



Tips for socializing your fearful or feral feline

Congratulations on your new family member. Socializing your cat or kitten requires much patience and commitment. Along with behavior modification, there are medications or natural supplements that may help as well. Either way, The Cat Clinic and Spa is here to support you and your feisty feline through it all!

- ❖ Provide a hiding space like a box or kennel so they know where they can go to feel safe; but challenge them to come out of it.
- ❖ Offer desirable, stinky foods like tuna. While eating, gently begin to attempt to touch the kitten -- first with a tool to keep your hands safe. Once you are confident the kitten will not bite, you can start trying to pet with your hands. Over the course of several days you should start to see improvements in the kitten's tolerance of human touch -- especially if they begin to associate it with those food rewards.
- ❖ Work at the kitten's pace, but slowly challenge them to be around humans more and more. You don't want to absolutely terrify them, but you do want them to make progress. Slowly increase the frequency with which they are being touched, played with, pet.
- ❖ Introduce them to lots of different people so that they learn humans are safe, not just that you are safe.