Veterinary Behaviorists](#)
- [Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists](#)

**Check all that apply. Within the past 24 hours, Smokey has shown grouchy or irritable behavior toward dogs when they:**

**Approach him.**

Some cats and dogs get along very well; some don't. Learning how to supervise and monitor interactions can definitely help.

**Here are some helpful tips:**



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess the relationship. Do the dog and cat appear to be friendly and interested in each other? If the dog is being seriously aggressive toward Smokey, contact Posey's Humane Society immediately.</li><li>• If Smokey is scared, keep him in a private room away from the dog for at least 1 week.</li><li>• Introductions should be gradual, with both pets under control. Start with the dog on one side of a door, getting treats and petting, while Smokey is getting a treat or canned food on the opposite side of the door.</li><li>• Once in a shared space, make sure Smokey has several safe areas to retreat to. Baby gates and tall cat towers can help Smokey observe the dog from a safe, comfortable distance.</li><li>• Try to keep your dog relaxed during introductions. Never let the dog chase or lunge at Smokey.</li><li>• Never punish Smokey for aggression. This can worsen his fear and rarely prevents the problem from recurring.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">HSUS: Introducing Cats to Pets</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Best Friends Animal Society: How to Introduce a Dog to a Cat</a></li></ul>
Chase him.	<p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many cats are frightened when chased by a dog; it often takes time for cats to become comfortable and relaxed around dogs. When your foster cat is chased, aggressive behavior helps him/her protect himself/herself.</li><li>• Never punish your foster cat for aggression. This can worsen his fear.</li><li>• It is normal and appropriate for your foster cat to behave aggressively when chased by a dog. Aggressive behavior often teaches a dog how to act (and not act) around your foster cat.</li><li>• Never let a dog chase or lunge at your foster cat. If the dog is intensely chasing your foster cat, keep them separated and introduce them slowly and gradually.</li><li>• Make sure your foster cat has several hiding places up high. Cats usually like to get up and away when being chased – make sure these locations are easily accessible.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b> <a href="#">Best Friends Animal Society: Helping a Dog who Chases Cats</a></p>
Play with him.	<p>Many cats are uncomfortable playing with dogs. Aggression is a normal response that hopefully teaches a dog to back off when your foster cat is uncomfortable.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not leave your foster cat and dog together when you are not directly supervising them.</li><li>• Don't let your pets play together until they are more comfortable interacting with each other on a day-to-day basis.</li><li>• Make sure that Smokey has several places that he can retreat to when your foster cat wants to get away from the dog.</li><li>• Give your dog plenty of exercise so that your dog has less energy to direct toward your foster cat.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Never punish your foster cat for aggression. This is the only way your foster cat can let your dog know that he doesn't want to play.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">HSUS: Introducing Cats to Pets</a></li><li>• <a href="#">PetSafe: Dog and Cat Play</a></li></ul>
<b>Disturb him when resting or sleeping.</b>	<p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At this time, we recommend keeping your foster cat in a private room, away from the dog, for at least a week. This will prevent the dog from disturbing your foster cat and allow him to get to know the dog more gradually.</li><li>• Allowing your foster cat to have a quiet room to retreat to that has all of his resources (food, water, toys, litter box) can be helpful while your foster cat is adjusting to his new environment.</li><li>• Make sure there are plenty of safe areas that the dog cannot access, for your foster cat to relax and rest in. These can include tall cat trees or other areas out of the dog's reach.</li><li>• Your dog and cat should not be left alone together when unsupervised. Use crates or baby gates to keep them separate while you are gone.</li><li>• Never punish your foster cat for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">HSUS: Fearful Cat</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Cat Aggression</a></li></ul>
<b>Check all that apply. Which of the following is occurring toward cats?</b>	
<b>Biting</b>	<p>Aggression and biting can be a serious problem; however, aggression is sometimes the only way your foster cat feels he can communicate his discomfort.</p> <p><b>Here are a few helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The first and most important thing to do is to seek medical attention for the bite. Your health and the health of others is our first concern, and we want to make sure that everyone is OK.</li><li>• Avoid doing whatever provoked the bite – repeating the action that resulted in a bite could lead to ANOTHER BITE, and we certainly don't want that!</li></ul> <p>Please contact Posey's Humane Society as soon as possible. We want to keep everyone safe and happy in the home.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Best Friends Animal Society: Cat Aggression Toward People</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Finding Professional Help</a></li></ul>



- [American College of Veterinary Behaviorists](#)
- [Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists](#)

**Check all that apply. Within the past 24 hours, Smokey has shown grouchy or irritable behavior toward cats when they:**

**Approach him.**

Cats can be protective of their space. Unfamiliar cats can cause stress, anxiety or aggression. Even cats who usually get along will sometimes have conflicts.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- Follow any instructions you have received from Posey's Humane Society. Gradual introductions are best. A bad first experience can cause a rough time going forward.
- Smokey and your existing cat(s) should be kept in separate areas for at least 1 week while they adjust to each other's smells and presence.
- Start with exposure to their sound and scent, without them actually seeing each other. Rub the cats with the same small towel and feed them small yummy treats while they are on opposite sides of a closed door.
- It can take weeks or even months before they are truly comfortable with each other. When not doing introduction exercises, keep them separate while they get used to each other.

