



Toolkit for Veterinary School Students

This toolkit contains the resources for veterinary students to embrace a feline perspective and obtain further knowledge about the standards needed to elevate care for cats.

Welcome Veterinary Students



Welcome to the AAFP's Feline-Friendly Resource Toolkit for students. This toolkit contains the resources for veterinary students to embrace a feline perspective and obtain further knowledge about the standards needed to elevate care for cats.

This toolkit is a **MUST HAVE** resource for future (and current) veterinarians who will be interacting with cats, as it contains practical, easy-to-apply information that improves the treatment, handling, and overall healthcare of cats.

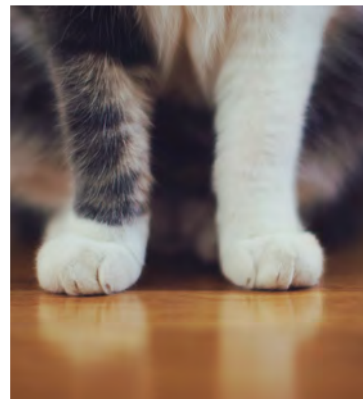
The AAFP is excited to offer this invaluable resource that features vital facts and information about working with cats. The toolkit has been divided into several different sections to facilitate easy retrieval of pertinent information. For instance, the "Specific Feline Topics" section is divided into: Behavior/Understanding Cats, Feline-Friendly Handling, and The Examination/Medicine & Management. Each individual section includes different resources such as AAFP Guidelines, Position Statements, Endorsements, Brochures, Videos, Cat Owner Educational Webpages, Educational Webinars, and Additional Resources. These different types of resources provide a concise discussion on the particular topic and are quickly accessible by clicking the respective embedded web link. In addition, as new information becomes available, the toolkit will be updated accordingly to reflect the latest advances in feline medicine and handling.

The AAFP recognizes the important role that veterinary students have in feline medicine. This toolkit is designed primarily for the veterinary student, but can also provide helpful information to the entire veterinary team regarding educating cat owners of the importance of regular feline veterinary care.

As a leader in feline medicine, the AAFP strives to provide veterinary teams with feline specific education and tools so that cats receive the same level of care as their canine counterparts. Therefore, we hope this toolkit will be an excellent resource during your education and will continue to be a useful tool as you establish your career as a veterinarian.



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[The Examination/Medicine & Management](#)

After Graduation

More Information about the AAFP

AAFP Resources

AAFP Student Center Login

How to access the AAFP Student Center–Veterinarians

Access the Student Center by either visiting: www.catvets.com/students or by visiting the AAFP homepage: www.catvets.com, clicking on the “Members” tab at the top of the page, and choosing “Students” from the drop down menu.

The Student Center is password protected. Click the “Student Center Login-Veterinarians” button and type in **AAFPstudent** when prompted to enter a password.

The Student Center contains:

- Free Classified Ads – Post your desire to seek a veterinary position or externship
- Discounts on Continuing Education – Students receive a substantial discount at the AAFP Conference
- Access to the JFMS Online
- Other valuable feline-focused resources



Specific Feline Topics | Behavior & Understanding Cats

By preventing and treating behavioral issues, veterinary professionals have the opportunity to protect and strengthen the human-pet-veterinary bond and increase the quality-of-life for both pets and pet guardians. It is also imperative that cat owners learn about their cat's natural behaviors. The AAFP has many informational resources to help veterinary professionals become more knowledgeable about feline behavior, cats' unique needs and behaviors, and understanding different elements from a cat's perspective.

Excerpts from the Cat Friendly Practice Educational Manual:

☐ Cats as Patients

- Cats as hunters and carnivores
- Cats catch and eat frequent small meals
- Cats are territorial
- Cats are highly sensitive to scent
- Cats are naturally "clean"
- Cats are self-reliant, emotional, and highly aware
- Cats are influenced greatly by early experience



AAFP Guidelines:

- ☐ 2014 AAFP & ISFM Guidelines for Diagnosing and Solving House-Soiling Behavior in Cats
- ☐ 2013 AAFP/ISFM Environmental Needs Guidelines
- ☐ 2010 AAFP/AAHA Feline Life Stage Guidelines
- ☐ 2008 AAFP Senior Care Guidelines
- ☐ 2004 AAFP Feline Behavior Guidelines



AAFP Position Statements:

- ☐ 2015 Declawing
- ☐ 2012 Free-roaming, Abandoned, and Feral Cats
- ☐ 2012 Positive Reinforcement of Cats
- ☐ 2011 Environment Enhancement of Indoor Cats
- ☐ 2010 Transport of Cats



