



BARC
ANIMAL SHELTER
& ADOPTIONS

Fostering Under-Socialized Kittens

Under-socialized, neglected, and frightened kittens may be the most challenging to foster. They require specialized care to qualify for our adoption program. Many arrive never having lived indoors among people, with minimal human contact during their critical imprinting stage. These kittens may have never been inside a house, may not be litter trained, and may have never experienced kindness from a human. They will require a great deal of attention, patience, and time from their foster family.

Under-socialized kittens must be closely monitored to reduce the chance of escape or destructive behavior. They frequently require fostering for at least a month while they acquire the social skills that will make them treasured lifelong companions for a lucky family. Under-socialized kittens are considered "high risk" fosters. Some will never respond to human attention enough to become adoption candidates. If this occurs, outcomes beyond regular adoptions into a home are discussed with the BARC team.

Under-socialized kittens are housed best in smaller rooms with just a few hiding places (bathrooms and crates are ideal). The kitten can be found more easily this way.

Canned food can be used as a treat or for enticement and should be given when you are able to spend time with the kitten, if possible. Do not withhold food, but make it enticing enough for the kitten to come out of hiding when a person is in the room.

Daily Duties

Handle the kitten: talking, stroking, brushing, lifting paws, check ears, mouth, and eyes. Reading aloud in the room where the kitten is staying can also be helpful. During this time, you may have treats, or an enticing toy to lure the kitten out of hiding. While you read, act like you are not aware the kitten is there, even when it comes out to see you. Introduce the cat to a litter box. Socialize the kitten, when ready, to other people.

