

Cats 101

THE CAT

0



About Me

- Didn't know what I wanted to be when I 'grew up', but it had to do with animals
- Graduated high school, worked retail for 8 years prior to working with animals at a kennel
- Worked at a kennel for two years before coming to St. Hubert's as a kennel attendant/adoption counselor
- Within 1 year at St. Hubert's was offered position of Pet Retention & Special Projects Coordinator
- Dog foster for past 4 years



A semi-typical day...

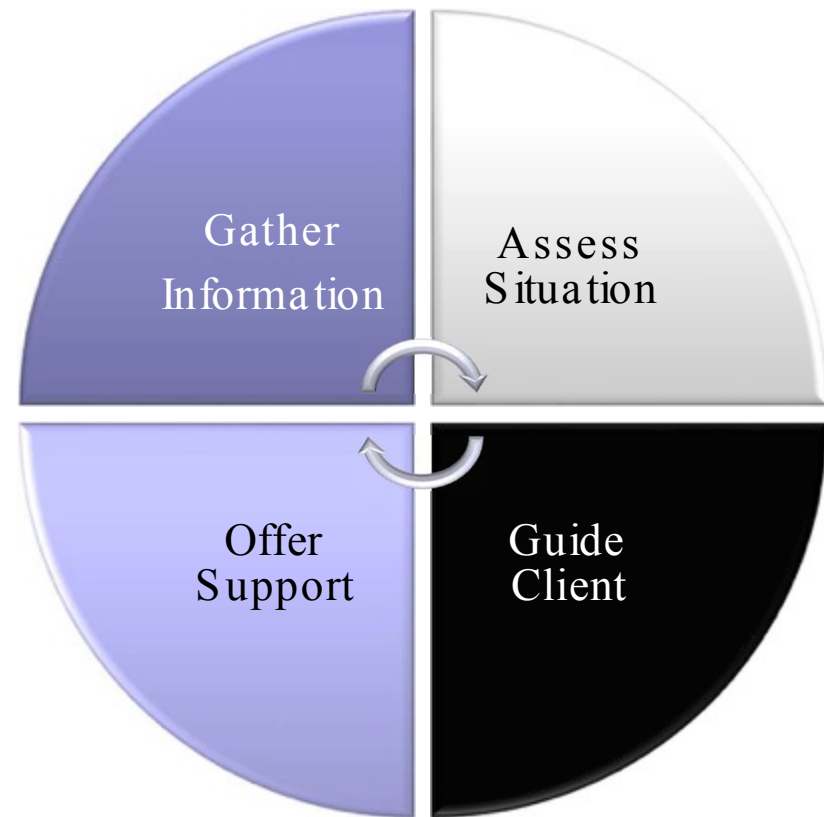


- Mornings spent on DAC
 - Feeding, medicating, cleaning
 - Getting eyes on each animal
- Working with shelter cats to assess behavioral needs
- Working with volunteers to better address an animal's needs
- Counseling pet parents

