COMMUNITY CAT SUPPORT COALITION

A Letter to Our Teachers & Leaders

Pawsitive Pals · A Kitten Rescue & TNR Educational Program

Dear Teacher or Leader,

Thank you for opening your classroom, troop or club to Community Cat Support Coalition. By choosing **Pawsitive Pals**, you are joining us in work that matters deeply to the animals in our community, and we want to share why.

Every year, millions of cats and dogs enter shelters across the United States. Many never leave.

5.8 million
dogs and cats entered U.S. shelters in 2025

597,000
shelter animals were euthanized in 2025

277,000
of those animals were cats

Behind those numbers are countless more community cats living outdoors, facing hunger, illness, injury and harsh weather. Much of this suffering starts with litters no one planned. A single unspayed cat can have up to three litters a year, and her kittens can begin having litters of their own when they are only a few months old. There are simply not enough homes for them all. Spaying and neutering is the most effective and humane way to break that cycle, one cat at a time.

Our mission is to improve every cat's quality of life, and we believe that begins with a spay or neuter.

The children in your care may be small, but the lesson they learn today is not. When they "rescue" a kitten, check it in at the vet and promise to care for it, you are planting seeds of compassion and responsibility in tomorrow's animal advocates. Those seeds will grow. They will be carried home to families, shared with friends and remembered long after the stuffed kittens are tucked away, rippling outward through this animal crisis to help bring down euthanasia rates and ease suffering for years to come.

We are honored that you chose to support animal advocacy with its youngest advocates: children who have a lifetime ahead of them to fight for change. Thank you for helping us give every cat a better life.

With gratitude,

Laura L Bailey

Community Cat Support Coalition

Statistics: Shelter Animals Count 2025 national data, as reported by the ASPCA (U.S. Animal Shelter Statistics; Shelter Animals Count 2025 Annual Data Report, Feb. 2026).

COMMUNITY CAT SUPPORT COALITION

Pawsitive Pals

A Kitten Rescue & TNR Educational Program for young learners · Teacher & Leader Guide

Grades K–2 | Scouts · Classrooms · Clubs | 60–75 minutes | Best for 10–25 kids

Kids will learn: what rescue and TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) helpers do, why spaying and neutering keeps cats healthy and means fewer homeless kittens, why kittens need vaccines, and what a kitten needs at home.

Supplies

Guest presenter brings

- ☐ Humane cat trap(s), clean and empty
- ☐ Optional: photos of rescued cats, an ear-tipped cat photo

One per student

- ☐ Small stuffed kitten
- ☐ Vet Check-In sheet
- ☐ Shopping Trip cart page + cut-out page
- ☐ TNR Trap Craft pages (2)
- ☐ Brown paper lunch sack
- ☐ Cardboard pet carrier box
- ☐ Bandage (for kitten's tummy)
- ☐ Adoption Certificate

For the group

- ☐ A big box + blanket ("rescue box")
- ☐ Crayons, pencils, safety scissors, glue sticks
- ☐ "Vet Clinic" table with a sign, plus scissors for ear tips
- ☐ Optional: toy stethoscope, kitchen scale, lab coat or scrubs for the "vet," stickers

Budget tips: buy small plush cats in bulk (dollar stores, party-supply sites), ask a local shelter or pet store to donate cardboard adoption carriers, and use plain bandages. Print the cut-out page on cardstock if you can.

Helpers: 1 adult as "vet," plus 1–2 adults to help pre-writers fill out sheets. Older Scouts make great vet assistants!

Lesson Plan

1. **Meet a Cat Helper** 10–15 min
   Guest introduces themselves and their group and explains what they do. Pass around (or demonstrate) a cat trap. Ask: *"How do you think this helps the cats?"* Use the talking points on the next page.
2. **TNR Trap Craft** 10 min
   Kids color and cut out a community cat and glue the trap onto a paper lunch sack. They "trap" their cat, take it to the clinic, snip its ear tip, and "return" it home.
3. **Pretend Rescue** 5 min
   Bring out the rescue box: *"We got a call that kittens need help! Let's go on a rescue."* Each child gently "finds" and picks one kitten.
4. **Vet Check-In** 10 min
   Kids fill out the Vet Check-In sheet: draw their kitten, give it a name, age, weight and color, and circle girl or boy. Adults can write for younger kids.
5. **Vet Clinic** 10 min
   As kids finish, they bring their kitten and sheet to the clinic. The "vet" checks the boxes for spay/neuter, FVRCP and rabies, puts a bandage on the kitten's tummy, signs the sheet, and places the kitten in its carrier.
6. **Kitten Shopping Trip** 10–15 min
   While waiting at the clinic (or after), kids cut out the items their kitten needs and glue them in the cart. Three items are *not* for kittens: dog bone, chocolate, hamster wheel.
7. **Go Home Day!** 5 min
   Hand out Adoption Certificates, read the kitten promise together, and send kittens home in their carriers. Ask the wrap-up questions on the next page.