**Additional information:**

- [HSUS: Introducing Cats to Pets](#)
- [Best Friends Animal Society: Introducing Cats to Each Other](#)
- [ASPCA: Aggression Between Cats](#)

**Chase him.**

It's normal for a cat to get aggressive when another cat is chasing him. Mild aggression is a way to establish boundaries, both in normal interaction and in play.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- If Smokey's aggression is severe and causing stress, the cats should be kept in separate areas for at least a week while they cool down.
- Introductions need to be slow. Start with exposure to their sound and scent, without them actually seeing each other. Rub the cats with the same small towel and feed them small yummy treats while they are on opposite sides of a closed door.
- Supervise all interactions. Some cats can take weeks or even months before they are truly comfortable with each other. When not doing introduction exercises, keep them separate while they get used to each other.
- Never punish Smokey for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.

**Additional information:**

- [HSUS: Introducing Cats to Pets](#)





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Best Friends Animal Society: Introducing Cats to Each Other</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Aggression Between Cats</a></li></ul>
<b>Play with him.</b>	<p>Cats can be rough and sometimes even aggressive when they play. They can stalk, pounce, tussle and bite, all without causing injury. If injuries do occur, or if one cat is clearly bothering the other, there is likely conflict between them.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supervise all interactions. If one cat is picking on another cat, briefly separate the cats into different rooms.</li><li>• If one cat is repeatedly picking on another cat, play with the 'attacking cat' more often. Having another outlet can reduce focus on the other cat(s).</li><li>• If the cats are often fighting during play, keep them in separate areas of your home (when unsupervised) until things settle down.</li><li>• Use your voice when play gets out of hand. Don't ever separate them with your hands – you could get hurt.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Pet Web MD: Aggression, Biting and Rough Play in Cats</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Best Friends Animal Society: Introducing Cats to Each Other</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Aggression Between Cats</a></li></ul>
<b>Disturb him when resting or sleeping.</b>	<p>Some cats are more cautious while adjusting to their surroundings, and may be more on guard, especially if startled while resting.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your foster cats in separate areas for at least 1 week while they adjust.</li><li>• Introductions need to be slow. Start with exposure to their sound and scent, without them actually seeing each other. Rub the cats with the same small towel and feed them small yummy treats while they are on opposite sides of a closed door.</li><li>• Some cats take weeks or even months before they are truly comfortable with each other. When not doing introduction exercises, keep them separate while they get used to each other.</li><li>• Cats who behave aggressively when disturbed while sleeping are sometimes protecting their territory. Make sure the cats have easy access to resources. Set up multiple food bowls, water bowls, and litter boxes in different areas of your home.</li><li>• Never punish Smokey for aggression. This can worsen his fear and often doesn't prevent the problem from happening again.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">HSUS: Introducing Cats to Pets</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Best Friends Animal Society: Introducing Cats to Each Other</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ASPCA: Aggression Between Cats</a></li></ul>



**Check all that apply. Is your foster cat playful?**

**Yes, with people's hands**

Some cats may play with hands or feet roughly or in a way that we consider inappropriate or even painful. It is important to discourage this behavior early on. What may seem "cute" can turn into a serious behavior issue when your foster cat learns from his experiences that human body parts are toys to bite and scratch.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- Never use hands or feet as play toys – this includes toys that you wear on your hands.
- Be proactive. Regular play sessions can divert your foster cat's attention from hands and feet to an interesting toy.
- Give your foster cat stuffed toys to wrestle/play with.
- Wand-type interactive toys are a great way for cats to play and exercise.
- Do not smack or punish your foster cat for inappropriate play with your hands or feet. Rather, gently discourage inappropriate behavior by withdrawing attention when your foster cat starts to play with your hands or feet.

**Additional information:**

- [Dumb Friends League: Managing Your Young Cat's Rough Play](#)
- [San Francisco ASPCA: Cat Play Aggression](#)

**Check all that apply. Does Smokey exhibit any of the following behaviors to the extent that they could be bothersome to an adopter?**

**Biting, scratching, or clawing others while playing**

All cats need to play, but they can be given toys and games that keep them from mistaking your hands, feet and other body parts for play things.

