

Welcome to Take Five Dogcare! We're dedicated to creating a warm and harmonious home-away-from-home for our feline friends. Our thoughtful screening process helps us introduce new members to our family, setting standards that ensure every kitty fits perfectly into our boarding environment. This approach not only makes integration seamless but also prioritizes the well-being of all our whiskered guests.

Basic Requirements

Spay/Neuter Requirements: For our cat boarding services, it's essential to note that we only accept neutered males and females that are not in heat. We kindly ask that male feline guests be neutered by six (6) months of age to maintain the peaceful ambiance of our facility. This policy ensures a tranquil atmosphere and minimizes the likelihood of behavioral concerns.

Age Requirements: At our cat boarding facility, we extend a warm welcome to felines aged 14 to 16 weeks and older. We recognize that cats of different ages have unique requirements. Our facility is carefully designed to accommodate the diverse needs of cats at every stage of life.

Breeds: While we don't discriminate based on breed, we carefully evaluate each cat's temperament and behavior rather than imposing breed-specific restrictions.

Health Requirements: Cats must be up-to-date on vaccinations, Rabies and Feline Distemper (FVRCP) are required. Feline Leukemia (FeLV) is **strongly recommended for kittens and indoor/outdoor cats**. Kittens must have received their complete first series of vaccinations and therefore must be at least 14 to 16 weeks or older. We also require flea and tick prevention and any other health-related necessities. **We welcome cats requiring oral or topical medications only.** It is important to note that we do not take diabetic pets needing insulin injections at Take Five Dogcare.

Minimum Time in Home: We believe in the Rule of Three when it comes to cats and the acclimation period they need in their new home. The 3-3-3 rule refers to the first 3 days of feeling overwhelmed and nervous, 3 weeks of settling in, and 3 months of building trust and bonding with you. We welcome newly adopted cats after 3 weeks of being in their new home.

Aggressive or Feral Cats: When a cat displays a history of aggression or feral behaviors, we conduct a detailed assessment to determine their suitability for acceptance. This precaution is crucial to uphold the safety and security of both our team members and the cats in our facility.

Defining a "Good Fit" in Cat Boarding Environments

By considering these factors, a "good fit" cat seamlessly integrates into the cat boarding environment, contributing positively to the overall environment while enjoying their stay.

1. **Socialization and Comfort with People:** It's crucial that our feline guests demonstrate an ability to get along well with people. We prioritize cats who are friendly, sociable, and comfortable around humans. Felines exhibiting confidence and ease in unfamiliar situations contribute positively to our facility's atmosphere. This trait ensures stress-free interactions between our team members and cats, allowing us to provide the best care possible.

2. **Resilience to Travel and Novel Environments:** Cats with resilience to travel and novel environments exhibit a remarkable ability to adapt and remain composed when faced with unfamiliar situations. They demonstrate a calm demeanor during car rides and show minimal signs of stress when introduced to new surroundings, sounds, and smells. This resilience ensures a smoother transition and a more comfortable experience for both the cat and their caretakers during their stay at our facility.

Behaviors That Indicate Red Flags

These behaviors indicate that a cat is not comfortable or might not be a good fit for our cat boarding environment at Take Five Dogcare:

1. **Aggression:** Cats exhibiting consistent aggression towards our team members can disrupt the harmony of our environment and pose a safety risk. Aggressive behaviors in cats can manifest in various ways, indicating discomfort, fear, stress, or a desire to establish dominance. Here are some examples of aggressive displays in cats:
 - a. **Blocking or Cornering:** Cats may exhibit aggressive behavior by preventing our team members from accessing certain areas or by trapping them to intimidate or assert control.
 - b. **Swatting or Scratching:** Cats may use their claws to strike at our team members when feeling threatened or defensive.
 - c. **Biting:** Aggressive biting can occur in response to fear, frustration, or attempts to assert dominance over our team members.
 - d. **Unprovoked Attacks:** Cats may suddenly lash out aggressively towards our team members without apparent warning or trigger.
 - e. **Excessive Urination or Spraying:** Aggressive behavior can sometimes manifest as territorial marking, such as excessive urinating or spraying urine on objects or potentially team members.

It's important to note that while these behaviors can indicate aggression, they might also result from fear, stress, or insecurity. Understanding the context, triggers, and body language cues is crucial in interpreting a cat's behavior accurately.

2. **Excessive Fear or Anxiety:** Cats displaying signs of extreme fear or anxiety may not thrive in our cat boarding setting. Such behaviors often signal discomfort or stress within their surroundings. Excessive fear or anxiety in cats can present in diverse ways, underscoring the importance of identifying these indicators to address underlying stressors. Here are some common signs of excessive fear or anxiety in cats:
 - a. **Avoidance or Hiding:** Cats might try to escape from the situation by hiding or retreating to a secluded area. They may actively avoid team members and display threatening behavior or overt aggression.
 - b. **Trembling or Shaking:** Visible trembling or shaking, especially when there is no apparent cause, can indicate anxiety.
 - c. **Excessive Grooming:** This can be a sign of stress in cats.

- d. **Decreased Appetite:** Loss of interest in food or refusal to eat can indicate underlying anxiety.
- e. **Litter Box Issues:** Inappropriate urination or defecation outside the litter box can be a sign of stress or anxiety in cats.
- f. **Excessive Vocalization:** Cats may vocalize more than usual, with meowing or yowling indicating distress.
- g. **Pacing and Restlessness:** Pacing or restlessness within their suite, especially in repetitive patterns, can indicate anxiety.
- h. **Changes in Body Language:** Dilated pupils, flattened ears, and a lowered body posture can all be signs of fear or anxiety in cats.

It's essential to consider the context in which these behaviors occur and to note any triggers that might be causing the dog distress.

Identifying and monitoring these behaviors during the cat's stay can help ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all cats within our cat boarding facility. Cats displaying these behaviors might require alternative accommodations such as in-home pet sitters rather than at our cat boarding facility.

Our Commitment

The safety and well-being of every cat in our cat boarding facility remain our paramount concern. We recognize that cats, like humans, can exhibit changes in behavior influenced by various factors, including health, environment, and social dynamics. Therefore, our commitment to continuous monitoring and understanding the nuanced signs of stress, discomfort, or behavioral shifts is unwavering. By staying vigilant and attuned to these factors, we ensure a proactive approach in maintaining a harmonious and safe environment for all our feline guests. Our ongoing dedication to learning and adapting allows us to provide the best possible care and support to every cat entrusted to our facility, fostering a positive and enriching experience for all.