



Taking in a feral cat

A step by step guide - NHV Natural Pet products

Part 1 - Your feral cat's room

It is important to give a feral cat a separate enclosed area to help her calm down and get comfortable in her new home. Pick a room that is not frequented by people or by other pets in the house. Equip it with a litter box, food bowl, water dish and some toys.

1. Ensure the room has **no gaps or windows** from where the feral cat can attempt to escape.
2. Place some **old used clothing** that smell like you in that room.
3. Place a **nightlight** that keeps the room illuminated after sunset but not overlit.
4. Remove anything that she could break or knock over.
5. Keep some upside down **cardboard boxes** with holes cut out to help her breathe.
6. Place her **carrier** in the room and cover it with a cloth. Put a mattress inside so that this carrier becomes her bed and it is easier to take her to the vet when needed.
7. Place **pot-soil in the litter box** and after one week, start replacing small amounts of that soil with regular cat litter.

Part 2 - Establishing your relationship

Do not expect changes in your feral cat's behaviour overnight. She will need her time to develop trust. Once she has allowed you to pet her for a few days without any hissing or growling, you can consider introducing other members in the family.

1. Always knock before entering her room
2. Once inside, avoid making eye contact. Just talk to her calmly while you do your business of changing the bowls or scooping the litter box.
3. After a few days of this behaviour try sitting down in her room and rest your hand on the floor. Resist from petting her. The first few moves have to be made by her. Let her try to come close to your hand, sniff it and pat it.
4. Once she is comfortable with your hand, try to pat her and scratch her head. Always follow up any touching or petting with a treat. This gives her the signal that coming close to you is rewarding.
5. Make sure you keep a gentle steady voice when talking to her.

SPECIAL TIPS

Avoid petting your feral cat in the belly, paws and limbs. Petting on the head and scratching the neck are always safer spots for all cats.



Part 3 - Trips to the vet

It is very important to get your feral cat vaccinated and inspected for any immediate medical needs. In fact, your first trip to the vet should take place the very next day of bringing your feral cat in.

Post Spay and Neuter care

You may want to avoid the surgery until your feral cat is completely comfortable, but if your vet suggests spaying or neutering right away, then you should oblige.

1. Comfortable **bedding** should be your number one priority. For a feral cat, a box with a blanket is a better option than a regular cat bed. She still wants her enclosures.
2. Keep **water bowls** in different spots. It is important to encourage your recently spayed feral cat to drink water and keep herself hydrated.
3. **Goat's milk** in really small amounts is a great snack to give in this time.
4. Spraying **lavender oil infused water** in the room will help your kitty stay calm.
5. Ask your vet for any medications that you have to administer at home. Make sure you **keep a log** so that it is easier to track changes in behaviour. Most vets will provide you with administering tips - pill pockets or syringes are commonly used.
6. NHV can help your cat recover and heal from spaying surgery with some **herbal blends**. [NHV Stimmune](#) is helpful in preventing infections, and contains antibiotic herbs. [NHV Yucca](#) – the yucca is a natural pain remedy due to its anti-inflammatory properties and ability to help with appetite after surgery.



SPECIAL TIPS

Loss of appetite is often a concern with recently spayed and neutered animals. Offer light palatable options like baby food in chicken flavour.



Bonus Recipe: 2:1 ratio of skinless boiled, boneless chicken to skinless boiled sweet potatoes served at a warm temperature. Boil the chicken and sweet potato together in the same pot. Mix the ingredients together so it has the consistency of chunky soup and can be easily consumed.



NHV Pet Experts



It is important to get your feral cat vaccinated for diseases like Rabies, FeLV, Panleukopenia, Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus. Your vet will be able to tell you which one of these are most important and when will each shot be given.

Tips for easy trips to the vet:

1. Your feral cat might need some additional support to help reduce stress and anxiety. Administering a **herbal calming blend** like [NHV Matricalm](#) until your cat is completely settled in, will benefit both you and your cat. When it's time to head to the vet you can up the dose of [NHV Matricalm](#).
2. Invest in a **sturdy carrier with a solid, even bottom**. Unlike common belief, tote bags are uncomfortable



for cats (or dogs) and can lead to improper alignment of their knees and limbs.

3. Place a cloth on the carrier and place a mattress or a blanket inside.
4. If you cannot pick up your feral cat and place her in then you will have to coax her in with some food. A **bigger carrier** makes this possible. You can use some dry treats to avoid spilling and staining inside the carrier.
5. **Keep the carrier covered in a cloth** all the way to the vet and back. It helps keep the smell intact and also calms her.

Part 4 - Introducing to other pets

If she stops getting startled by you, you can consider introducing your pets to her. But no introductions should take place before getting your feral cat checked by the vets. It is important that your feral cat is properly vaccinated and has been given the go ahead by your vet to socialize with other animals.

Slow introduction is the key. Make sure all their meetings are supervised and you are alert enough to grab your pets in case one of them is swatted or greeted roughly. Start by simply bringing in some toys or bedding that smell like the other pets. First let your feral cat familiarize herself with those smells. Days later bring your pet into the room in a crate and let your feral cat come to sniff. Any friendly sniffs and gestures should be rewarded with treats for both of them.



SPECIAL TIPS

When introducing pets, reward every positive behaviour with a treat and keep that treat exclusive for such occurrences. We highly recommend administering a natural calming formula like **NHV Matricalm to both pets to help reduce any stress from such meetings.**

 NHV Pet Experts

Additional tips for introducing cats > <https://goo.gl/oiYSxZ>

Additional tips for introducing cats and dogs > <https://goo.gl/Et7C1F>

Part 5 - Your feral cat's diet

In the wild most cats like to hunt for prey, but feral cats are used to digging into garbage cans or grabbing food left for them by any helpful neighbours. This makes it easier for you to get them to eat cooked meals at home.