**Here are some helpful tips:**

- Make sure that Smokey has a variety of toys of different weight, size, and texture that he can chase and bite. Toys on long strings or poles work well since you can make them move without drawing attention to your hand.
- Avoid letting Smokey chase or stalk your hands or feet while playing. This will make him think it is OK to bite or scratch them like a toy.
- If Smokey becomes too rough or aggressive during play, stop playtime, and calmly move away from him. Do not jerk your hand or foot away, as this may be taken as a playful response from you, and might escalate the behavior.
- Do not hit or swat Smokey. This might make him fearful of you, or teach him to escalate the rough play.

**Additional information:**

- [Dumb Friends League: Managing Your Young Cat's Rough Play](#)
- [San Francisco ASPCA: Cat Play Aggression](#)



### Scratching inappropriate objects

Cats naturally scratch for many reasons, often on surfaces we wish they wouldn't. The best way to correct this behavior is to give Smokey a better place to scratch.

#### Here are some helpful tips:

- **Provide scratching posts with many textures and surfaces.** Cardboard, sisal rope or carpet may entice Smokey to scratch the preferred surface. The post should be tall and sturdy enough for him to fully stretch and tug downward without pulling it over. It should be in common area in the home, not in the corner of a rarely used room.
- **Trim your foster cat's claws regularly** so that if he does scratch in a place you don't like, he might do less damage. Your veterinarian should be able to show you how to do this safely. Reward Smokey for allowing you to trim his nails.
- If Smokey still seems drawn to scratching inappropriate items, you **can try to make these things unappealing.** Cover them with double sided tape, foil, or sandpaper.

#### Additional information:

- [ASPCA: Destructive Scratching in Cats](#)
- [HSUS: Destructive Scratching](#)
- [San Francisco SPCA: Scratching Posts](#)

### Please check all that apply. When does Smokey talk too much?

#### When he wants something (e.g., food, attention)

Cats who meow/vocalize when they want something are using their voice to try to tell you what they want.

#### Here are some helpful tips:

- Your foster cat might have previously learned to meow for attention or for food. If you don't want to encourage your foster cat to vocalize in these situations, it is very important to ignore the vocalizations EVERY time he demands something.
- Your foster cat might be asking for more play or affection and adding some extra play time or petting at a time of day more convenient for you might satisfy this need.
- Lastly, it is important to never punish your foster cat for unwanted behaviors. This can damage his trust and relationship with you.
- Since some cats will vocalize if they are in pain or discomfort, we recommend that you call your foster coordinator. Your foster cat may need to be evaluated by a veterinarian.

#### Additional information:

- [San Francisco SPCA: Excessive meowing](#)

#### When left alone

Some cats can be naturally talkative, which is normal behavior. However, sometimes it can mean that your foster cat is trying to tell you something. Since your foster cat just went through a whirlwind of changes recently, he might need



	<p>more time to adjust to his new environment.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make sure that your foster cat has a safe place to retreat to if feeling overwhelmed, such as a box or hiding spot, especially in the first few weeks of being in the home.</li><li>• Since some cats will vocalize if they are in pain or discomfort, we recommend that you call your foster coordinator. Your foster cat may need to be evaluated by a veterinarian.</li><li>• Your foster cat may be experiencing <a href="#">separation anxiety</a>, which is anxiety caused by being left alone.</li><li>• Providing <a href="#">mental stimulation</a> by giving your foster cat plenty of interesting toys (e.g., food puzzle toys) will help reduce anxiety.</li><li>• Lastly, it is important to never punish your foster cat for unwanted behaviors. This can damage his trust and relationship with you.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">San Francisco SPCA: Excessive meowing</a></li></ul>
<b>All the time!</b>	<p>Cats who meow/vocalize when they want something are using their voice to try to tell you what they want.</p> <p><b>Here are some helpful tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your foster cat might have previously learned to meow for attention or for food. If you don't want to encourage your foster cat to vocalize in these situations, it is very important to ignore the vocalizations EVERY time he demands something.</li><li>• Your foster cat might be asking for more play or affection and adding some extra play time or petting at a time of day more convenient for you might satisfy this need.</li><li>• Lastly, it is important to never punish your foster cat for unwanted behaviors. This can damage his trust and relationship with you.</li><li>• Since some cats will vocalize if they are in pain or discomfort, we recommend that you call your foster coordinator. Your foster cat may need to be evaluated by a veterinarian.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">San Francisco SPCA: Excessive meowing</a></li></ul>