

"15 MINUTES per DAY, per CAT/KITTEN, for BASIC care"
Cattery Basic Time Management - University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine

This was a study presented by Dr. Kate Hurley, DVM, MVPM, director Koret Shelter Medicine Program, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, "Professional Standards of Care for Animal Shelters". (I am sure you can contact Dr. Kate Hurley for more information. This is not a AR type study issue.)

I want to share a very basic cattery time management study, we have had some seriously overwhelmed catteries recently. We were able to successfully downsize and hope things go according to plans in the future. Please take a manager's look at your feline numbers, how you are managing and if you are able to hire help if needed. Shelters have many of the same issues as catteries. They have to keep the clowder healthy, enriched, stress free, groomed, and get felines adopted into homes.

Study is from University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine Study. I once shared this in a regional newsletter, it was presented by Maddie's Shelter Medicine Conference - University of Florida that I attended. I hope you find it helpful in your cattery management. I will be presenting a series of information over several weeks, including information about our CFA BAP-BRP Program.

For the purpose of shelter management, which also applies to catteries and kennels, you need to allow (fifteen) "15 MINUTES per DAY, per CAT/KITTEN, for BASIC care". ie: food, water, litter, spot clean cage, cursory touch-handle pet.

EXAMPLE: If you have 25 cats/kittens, that means you need 375 minutes per day, divided by 60 minutes in a hour, 6.25 hours every day for just BASIC care!

This does **NOT** include any medications, bathing, birthing, bottle feeding, etc. that we experience in a cattery. And don't forget to consider outside work, many breeders have a job which leaves less time. So please take a look at your "capacity" needs.

Once you exceed your capacity, you can no longer provide the "Five Freedoms" below.

Do you have outside help? Enough hours in the day to meet needs of family, home and cats?

Our precious pedigree cat(s) need at least minimum 15 minutes of our time each day!

If you need to downsize, please do so. CFA BAP-BRP will help, (tamara.bap@outlook.com) remove space at @, contact us before you are so overwhelmed or Animal Control gets involved, it is much easier on the cats to have CFA BAP steadily get them placed vs an Animal Control seizure. Also consider mentoring a new breeder with a couple of your healthy special cats to keep your numbers low.

Please, I have heard, "*oh we knew that was going to happen someday*", if you know someone needs help, please confidentially tell Breed Rescue or Animal Welfare, we want to help our breeders be successful!

We can help with a variety of tools for them to use. It is win-win for the at Fancy! Breeders who fail cost all of us, with added regulations, loss of pedigree lines, bad media press, AR fodder etc.! Usually we get a heads up as complaints from kitten buyers. After multiple complaints CFA Animal Welfare will investigate to see if that breeder needs help.

Once Animal Control is involved in a seizure, your anonymity is gone! Public record. CFA takes this very seriously! Your CFA registration rights will be suspended due to Animal Control seizure pending our investigation, your cats are seized and you will never know where they have gone, plus you can be fined an average of \$200 +/- in Animal Control/county fines and fees per pet taken, plus court costs! At point of seizure, all I can do is try to work with the AC agency to get the cats to our approved rescue vs euthanization.

Please avoid having your cats being at risk of AC seizure. Cats always react to seizure or to rescue fostering for that matter. Cats are very routine-orientated. Some rescued and fostered cats have not seen a vet in years when we get involved, we have to literally start at ground "0" and work forward.

From the vet records analyzed, below is how cats physically performed after a seizure. They all lost about 6% - 10% of their body weight after Animal Control seizure - typical for all cats taken into animal control. ie example: Intake 9/2/10 weight 8.20 lbs, 10/1/10 spay surgery weight 7.60 lbs. Cats will continue to gain more weight in a low stress environment.

I want to encourage all to look at your cattery management, CFA has information available on web site. Many times, you can become more profitable with less cats than with more cats. Leaving you with more time to spend with your cats, training for the show ring experience, healthier cats-kittens being offered for sale, fewer issues that require expensive vet care. I know many would enjoy breaking even at the end of the year vs being in the red due to expensive cost of our hobby.

