Cat Enrichment

Animal Behavior

Volunteer Training Manual
Animal Behavior Enrichment – Cats

Thank you for choosing to be a volunteer in the Animal Behavior department! If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any Animal Behavior staff or veteran volunteers.

Cat Enrichment volunteers provide enrichment in a systematic way according to the guidelines and the daily enrichment schedule. Volunteers will provide enrichment to cats in the adoptable kennels, foster kennels and quarantined kennels. They will provide soft music, scratchers, pheromone spray, feeder objects and a scheduled daily enrichment items. Volunteers will be assisting in stress reduction of cats housed in the shelter.

Please do not attempt any of these processes or techniques until you have been trained by a Dumb Friends League staff member.

Please be sure to ask plenty of questions. These are the managers and supervisors that can assist you in your training:

Matt Levien
Billie Reynolds

Attendance and Vacations
If you are unable to make it in for your shift, please contact Volunteer Services at 720-241-7160 or e-mail volunteer@ddfl.org. This way we know that you will be out and we may be able to find another volunteer to fill your shift. If you would like to change your position or the time and/or day you come in, please contact Jasmin Rice at 720-241-7146.

Getting Started
- Please wear your volunteer name tag and t-shirt for all shifts.
- Pick up individual hand sanitizers. Please return the sanitizer when your shift ends. Refills are available in the supervisor/manager’s office
- Clock in at the time clock for every shift.

Equipment
Enrichment items are located in the metal storage shelving in West Obedience in the basement. You may be responsible for helping to stock/organize these items.

Supplies can be found:
- In the West Obedience room, located in the basement.
- In the cabinets in the behavior office.
- In the cabinets under the stairs.
- In the metal cabinets in cat areas.
- Buddy Center: night kennel room, Director’s office, garage

A fully stocked enrichment cart should have:
- Feliway (cat pheromone)
- Hand sanitizers
- “Needs Attention” slips (available in the Behavior office)
- Scratchers (found in the cat areas)
- Daily enrichment items
Providing Enrichment
Enrichment can be given to cats in the adoption area, on both the Cattery side and the TLC side. Remember to always work with healthy cats first and then move to sick cats; once you have been with sick cats you cannot return to the healthy side. Enrichment can be provided in our single kennels and our colony rooms.

Enrichment will also be given to the foster cat population, kitten rooms, TLC cats not currently up for adoption, and both the Lost and Found and Owner Surrender cats. It is important to remember not to handle the Lost and Found or Owner Surrender cats as they have not yet been evaluated; enrichment can be given through the closed kennel gate.

How to Provide Enrichment
- Turn on music in each cat room at a low volume and press repeat
- Provide feeder objects to cats (located in the West Obedience room)
- If a cat appears stressed, you can spray Feliway. Make sure to spray away from the cat, never spray Feliway onto an animal.
- Provide scratchers to cats (provide to any cat who doesn’t already have a scratcher)
- Provide special enrichment item based on the cat area and day of the week

Additional Responsibilities
- Fill out a “Needs Attention” slip when necessary, for example:
  - A cat needs grooming
  - A cat is sneezing or potentially sick
  - A cat has bloody stools or diarrhea
- Sort through donations on the dock.
- Deliver supplies to cat quarantine areas. This should be the last area you visit, as these cats are sick.