1. **NHV Multi Essentials is a herbal multivitamin blend that helps enhance the value of the food that you feed to your cats.** It adds extra nutrition, boosts energy levels and helps improve skin and coat conditions. It is the perfect herbal supplement to get for your feral kitty's immediate and long term vitality.
2. **Tuna and rice** - 2 parts tuna taken from a Tuna can and 1 part white steamed rice. *Make sure the tuna is based in water and not in brine.*
3. **Chicken and rice** - 2 parts boiled or baked skinless and boneless chicken and 1 part white steamed rice.
4. **Wet cat food topped with boiled chicken** - Pick a nutritious wet cat food from the pet store and top it with mushy pieces of boneless skinless boiled chicken. Moisture is important for cats of all ages and breeds.
5. **Nutritious Bone broth** - On days when your feral cat has been to the vet or is showing signs of discomfort, avoid feeding her heavy food. Small portions of nutritious chicken broth (with no seasonings or onions) can be given to your feral cat 3-4 times a day. *(Recipe ahead)*
6. For kittens or young cats, **goat's milk is a great nutritious snack**



that can help provide some immunity support.

7. **Pureed pumpkin** is a great topping for all kinds of cat food. Rich in fibres, moisture and nutrients this helps prevent constipation as well as diarrhea.



Nutritious Bone Broth for Pets

The Ingredients

- 2 pounds (or more) of beef or chicken bones
- 2 carrots
- 2 stalks of celery
- 2 tablespoons Apple Cider Vinegar or 1 whole lemon cut in half
- Salt and pepper to taste

The Recipe

Place the bones in a large stock pot. Pour water over the bones and add the vinegar or lemon. Let sit for 20-30 minutes in the cool water. Rough chop and add the vegetables to the pot. Add salt, pepper. Bring the broth to a boil. Once it has reached a vigorous boil, reduce to a simmer and simmer for 6-8 hours.

During the first few hours of simmering, you'll need to remove the impurities that float to the surface. A frothy/foamy layer will form and it can be easily scooped off with a big spoon. Throw this part away. Remove from heat and let cool slightly. Strain using a fine metal strainer to remove all the bits of bone and vegetable. When cool enough, store in a gallon size glass jar in the fridge for up to 5 days, or freeze for later use.

NHV NATURAL PET PRODUCTS

Part 6 - Establishing routine

Animals love routine. When you stick to a pattern, it gets easier for them to figure out what's going on and what to expect. This reduces anxiety. From day 1, stick to a routine. Set a time to change the water, scoop the litter box and to feed your feral cat. Also set a play time which is the time you take to establish a relationship with this new member of your family.

Part 7 - Health concerns for feral cats

FIV

Unfortunately FIV (and FeLV) is a common virus amongst unvaccinated cats. It reduces their quality of life drastically and also affects their life span. However, that does not mean that a FIV positive cat cannot enjoy a normal life. [NHV Felimm](#) is an excellent herbal formula that can help a cat with FIV cope naturally and lead a healthier life.

[*Get tips to help a cat with FIV from our lead holistic vet Dr. Cook*](#)

Worms

Most outdoor cats are exposed to parasites and germs. As a feral cat, your recent rescue may have eaten small prey or may have been exposed to other animals carrying parasites. [NHV Inulin PK](#) is parasite cleansing herbal formula that can help you do some deworming at home. (possibly add something about tapeworm from fleas?)

[*Get tips to help a cat with worms from our lead holistic vet Dr. Cook*](#)



Consider doing some natural deworming at home by including a herbal blend like Inulin PK in her diet. **For the first one year, you would want to use Inulin PK for 3 months, pause for 1 month and repeat this pattern throughout the year.** This will naturally expel any tapeworms, whipworms or hookworms your feral cat may have had inside. Even if there are no worms, this will help do a general parasite cleanse and prevent exposure to any germs and parasites for you and the other pets in your house. **Including some papaya in your feral cat's diet will help keep the bowel movement regulated.**

Overall Wellbeing

Matted coat conditions, muscle wear and tear and minor injuries (internal or external) are some issues feral cats commonly face. Two supplements from NHV can help you with these.

NHV Turmeric is a super herb for cats and dogs of all ages and breeds. It helps support the heart, kidneys, liver and the joints. It is also an excellent natural anti-inflammatory. Your feral cat will benefit from it's healing properties. It is also a preventive cancer support.



NHV PetOmega 3 is a blend of fish oils rich in Omega 3 fatty acids. These will help provide your cat support for renal health, skin and coat and also for the cardiac system. This supplement is also a great preventative cancer support.



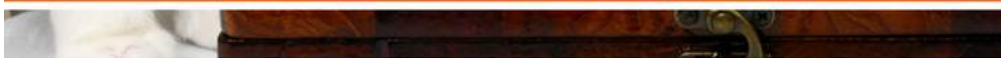
Find NHV's herbal supplements on www.nhvnaturalpetproducts.com

Read the happy tales of cats and dogs who NHV has been able to help naturally > <https://goo.gl/JkuVrq>



ALL-NATURAL

Vet-approved herbal supplements for pets



100% natural and made from responsibly sourced organic ingredients



Formulated by a vet and a master herbalist together to help cats and dogs