Specific Feline Topics | Behavior & Understanding Cats

AAFP Brochures:

- ↓ *Alternatives to Declawing*
- ↓ *Feline House-Soiling*
- ↓ *Your Cat's Environmental Needs*
- ↓ *Getting Your Cat to the Veterinarian*



AAFP Videos:

- ↓ Part 2 – Understanding Feline Behavior



Cat Owner Educational Webpages:

- ↓ What Every Cat Owner Must Know
- ↓ Core Resources – Environmental Needs
- ↓ Adopting a Cat/Kitten
- ↓ Setting Up for Adoption Success
- ↓ Introducing a Cat/Kitten
- ↓ Dental Care for Cats
- ↓ Recognizing Signs and Symptoms
- ↓ Senior Care
- ↓ Feline Toxins and Poisons
- ↓ Parasite Prevention
- ↓ Scratching is Normal / Alternatives to Declawing



Educational Webinars

Use the AAFP's non-member webinar portal to create a free account and access the webinars listed below.

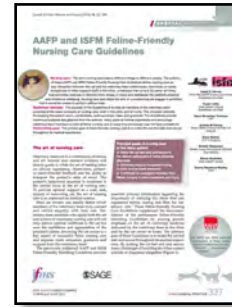
- ↓ A Path to Better Feline Care: Cat Friendly Practice – **FREE**
- ↓ Solutions to Increase Cat Visits – **FREE**



Specific Feline Topics | Feline-Friendly Handling

AAFP Guidelines:

- ↓ 2012 AAFP/ISFM Feline-Friendly Nursing Care Guidelines
- ↓ 2011 AAFP/ISFM Feline-Friendly Handling Guidelines
- ↓ 2008 AAFP Senior Care Guidelines



AAFP Position Statements:

- ↓ 2015 Declawing
- ↓ 2010 Veterinary Hospice Care for Cats
- ↓ 2010 End of Life Issues in Feline Medicine
- ↓ 2010 Transport of Cats
- ↓ 2010 Respectful Handling of Cats to Prevent Fear and Pain
- ↓ 2009 Welfare of Shelter Cats



AAFP Brochures:

- ↓ *Alternatives to Declawing*
- ↓ *Getting Your Cat to the Veterinarian*
- ↓ *Friends for Life: Caring for Your Older Cat*
- ↓ *Why You and Your Cat Deserve a Cat Friendly Practice*



AAFP Videos:

- ↓ Part 6 – Feline Friendly Handling During Veterinary Visits



Specific Feline Topics | Feline-Friendly Handling

Cat Owner Educational Webpages:

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- ↓ Recognizing Signs and Symptoms
- ↓ Senior Care
- ↓ Feline Toxins and Poisons
- ↓ Parasite Prevention



Educational Webinars:

- ↓ Feline-Friendly Handling (coming January 2016)



Additional Resources:

- ↓ Client Communication

Misperceptions that clients have about their cats can be important educational opportunities for the veterinary team. Educating cat owners about how to get their cat to the practice, listening to their concerns, and engaging with them more can make considerable difference to what they are prepared to do with preventive care. One of the goals of a practice should be a partnership between the cat owner and the veterinary staff so that both are engaged as much in preventive health care as in attending to illness. The AAFP's [Facebook page](#) is frequently updated with content that focuses on educating owners. In addition, the AAFP has a variety of free [brochures](#) and educational [flyers](#) professionals can give to their clients.

AAFP Guidelines:

- ↓ 2016 Management of Feline Hyperthyroidism - *Coming May 2016*
- ↓ 2015 Pain Management
- ↓ 2014 Judicious Therapeutic Use of Antimicrobials in Cats
- ↓ 2013 Feline Vaccination Advisory Panel Report
- ↓ 2010 Long Term Use of NSAIDs in Cats
- ↓ 2008 Feline Retrovirus Management
- ↓ 2006 Bartonella spp.
- ↓ 2003 Zoonoses



AAFP Position Statements:

- ↓ 2015 Declawing
- ↓ 2010 Early Spay and Castration
- ↓ 2010 Veterinary Hospice Care for Cats
- ↓ 2010 End of Life Issues in Feline Medicine
- ↓ 2007 Identification of Cats



AAFP Endorsements:

- ↓ 2015 ISFM Consensus Guidelines on the Practical Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Cats
- ↓ 2014 ISFM Protect Against Permethrin Poisoning Campaign
- ↓ 2014 AAHA Weight Management Guidelines for Dogs and Cats
- ↓ 2013 ISFM Population Management and Welfare of Unowned Domestic Cats Guidelines
- ↓ 2011 AAHA Raw Protein Diet Position Statement
- ↓ 2010 AAHA Nutritional Assessment Guidelines