Short on time? Send the shopping pages home. **Extra time?** Set up a pretend pet store with empty food bags, bowls, toys and play money.

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Talking Points & Vet Script

Simple words for big ideas · Teacher & Leader Guide, page 2

For the Guest Presenter

Who we are

"I help cats who live outside and don't have a home. Some are called **community cats**."

The trap

"This is a safe trap. It doesn't hurt. We put yummy food inside, the cat walks in, and the door closes gently. Then we can take the cat to the vet."

TNR = Trap · Neuter · Return

- **Trap:** we catch the cat safely.
- **Neuter:** a vet does a small surgery so the cat can't have babies. The cat is asleep and doesn't feel it.
- **Return:** the cat goes back home outside, healthier. Friendly cats and kittens may find new families.

Why it helps

- A mama cat can have kittens up to 3 times a year, and there aren't enough homes for all of them.
- Spayed and neutered cats are healthier and calmer, and they fight and wander less.
- Vaccines (shots) keep cats from getting sick.

The ear tip

"See this cat's ear? The tip is flat. That's a sign that says 'I've already been to the vet!'" Ear tips are usually done on the cat's **left** ear while it's asleep for surgery, so it doesn't hurt.

> **Safety message:** Never touch or pick up a cat you don't know. If you see a cat that needs help, tell a grown-up.

Words to Know

Spay: surgery for girl cats so they can't have kittens.
Neuter: surgery for boy cats so they can't make kittens.
Vaccine: a shot that helps keep your body from getting sick.
FVRCP: a kitten shot that protects against cat colds and other sicknesses.
Rabies: a dangerous sickness. The rabies shot protects cats *and* people.
Veterinarian (vet): a doctor for animals.

Vet Clinic Script

"Welcome to the clinic! Who do we have here?" (Read the kitten's name.)

*"Is your kitten a girl or a boy? Girls get **spayed** and boys get **neutered**. That means no surprise babies!"*

"Now two shots: FVRCP to keep away cat colds, and rabies to keep everyone safe." (Check all three boxes.)

"All done! Here's a bandage for the tummy. Your kitten needs a quiet rest at home tonight." (Sign the sheet and put the kitten in its carrier.)

> **Fun fact for the vet:** kittens can be spayed or neutered once they're about 2 months old and weigh 2 pounds. Ask kids: "Is your kitten big enough?"

Wrap-Up Questions

- Why do we spay and neuter cats?
- What shots did your kitten get?
- What does an ear tip tell us?
- Name 3 things a kitten needs at home.
- What should you do if you see a cat outside that needs help?

Shopping answer key

Kitten needs: cat food, water bowl, litter box, scratching post, toys, cat bed, brush, collar & ID tag, vet check-ups.
Not for kittens: dog bone, chocolate (unsafe for pets!), hamster wheel.

TNR Trap Craft

Trap · Neuter · Return!

