

## THE FELINE BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT ROOM EVALUATION

### PERFORMING THE TEST

The test should be performed in a quiet room, free of other pets and animal noises (barking dogs). Bring the cat to the room in a carrier, and begin the test by opening the carrier door and observing to see whether cat leaves the carrier (add comments in comment section) and explores the room. Allow cat to explore for two minutes before continuing with next part of test.

1. **Room Behavior:** Open the carrier door, and observe the cat's behavior for two minutes.
2. **Extend Hand:** Call the cat several times. One hand should be extended. The cat:  
Note: If cat is distracted, stressed or fearful and does not approach, consider retesting at a later date or enrolling the cat in the Kitty Comfort Program.
3. **Petting:** While talking to the cat, begin to stroke the cat along its topline (back) Strokes should be long and gentle, with a pause (at least 3 seconds) in between strokes. Pet three times. Does the cat return for more interaction vs. avoids further contact?
4. **Pick Up:** Call the cat again until it approaches or approach it slowly yourself. Begin to stroke the cat again and if the cat is calm, pick up the cat gently and cradle it (in a comfortable, upright position) against your chest, while standing. If the cat remains still, after 10-15 seconds approach a table or cat tree to determine whether the cat will attempt to escape if given the opportunity.
5. **Patting:** While talking to the cat, begin to gently but firmly pat the cat on the hindquarters. Pat the cat 3-4 times in a row, pause for 3-5 seconds, and then repeat.
6. **Play:** Move away from the cat and move a piece of string along the floor slowly to initiate play (or use other toy as needed).
7. **Pick Up #2:** Call the cat again until it approaches or approach it slowly yourself. Begin to stroke the cat again and if the cat is calm, pick up the cat gently and cradle it against your chest, while standing. Hold cat for 10 seconds.
8. **Hold Paw:** Place cat on floor. While talking to the cat, lift and gently hold the cat's front paw for five seconds.
9. **Brush:** Gently brush the cat for 10 seconds. Use long strokes, along the back and chest. Pause between strokes to assess cat's response.