Cat Owner Educational Webpages:

Feline Diseases

- ☑ Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)
- ☑ Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)
- ☑ Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)
- ☑ Feline Chronic Renal Disease
- ☑ Feline Heartworm Disease
- ☑ Feline Hyperthyroid Disease
- ☑ Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD)
- ☑ Rabies
- ☑ Zoonotic Disease

Feline Medical Conditions

- ☑ Diabetes
- ☑ Obesity

Feline Behavior and Care Tips

- ☑ Claw Trimming
- ☑ Brushing Your Cat's Teeth
- ☑ Medicating Your Cat
- ☑ Teaching Kids About Cats
- ☑ Scratching is Normal / Alternatives to Declawing



Educational Webinars (complimentary)

Use the AAFP's non-member webinar portal to create a free account and access the webinars listed below. Discount codes are provided for sessions where a fee would generally be charged.

- ☑ Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Cats – discount code: **Student2015**
- ☑ Vaccinology 101 – discount code: **Student2015**
- ☑ Feed Me Fit: Use Weight Management Guidelines to Fight Pet Obesity – **FREE**
- ☑ AAFP/AAHA Fluid Therapy Guidelines – **FREE**
- ☑ Feline Senior Care Guidelines – **FREE**



Additional Resources:

- ↓ **Solutions to Increase Cat Visits:** Eighty-three percent of cats are taken to the veterinarian within the first year of ownership, but over half of them **do not** return. This represents an important opportunity for veterinarians to educate clients about the importance of routine preventive healthcare. These solutions provide practical tips for veterinary practices to implement in order to alleviate many of the obstacles to routine feline veterinary care.
- ↓ **Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery:** You will have access to all past issues of the JFMS in the [Student Center](#) where you can search by a topic or download whole issues.
- ↓ **Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery Open Reports:** This resource, freely accessible to any online reader, publishes high-quality case reports, short case studies (e.g. 2-3 cases of particular condition) and short communications on all aspects of feline medicine and surgery relevant to clinical practice and the understanding of clinical problems and disease.



After Graduation

This toolkit has been designed to offer a wide diversity of information in multiple different formats to meet the ever changing needs of the veterinary team. The primary user of this toolkit is a veterinarian, but the toolkit also contains helpful information for the entire veterinary team. Currently, one of the significant challenges small animal veterinary practices face daily is increasing their number of feline visits. Many practices have already identified the importance of incorporating different strategies that promote feline visits. Of these strategies, the most difficult to incorporate historically is to change a team's perception on working with cats. It is commonly recognized that "cats are not small dogs" but many practices still struggle with defining what this actually means. That's where this toolkit can provide helpful information for the veterinary technician who then has the opportunity to help implement strategies to promote routine and less stressful feline visits.

As a new graduate, you have the chance to share with prospective practices the knowledge you have gained from reviewing the resources in this toolkit. Many small animal practices are recognizing the importance of focusing on feline preventive healthcare and veterinarians who possess the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively work with cats are highly desired. It is important when interviewing that you ask questions about how the practice approaches feline care and/or whether the practice is in the process of becoming more feline-friendly. Just because a practice may not be considered "feline-friendly" at this time, does not mean that the practice isn't open to changes if the right veterinarian comes along with a passion for feline medicine. The AAFP is dedicated to helping recent veterinary graduates by offering a "Recent Graduate Membership" rate with access to top-notch member benefits.

For more information about AAFP membership, visit: www.catvets.com/members/vet-benefits



For more Information About the AAFP



Main website: www.catvets.com



Student website: www.catvets.com/students

Password: AAFPstudent



Become a member: www.catvets.com/members/vet-benefits



Cat Friendly Practice (CFP) Program: www.catvets.com/cfp



Like AAFP on Facebook: www.facebook.com/catvets



Follow AAFP on Twitter: www.twitter.com/catvets



Subscribe to the AAFP's YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/AAFPcatvets



Any questions, email us at: info@catvets.com



All AAFP Resources

Guidelines:

