Click to Calm for Cats

- Locate bin with pouch, clicker, treats and notebook at the Cat Comforting station (in the cat kitchen).
 - a. **Remember** cats with any yellow feeding directive signs on their kennel cannot have any treats.



- b. **Locations** you can click to calm in **only** these locations:
 - i. Kitten Room
 - ii. Uptown Cats
 - iii. Downtown Cats

- 2. Click, treat, walk away.
 - a. Approach the cage quietly. Click and gently toss in a treat. Walk away. Can do multiple times.
- 3. Click for calm behaviors.
 - a. If the cat is continuing to eat the treats, try standing near the cage and doing a short training session. You will be looking for and clicking relaxed behaviors. Click and treat for any of the following:
 - i. Soft eye contact
 - ii. Head movements toward you
 - iii. A friendly meow
 - iv. Relaxed body movements, such as outstretched paw, kneading, stretching out
 - v. Relaxed movements toward the front of the cage

- 4. Record only major changes in behavior in the notebook. You do not need to write a note for every animal. Note the cat's name and kennel number, then record their behavior.
 - a. Negative Reactions
 - i. If the cat is extremely upset by the clicking airplane ears, growling, hissing, etc.
 - ii. If the cat is extremely scared of the clicking dilated pupils, hiding, tail tucked, etc.
 - b. Positive Reactions
 - i. If the cat seems to have been helped by the clicking came out from hiding,

Reminders:

- 5. If a cat is fearful or shy, you can place the clicker under a small towel or dish cloth. This will make the clicking noise quieter.
- 6. It's ok if you click at the wrong time, just <u>make sure to always give a treat</u> <u>after clicking</u>. Give treats immediately after clicking.
- 7. Making mistakes won't "hurt" the animals. You are still giving them positive interactions and helping to reduce their stress levels while being in the shelter.