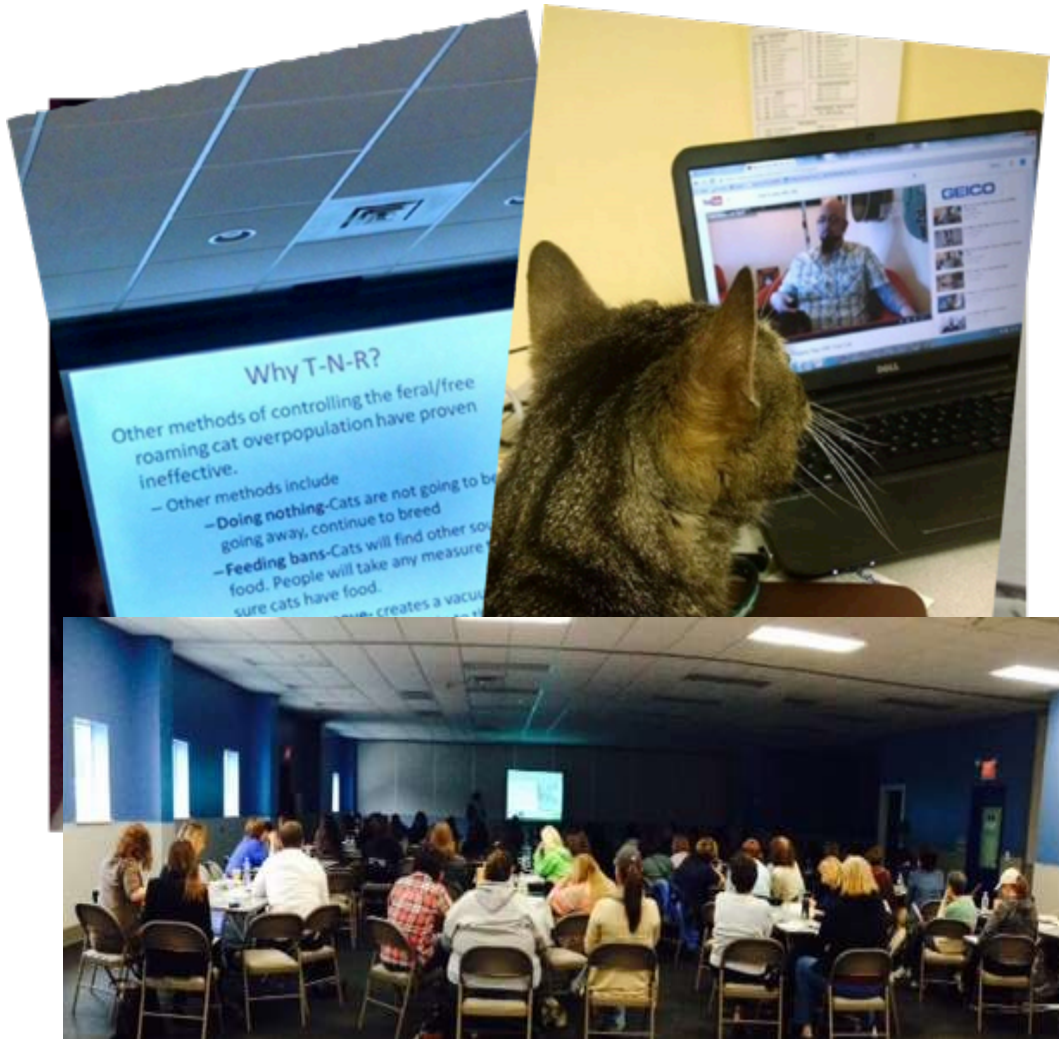
Counseling Pet Parents

Paws to Consider

- What toll the issue at hand is taking on the owner/family?
- What is the animal trying to communicate?
- What are the pet parents' limits? (Financial, physical, emotional, etc.)
- How can I best help?



Everyday is a chance to learn



- Behavior books
- Webinars/ Online Courses
- Workshops
- Discussions with colleagues
- Consultations with clients
- Being hands on with cats

Assessing a Cats Behavioral Needs

Ricardo



Let's talk about cats



Cats and personal space



Should I pet this cat?



Why do people get bit/scratched?

- They may not understand cats/this cats body language
- They may not listen to what a cats body language is saying



Why do people get bit/ scratched?



Why do we try to understand cats?

□ Shelter Perspective

- Happier cats
- Allows us to better match them to homes
 - STAY in homes
- Reduce scratches/bites
 - Keeping adopters, volunteers & staff safe



Why do we try to understand cats?



- Pet Parent Perspective
 - ◆ Prevent/reduce unwanted behavior
 - ◆ Better bond/relationship
 - ◆ Keeps everyone happy/safe
 - ◆ Opens door for future adoptions

How to understand cats

- Learn their body language, how they communicate & how their personality is affected by their environment
- Cats communicate their feelings using their whole body
 - Tail
 - Eyes
 - Ears
 - Whiskers
 - Body posture



Tail Speak



I'm scared



*I'm happy
to see you*



*I'm getting
upset*



Let's be friends



*Hmmm. I'm
interested*



*I'm crazy
about you*



I feel loving



I'm worried



I'm mad



Tail Speak



Let's be friends



*Hmmm. I'm
interested*



Tail Speak



Let's be friends

St. Hubert's
Animal Welfare Center



What the eyes say





What the eyes say

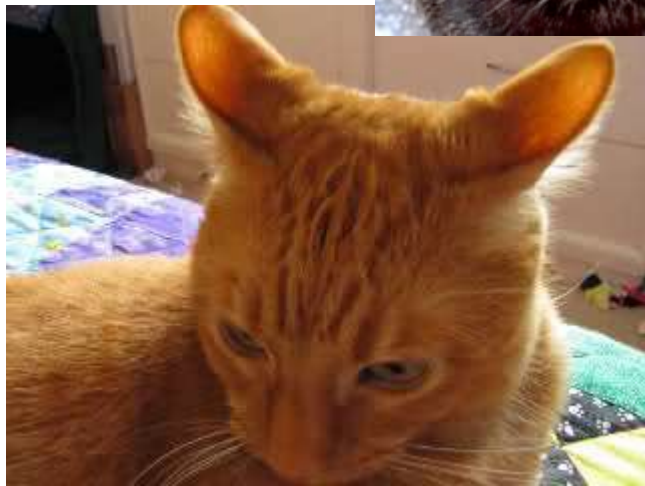




What the eyes say



Ears



Can show a cat was/is:

- Relaxed
- Alert
- Startled
- Fearful
- Aggressive

Whiskers



- When hunting/playing whiskers forward to catch vibrations/changes in air currents
- Detect movement in prey
- Navigate around objects if vision is poor
- In a defensive situation - whiskers pulled back or flat against face