CFA has minimum cattery standards (available online) and Florida has "Professional Standards of Care for Animal Shelters" and many want it to be enacted to include every rescue, cattery and kennel. This is a comprehensive program, it includes such things as

how many square feet required for housing each animal, acceptable cleanable surfaces, etc.

University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine:

"Five Freedoms" to ensure well being of our pets in shelters, catteries and kennels.

***Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor

***Freedom from Discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area

***Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment

***Freedom to Express Normal Behavior** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals own kind

***Freedom from Fear and Distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

<https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/>

Thank you for your support, Thank you to all the volunteers that have and are helping us at CFA BAP-BRP! Rescue is not an easy job, we need dedicated volunteers, (who can keep confidences-what you know stays with you only! We use mostly outside resources for confidentiality purposes.) the reward is the difference that you make for that cat in need. Volunteers donate their time and treasure!

It costs CFA BAP-BRP an average of \$250.00 donation per cat to the rescue, more if they have severe health issues, most times they do and we try to fund if we have the resources. If we had to pay for all food, litter and supplies it would cost \$500 per cat we rescue if they just needed spay-neuter and microchip! Thank you to rescue organizations and veterinarians who help us by donating time, vet care and supplies!

Thank you for your support!

We have had many of our cat fanciers go into hospice, nursing home and sadly pass away every year. I transport, foster and help in SWFL. I have personally worked hands on with some of these rescues when folks pass away etc.

I want to suggest that every cat fancier microchip your cats, it will help us match the cat to your Vets' records, determine their age and health history, help us return any co-

owned cat(s). It is difficult to tell the difference between a C-section scar and a spay scar! If we have the vet record we know right away and do not have to put the cat through any unnecessary vetting. Please write down your wishes, let someone know where this info is located! Your family may not be able to ID your cats, even though you think they can... they are under duress during these times!

We have a Cattery Organization System workbook for small donation for you to use if you need a starting place to keep your cats info in one place.

Most communities and/or vaccination clinics offer low-cost microchip clinics for about \$10 per cat, please check your area. I just finished up a 45 cat/kitten rescue and we could not match up hardly any vet records. We had to start from scratch.

If you co-own or plan to co-own a cat, PLEASE microchip that cat!

A Breeder had every intention to give me all the information to match up the cats with records, sadly her health would not cooperate. It broke my heart to see her struggle with their identity, but her chemo treatments stole her memory.

CFA Cattery Standard Minimum Requirements

For the purposes of this standard the following definitions shall apply:

- Person: An individual, firm, partnership, corporation, trust or any association of persons.
- CFA Cattery: Any person(s) who register a litter of kittens with the Cat Fanciers' Association or who has registered three or more cats with the Cat Fanciers' Association or who has registered a cattery name with the Cat Fanciers' Association.
- Cattery Facility: A building, room or area used to house cats.
- Primary Enclosure: A structure used to immediately restrict one or more cats to a limited amount of space, such as a room, pen, run, cage or compartment.
- Animal Cruelty: Any inhumane or abusive or neglectful treatment causing harm or death of a cat as determined by local law enforcement authorities.
- Cat-in-distress: A cat which is in jeopardy of life or limb, as determined by a qualified animal control officer or veterinarian.
- Litter: Material to be used by the cat for defecation or urination.
- Litter Pan: An enclosure or area in which the litter is placed for the cat to use.

Standards - Cattery Facility

1. The Cattery facility, whether it be a private residence, portion of a private residence or a separate structure not physically connected to a private residence, shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect

the cats from injury, to protect the cats against overexposure to the elements, to contain the cats and to restrict the entrance of other animals.

