

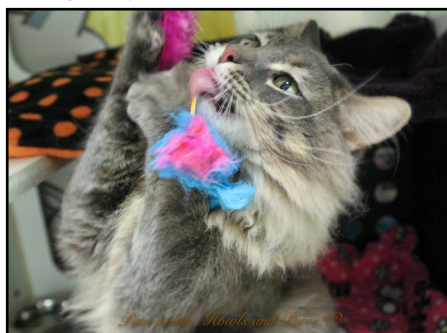
8

Think about your body language: is your body turned sideways so to be less threatening? Can you make yourself smaller by sitting on the ground or kneeling? Some cats are more comfortable when they are located higher than you; others like to be on the ground. If you are familiar with the cat, that is great information to share with a potential adopter.



9

Use a favorite toy like a feather wand to lure him/her out. Play with it gently in a calm manner.

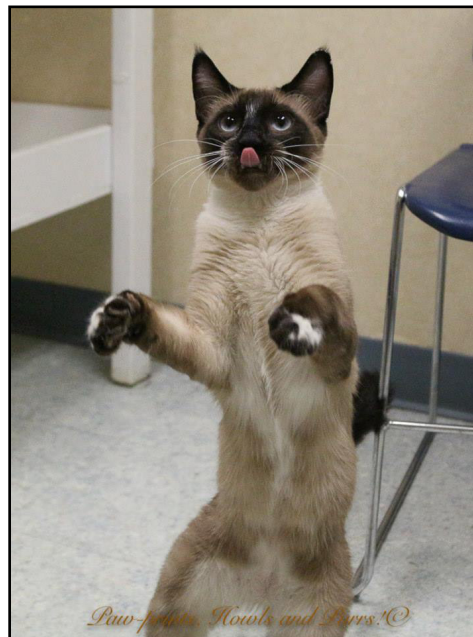


10

Do a slow blink to show you mean no harm. When a cat returns a slow blink to you, it is a very positive and flattering response.



**Treats!** Yes, even cats can be lured with treats and/or canned food. Without making eye contact, drop treats in their direction giving them the opportunity to come toward you with a positive end result.



For additional information or support with cats,  
please contact  
Mojo's Hope  
mojoshope@gmail.com  
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*Mojo's Hope is a recognized 501(c)(3)*



# Greeting a Shy Cat...



## Is there a PURRfect method?



Working with shelter cats daily, we see a variety of **PURRsonalities** and as volunteers we do our best to educate the public in a compassionate way so their initial meeting with a potential pet is a positive experience for everyone involved. The same goes for potential adopters who come to your home to meet a foster cat. Remember, you know the cat best and it is your responsibility to help the experience to be a positive one for everyone involved.

Each cat we meet is an individual and the majority of the ones we meet are in the local shelter or in foster homes. That means they do not have a solid foundation or a sense of security right now. That is why it is critical we do what we can to help them feel more comfortable, provide a sense of security and give them a chance to build their confidence. ***Please do not stick your fingers in the kennels or make sounds at the cat. Allow a volunteer, staff member or foster parent to introduce you to him/her.***

**Your goal is**  
to help make this cat  
feel comfort and trust.  
Petting can always  
come later; first build  
that bridge of trust.

**1** Always allow the cat to do the greeting, especially if he/she has not shown an immediate interest in your presence.



**2** Only partially approach your feline friend. Give him/her the opportunity to come toward you.



**3** Avoid eye contact.



**4** Go slow, because fast movements can easily startle a shy cat.



**5** Do not reach out towards the cat.



**6** Do not pull their tail or rub their bellies in the shelter/foster environment. This could put the cat at risk if they react badly.

**7** Be patient.