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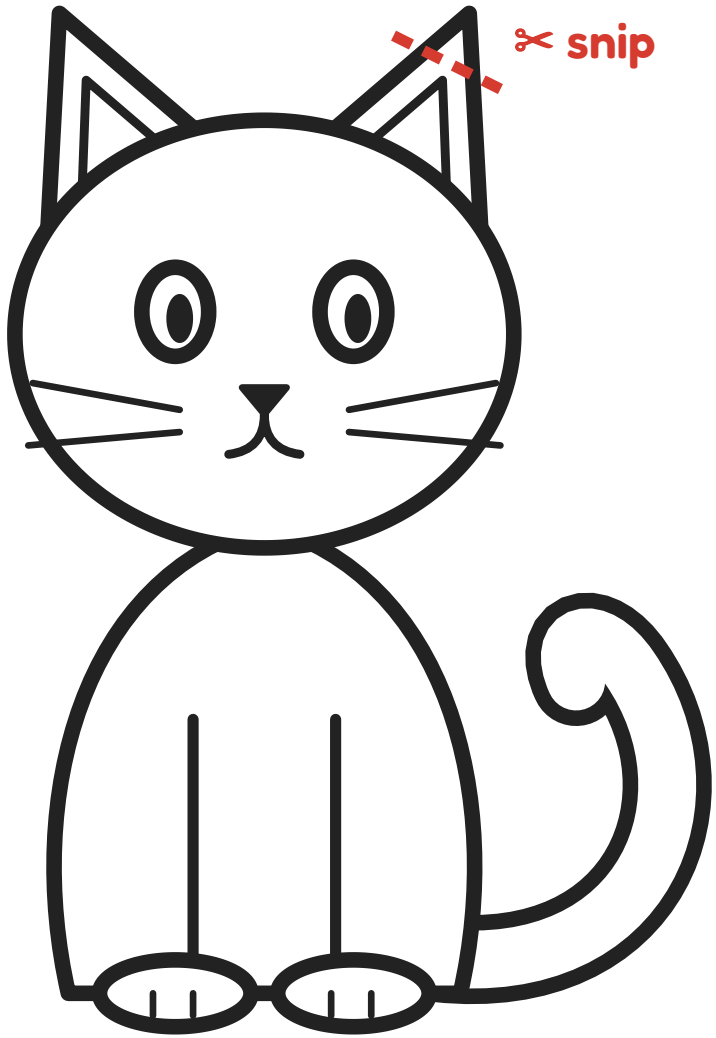
1. Color your community cat. Cut it out on the black line. **Don't snip the ear yet!**
2. Lay your paper bag on its side and glue the trap on the front. The bag opening is the trap door!
3. **TRAP:** Gently slide your cat inside the trap.
4. **NEUTER:** Take your trap to the clinic. The vet fixes your cat so it can't have babies.
5. **EAR TIP:** While your cat is asleep, snip the tip of its ear on the red dotted line.
6. **RETURN:** Take your cat out. It's healthy and going back home! The ear tip tells everyone: "I've already been to the vet!"



Glue onto a brown paper lunch bag

My Cat Trap

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✂ Cut along the outside of the trap. It's sized to fit along a lunch bag laid on its side. Tip: print on cardstock!



✂ TNR Clinic Tag

Cat's name: _____ **Trapped by:** _____

☐ Spay / Neuter ☐ Rabies shot ☐ Ear tip

Kitten Rescue Clinic

Vet Check-In

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Draw your kitten!

Kitten's name: _____

Owner (that's me!) **:** _____

Age: _____ weeks / months **Weight:** _____ pounds

Color: _____

Circle one: GIRL BOY

Today my kitten will get:

- ☐ Spay (girl) or Neuter (boy)
- ☐ FVRCP vaccine (keeps away cat colds)
- ☐ Rabies vaccine (keeps cats and people safe)

