



# ONTARIO SPCA

AND HUMANE SOCIETY · PROTECTING ANIMALS SINCE 1873

## Make A Plan Case Study:

**Subject:** Feline, “Max”, male neutered, arrived from owner surrender.

### **Collect data at intake: Using Owner Surrender Form and Intake Observations**

- Timid upon intake
- Allowed handling for exam, but tried to return to carrier
- Observed signs of stress, fear, as Max froze during the exam
- Neutered male
- Has lived successfully with other cats
- No known behavior problems
- Owners indicate Max likes toys that make noise
- Owners also indicate that Max is very social, and likes to be with people

**Set Goals:** Assist “Max” in positive acclimation to the shelter environment, improve socialization, provide individualized enrichment, fast-track to adoptions

### **Plan for “Max”:**

- Place in an upper enriched enclosure
- Provide OSPCA Cat Cabin sprayed with feliway
- Provide blanket, or other items from home if possible
- Provide social interaction using a wand toy
- Allow Max to engage in physical contact by his choice
- Monitor acclimation to the shelter with daily feline evaluation sheet
- Report concerns to immediate supervisor
- Fast track plan to adoptions, Feline-ality

### **Monitor Progress/Daily Feline Behaviour Evaluation Sheet and Rounds:**

#### **During this time continue to ask yourself, are goals being met?**

- Max continues to be friendly with people, but has not been engaging in physical contact, unless encouraged
- Noted that “Max” is vocalizing excessively
- Max regularly rearranges the items in his enclosure
- Enjoys toys that jingle/make noise/crinkle as noted on surrender form

**Summary:** Max is having difficulty acclimatizing, and is showing signs of stress with excessive vocalization, and upsetting his cage. Also noted on daily rounds, toys given were not always his preferred play items. Other times he is noted to be listless, non-engaging. Daily socialization has been limited due to staffing.

#### **Goals met? No**

What do you think can be done for Max to attain the goals set for him?

How can you now revise his plan to help reach those goals?

## Revising Plan:

Consider the following options:

- Could you place Max in a communal setting. He has lived with other cats as noted at intake, and may enjoy socializing with his own species. This will need to be monitored closely to ensure positive acclimation to this novel space and the other cats.
- Is it possible to move him to a larger enclosure?
- What other forms of stress reduction and enrichment may be useful? Consider playing music, giving puzzle toys, or using bubble blowers etc.
- Ensure Max has opportunities for play with his favorite items
- Is Foster Care an option for Max?
- Get him adopted!!!!

## Continue to Monitor Progress/Daily Feline Behaviour Evaluation Sheet/Rounds Are we closer to meeting the goals set earlier? Or, are further revisions to the plan needed?

- Max is enjoying the company of other cats
- Max plays well with his new buddy Felix, chasing, and pouncing with his favorite jingly toys
- Vocalization has decreased
- Max is soliciting physical contact with volunteer and public visitors
- Max spends time resting comfortably, snuggled up on the cat tree
- Chasing and hunting bubbles seems to be his favorite

**Summary:** Max has enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with other cats in the larger communal enclosure, where he has made fast friends with Felix. The opportunity to engage, and play with his favorite toys, as well as the ability to hide and perch, has significantly decreased his level of stress, and has assisted with positive acclimation to the shelter environment. He regularly seeks attention and physical contact with all visitors, which will likely get him adopted quickly.

## Goals Met? Yes