

Safe Humane Handling of the Shelter Cats

Always go slowly when interacting with the shelter cats.

Greeting a caged cat

- approach the cage and speak softly to the cat so that he/she knows you are there
- open door slowly
- present your fingertip to the cat to sniff as a greeting
- pet the cat gently under the chin or behind the ears for a few seconds before picking the cat up

Taking cat out of cage

- do not grab the cat roughly
- do not pick up the cat by the scruff of the neck
- gently turn the body to face away from you before you pick the cat up and out of the cage
- support the cats full body weight as you lift and carry the cat
- **DO NOT USE A CATCH POLE ON A CAT** – this is inhumane
- Use a towel if the cat appears fearful – cover the cat with the towel, tuck it around the cat and support the body weight as you lift the cat
- Use a box if you simply need to move a scared or fractious cat from one place to another. Place the box in the cage and leave. Scared cats will want to hide. When the cat is inside the box, simply cover the opening and move the cat
- Use a well-made cat net if the cat is extremely fractious

Handling a cat

- move slowly
- talk softly
- use gentle minimal restraint
- allow all 4 feet on the surface when possible
- avoid allowing cat to struggle for more than 2 seconds
- if the cat struggles - relax your restraint
- use scruffing only if needed. When you scruff, do not use a ‘death grip’ and do not dangle the cat by the scruff
- use a towel wrap during procedures if needed

Feral Cats

- **COVER TRAPS AT ALL TIMES**
- Have proper tools (cage fork, squeeze cage) for sedation