Vet signature: _____

Getting ready for your kitten

Kitten Shopping Trip

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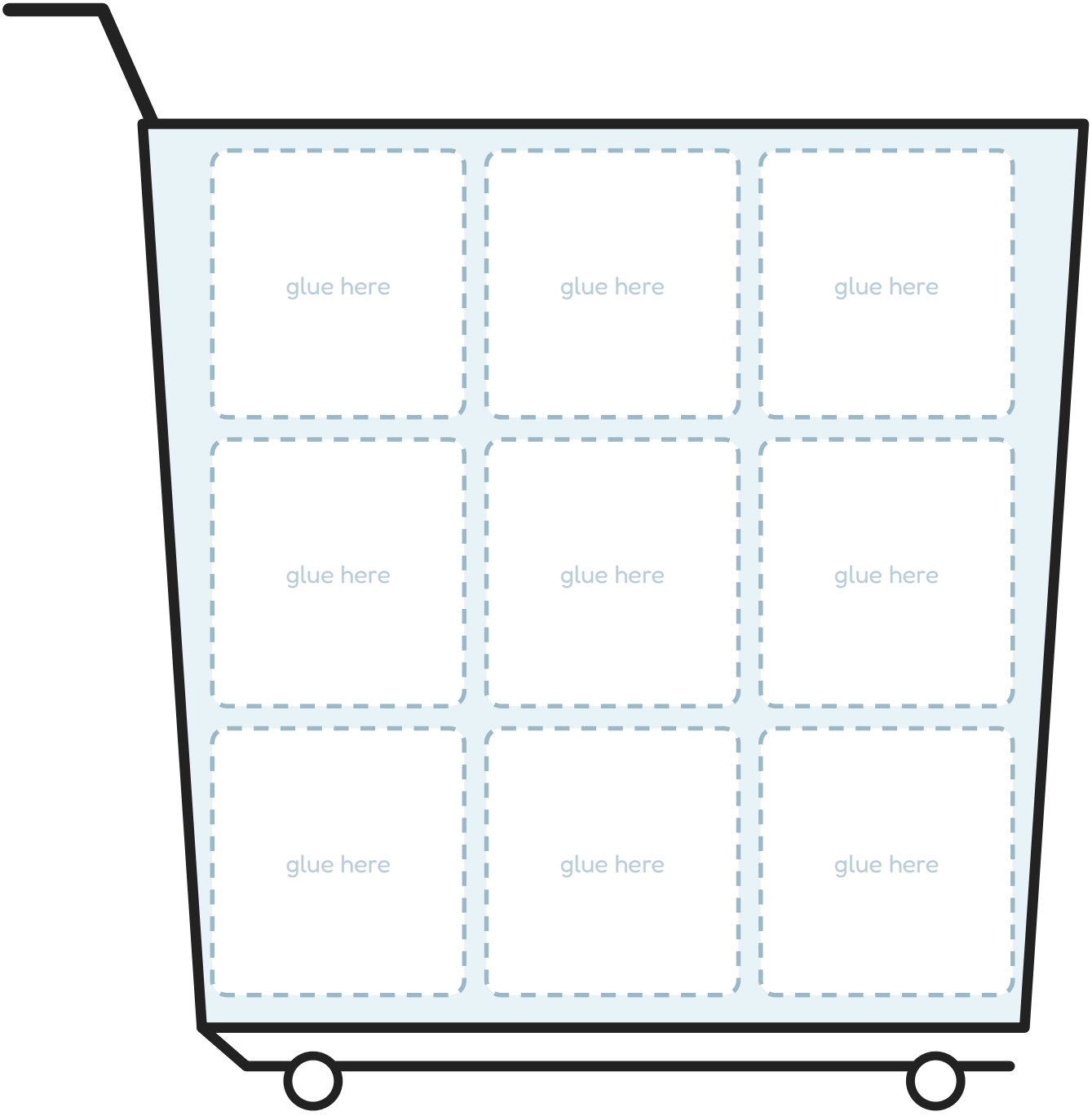
Cut out the things your kitten **needs** and glue them in the cart. Be careful! Some things are **NOT** for kittens.

Name: _____



Cut along the dotted lines

Shopping Cut-Outs

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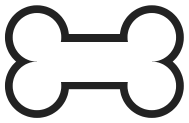
✂ Color them in, then cut them out! Which 3 don't belong?



Cat food



Dog bone



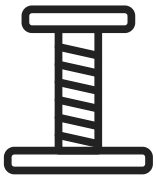
Litter box



Toys



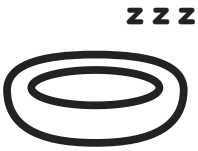
Chocolate



Scratching post



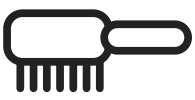
Water bowl



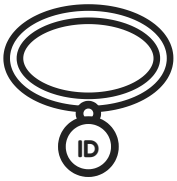
Cat bed



Hamster wheel



Brush



Collar & ID tag



Vet check-ups

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Official Kitten Adoption Certificate

This certifies that

_____

adopted a kitten named

_____

on _____

✓ Spayed / Neutered ✓ Vaccinated ✓ Loved

My Kitten Promise

- ☐ I will give my kitten food and fresh water.
- ☐ I will keep the litter box clean.
- ☐ I will play with my kitten every day.
- ☐ I will take my kitten to the vet.

_____ _____

Kitten Parent Veterinarian