- ↗ 2016 Management of Feline Hyperthyroidism
- ↗ 2015 AAFP/AAHA Pain Management Guidelines
- ↗ 2014 AAFP/ISFM Guidelines for Diagnosing and Solving House-Soiling Behavior in Cats
- ↗ 2014 AAFP Judicious Therapeutic Use of Antimicrobials in Cats
- ↗ 2013 AAFP Feline Vaccination Advisory Panel Report
- ↗ 2013 AAFP/AAHA Fluid Therapy Guidelines
- ↗ 2013 AAFP/ISFM Environmental Needs Guidelines
- ↗ 2012 AAFP/ISFM Feline-Friendly Nursing Care Guidelines
- ↗ 2011 AAFP/ISFM Feline-Friendly Handling Guidelines
- ↗ 2010 AAFP/ISFM Long Term Use of NSAIDs in Cats
- ↗ 2010 AAFP/AAHA Feline Life Stage Guidelines
- ↗ 2008 AAFP Senior Care Guidelines
- ↗ 2008 AAFP Feline Retrovirus Management
- ↗ 2006 AAFP Bartonella spp. Guidelines
- ↗ 2004 AAFP Feline Behavior Guidelines
- ↗ 2003 AAFP Zoonoses Guidelines



Position Statements:

- ↗ General Principles of Feline Welfare
- ↗ 2015 Declawing
- ↗ 2014 Euthanasia in Cats in a Clinical Setting
- ↗ 2012 Free-roaming, Abandoned, and Feral Cats
- ↗ 2012 Positive Reinforcement of Cats
- ↗ 2011 Environment Enhancement of Indoor Cats
- ↗ 2010 Transport of Cats
- ↗ 2010 Early Spay and Castration
- ↗ 2010 Veterinary Hospice Care for Cats
- ↗ 2010 End of Life Issues in Feline Medicine
- ↗ 2010 Respectful Handling of Cats to Prevent Fear and Pain
- ↗ 2009 Welfare of Shelter Cats
- ↗ 2009 Hybrid Cats
- ↗ 2009 Ownership of Non-Domestic Felids
- ↗ 2007 Identification of Cats
- ↗ 2007 Confinement of Owned Indoor Cats
- ↗ 2007 Feral Cats



All AAFP Resources

Brochures for Cat Owners:

- ↓ Alternatives to Declawing
- ↓ Feline House-soiling
- ↓ Your Cat's Environmental Needs
- ↓ Vaccinations for Your Cat
- ↓ Nursing Care for Your Cat
- ↓ Getting Your Cat to the Veterinarian
- ↓ Friends for Life: Caring for Your Older Cat
- ↓ Why You and Your Cat Deserve a Cat Friendly Practice



Flyers:

- ↓ Caring for Your Senior Cat
- ↓ Benefits of Routine Check-ups
- ↓ Make Vet Visits Less Stressful
- ↓ Pain Medication (NSAIDs) and Your Cat



Endorsements:

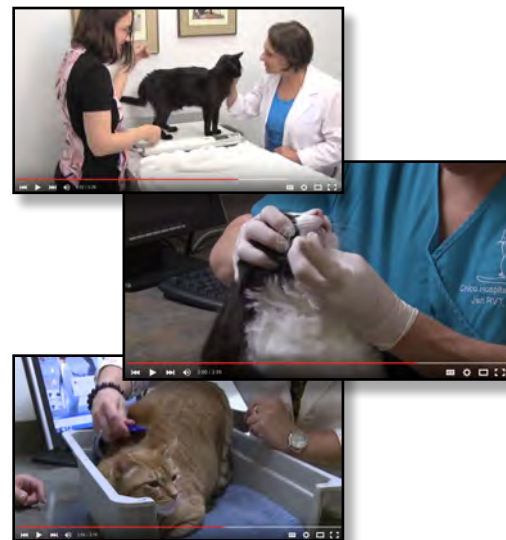
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- ↓ 2014 AAHA Weight Management Guidelines for Dogs and Cats
- ↓ 2013 ISFM Population Management and Welfare of Unowned Domestic Cats Guidelines
- ↓ 2011 AAHA Raw Protein Diet Position Statement
- ↓ 2011 WSAVA Global Nutritional Guidelines
- ↓ 2010 AAHA Nutritional Assessment Guidelines



All AAFP Resources

Videos:

- ▢ Part 1 – How to Make Feline-Friendly Changes
- ▢ Part 2 – Understanding Feline Behavior
- ▢ Part 3 – Understanding & Preparing for the Feline Veterinary Visit
- ▢ Part 4 – Being Flexible During Feline Examination
- ▢ Part 5 – Enhancing the Feline Examination
- ▢ Part 6 – Feline-Friendly Handling during Veterinary Visits
- ▢ Part 7 – Doing Procedures in the Examination Room
- ▢ Part 8 – Now You Can Begin to Make Changes in Your Practice



Webinars:

- ▢ Feline Handling
- ▢ Evaluating Scientific Study Design
- ▢ Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Cats
- ▢ The Path to Better Feline Care: The AAFP's Cat Friendly Practice Program
- ▢ Vaccinology 101

More Coming 2016

