



Help an Animal Find Their Forever Home

In this activity, you will examine a scenario that involves an abandoned cat and her journey on the pathway to her forever home at the Calgary Humane Society.

Part One: Reviewing the Animal Pathway at the Calgary Humane Society

Match the description with the proper department in the box below

_____ This department is your hub to access private consultation, behaviour seminars, training classes, as well as resources for all species.

_____ This team sends animals that are too young for adoption, ill, injured, or ill-mannered, to temporary homes so they can grow, recover, and learn. Your home acts as an extension of our shelter!

_____ This is a team of provincially-appointed Peace Officers who enforce the Animal Protection Act of Alberta in the City of Calgary. They investigate public concerns of animal abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

_____ Every animal that comes into the shelter has to go through this team. They will look for the owners of lost and found pets, provide resources to pet owners in need, and if necessary, complete surrender appointments for those who can no longer look after their pet.

_____ This team recruits, engages and retains over 500 people who donate their time to make a difference in their community and support a cause they believe in. The contributions of these people can be felt throughout our organization, and we would certainly be lost without them!

_____ This team is made up of veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, animal health assistants, and animal health volunteers. They perform surgery, administer medications, and take care of the medical well being of over 4000-500 animals every year!

_____ Every animal that comes through the shelter will have an “interview” with this team to determine their unique behavioural and enrichment needs. We support every animal on their journey to adoption by making recommendations on what home they might be the best fit in.

A) Foster	B) Volunteer Resources & Engagement	C) Animal Health
D) Protection & Investigations	E) Behaviour Outreach	F) Animal Admissions
G) Behaviour Operations	H) Adoptions	



Part Two: Help Mara the Cat!



Somebody saw a person leave Mara at their local park and drive away. Thankfully, they were able to get the license plate before bringing Mara in to the Calgary Humane Society.

Should Mara's owner have left Mara in the park like that? Why or why not?

You start to check Mara in at the Animal Admissions department. Mara has no collar, no tattoo, and no microchip to help you find the owner. Check off how you would say Mara came to CHS on her file:

- Owner Surrender: when the owner of the animal brings them to CHS because they can no longer take care of them
- Stray: when an animal is brought in to CHS and they have never had an owner before
- Abandoned: when an animal is left alone somewhere by their owner, and somebody else brings them in to keep them safe

When Animal Health comes to check on Mara, they realize she is pregnant with kittens! She is in very good health, and will likely have her litter of kittens in a few weeks. The Behaviour Operations Team also thinks she is a very gentle cat and they are happy she is so well-behaved.

Do you think Mara should go to a Foster home while she waits to have her kittens? Why or why not?



If you think Mara should go to a foster home, which one from the options below would you pick? Explain your selection below.

	Sally Kim	Jordan Taylor
Description	Sally has been fostering cats for a very long time. She has housed many pregnant cats before and helped the mama cats deliver her kittens many times!	Jordan has also been fostering cats for a long time. She has never had a pregnant cat before, but she is eager to learn how to care for them!

In a few weeks, Mara has her kittens in her foster home and she is doing great! The Foster Parent has noticed no house-soiling or litterbox issues, aggression or shyness. The Foster Parent has noticed some “chattiness” (talkative behaviour) and Mara has scratched her scratching post quite a bit in the few weeks she has been there!







After Mara has her kittens and they are old enough to be on their own, the Adoptions Team decides that it is best for Mara to go to a new forever home where she can be loved and snuggled every day. Her kittens will not go with her, but that’s ok! After 12 weeks, the kittens can be happy and healthy on their own because they don’t need their mom’s milk anymore.





Part Three: Let's Get Mara Adopted!

Mara gets moved to the adoption floor. The next day, three people have appointments to come in to see Mara. Read their profiles below.

	Frederic Lafontaine	The O'Mally Family	The Ahuja Family
			
Previous Experience?	Lots of previous experience with cats	Lots of previous experience with cats	Some previous experience with cats
Names & Ages of People in Home?	Frederic – age 47	Kaetlyn – age 40 Maevae – age 35 Sterling – age 3 Liam – age 1	Rahim – age 60 Hala – age 55 David – age 31 Miriam – age 29 Omar – age 10
Allergies?	None	No allergies that they know of, but Liam is only 1 so they aren't sure about him yet.	None
Other Pets at Home?	1 dog (Layla) – age 7 	1 cat (Kyla) – age 5 	1 bird (Bigsby) – age 13 

The Calgary Humane Society operates on an open-adoption policy. This means that we seek the appropriate fit by asking questions the adopter may not have thought of in order to help them find the best furry, feathery, or scaly friend for their home!

What further information would you provide to each person or family at their appointment? Circle the resource(s) you feel would be most beneficial to each potential adopter apply based on the information found in their profiles. Then, explain your choice in the space below.



Calgary Humane Society

Frederic Lafontaine

- Stages of Kitten Behaviour
- Making New Friends - Dog-to-Cat introductions
- Feline Aggression Types
- Training Your Cat with Positive Reinforcement

I selected these resources because...

The Ahuja Family

- Introducing a Cat to a New Home
- Making New Friends – Resident Senior Cat to New Kitten
- Feline Redirected Aggression
- Creating a Safe Room for Your Cat

I selected these resources because...

The O'Mally Family

- Cat Housesoiling Checklist
- Introducing a Cat to a New Home
- Destructive Scratching
- Making New Friends – Resident Cat to Cat Introduction

I selected these resources because...