2. Supplies of food, bedding and interior building surfaces shall be maintained in a sanitary manner.
3. Food shall be transported, handled and stored in a manner that ensures against the introduction of parasites, disease vectors (such as insects) or chemical contaminants. Supplies of dry food shall be stored in an area that is cool, dry, clean and free of vermin and other potential contaminants. Refrigeration shall be provided for supplies of perishable food. Conditions affecting the shelf life of food such as date of manufacture, exposure to extremes in temperature and humidity, exposure to moisture, unsanitary conditions, exposure to light, exposure to oxygen, and exposure to insects shall be monitored to prevent deterioration of the nutrient value of food.
4. The facility shall be adequately heated and cooled to protect the cats from excessive cold and heat. The ambient temperature shall be maintained in a range that ensures that the cats will not suffer from heat stress (heat stroke or hyperthermia) nor from cold stress (frostbite or hypothermia).
5. The facility shall be adequately ventilated to provide for the health and comfort of the cats at all times. The facility shall be provided with a source of fresh air by means of windows, doors, or vents and shall be ventilated in a manner that minimizes drafts, odors and moisture conditions.
6. The facility shall have ample light of good quality by natural or artificial means or both. The lighting shall provide uniformly distributed illumination of sufficient intensity to permit routine inspection, cleaning and provide for the well-being of the cats. The cats shall be protected from excessive illumination.
7. When sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort, sufficient shade shall be provided to allow cats to protect themselves from direct rays of the sun.
8. An access to shelter shall be provided for cats to allow them to remain dry at all times.

Standards - Primary Enclosures

Primary enclosures shall provide a microenvironment that satisfies the standards for the Cattery Facility as well as the following additional standards:

1. A primary enclosure shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the cats from injury, to contain them, to keep other animals out, and to enable the cats to remain dry and clean.
2. A primary enclosure shall provide sufficient space to allow each enclosed cat to turn freely and to easily stand, sit and lie in a comfortable position. The minimum primary enclosure space for a single 4 lbs. Or greater cat is to be 30 cubic feet. Where the primary enclosure is used for more than one cat, resting perches shall be provided.
3. A primary enclosure shall be constructed and maintained so that cats therein have convenient access to clean food, water and litter.

4. The number of cats in a primary enclosure shall not exceed the number which would prevent proper ventilation and sanitation.
5. A primary enclosure shall not be constructed or maintained with an exposed wire mesh bottom or any other material that will injure the feet or legs of a cat.
6. If the primary enclosure is not of sufficient size to allow the cat(s) to express their specialized locomotor patterns, then an area shall be made available for the cat(s) to exercise and scratch at least once a day.

Feeding and Water

1. Cats shall be fed at least once each day except as otherwise required by a veterinarian. The foods shall be free from contamination and shall be wholesome, palatable and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the cat. Food shall be provided in sufficient amounts to ensure normal growth in kittens and maintenance of normal body weight in adults.
2. Food receptacles shall be accessible to all cats and shall be located to prevent contamination by excreta. Feeding dishes shall be kept clean. Self-feeders may be used for the feeding of dry food and shall be sanitized regularly to prevent molding, deterioration or caking of food.

Cleaning and Sanitation

1. Primary enclosures, the cattery facility and storage spaces shall be cleaned with appropriate detergents and disinfectants as often as is necessary to keep them free of dirt, debris and harmful contamination.
2. Easily accessible litter pans shall be provided for all cats at all times.
3. Feces and soiled litter material shall be removed from all litter pans at least once a day.
4. Absorbent litter and/or any other material used to absorb urine shall be changed when it becomes 30 percent saturated with urine.
5. The cattery facility shall be kept clean and remain free of an accumulation of debris and excreta.
6. All primary enclosures and accessory equipment, such as feeding bowls and watering devices, shall be washed and sanitized frequently to keep them clean and free from contamination.
7. An effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites and mammalian pests, if present, shall be established and maintained using animal safe products.

Health Care

1. The cattery shall promptly provide medical care to any cat-in-distress and/or any cat exhibiting signs of severe illness.

2. Cats shall be observed daily and diseased cats shall promptly be provided with medical care.
3. A vaccination program, under advice of a veterinarian, is recommended.
4. Cats shall be kept clean, free of severe coat mats and generally groomed sufficiently to maintain a healthy condition.

Cruelty

1. Cats residing in the cattery facility shall be treated humanely and without neglect.
2. Catteries shall not allow a cat to be deprived of necessary sustenance, deprived of potable water, deprived of clean quarters, deprived of protection from weather, beaten, mutilated, cruelly treated or allow, through neglect, any situation to exist or persist that would cause a cat-in-distress condition to occur or persist.

Our CFA Web Site Page: <https://breedersassist-rescue.cfa.org/>