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# ASPCA Feline Spectrum Assessment<sup>sm</sup> Assessment Items

# Conducting the 4 Assessment Items

1. Greet
2. Crack Door
3. Toy
4. Wand



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# Item #1 Greet (Part 1 of Greet Item)

## Greet

- The Evaluator stands 1 foot in front of the cage, body slightly at an angle, making indirect eye contact
- Holding one hand out, palm up, the Evaluator holds their hand relative to the cat's head, then speaks a "baby talk" phrase to the cat.
- Example phrase, "Hi Kitty. Whatcha doin'? What a pretty kitty...whatcha doin'? Come here"

## Duration

15-20 seconds

## Record behavior

Fill out the scoring sheet for item #1



# Item #1 How to feed

## (Part 2 of Greet Item)

### How to feed

- We suggest that facilities doing these assessments use a standardized size bowl for every cat evaluated (can be disposable or reusable).
- If possible, marking the inside of food bowls to the line where filling these bowls with a standard, consistent basis amount of your facility's typical quantity of food will make it easier for the Evaluator to see if the cat has eaten.
- We suggest providing both wet and dry food, as cats have different preferences for food and may be more likely to eat one type of the other. However, this is not required.
- The next morning, the Evaluator will refer to this standard amount of food (and to the line in the bowl if available) to determine if a cat ate overnight.



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# Item #2 Crack Cage Door

## Crack cage door

- The Evaluator stands 1 foot in front of the cage, making indirect eye contact, body slightly at an angle but still facing the cat  
The Evaluator places hand on or near the handle of the cage door and says, “Hi, Kitty!” in a friendly and soft voice. Evaluator should place hand on the cage door at a consistent level with each cat. Locks on cages need to be removed before the assessment begins to open the cage door
- Hand is held on or near the handle of the cage door for 30 seconds
- The door is then cracked open 1-2 inches then immediately closed again. The cage door should be closed at a normal volume; the cage door should not be slammed shut nor does the Evaluator need to quietly close the cage door



## Duration

Approximately 30 seconds

## Record behavior

Fill out the scoring sheet for item #2

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# Item #3 Interactive Toy



## Toy

- The Evaluator stands 1 ft in front of the cage, body slightly angled, making indirect eye contact
- A cotton string attached the pole is threaded through the cage bars and jiggled just inside the door of the cage to coax the cat to play for 30 seconds. Encourage the cat to play by tossing the string towards the cat, through the bars, top and bottom of the cage, or wiggling the string along the cage floor. Do not use string that is treated (wax, catnip, etc.)
- If the cat is asleep or eyes are closed during the item, tap the cage only once for the cat to notice the toy. If the cat sees the toy but chooses to close their eyes, allow the cat to continue
- A new string is used for each cat

## Duration

30 seconds

## Record behavior

Fill out the scoring sheet for item #3

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# Item #4 - Touch With Wand



## Touch with wand

- The Evaluator stands 1 foot in front of the cage, body slightly angled, making indirect eye contact and slowly extends a wand toward the cat through the bars toward the cat
- When the wand is 2-3 inches from the cat's face, allow the cat to sniff it if s/he chooses for 5 seconds. If the cat's eyes are closed, tap the wand on the cage or shelf floor (the wand is still 2-3 inches from the cat's face)
- Then the Evaluator attempts to pet the cat gently on the cheek for 10 seconds
- The Evaluator then pulls the wand 2-3 inches away from the cat's face to allow sniffing again (5 seconds)
- Then the Evaluator attempts to pet the cat gently on the cheek for another 10 seconds
- Moving directly from the cat's cheek, the Evaluator will trace the wand along the side of the neck then onto the top of the shoulder blades, never allowing the wand to leave contact from the cat's body
- Between the shoulder blades, the Evaluator then applies gentle but steady pressure on the cat's shoulders for 10 seconds
- The rod is disinfected between cats
- Reactions to the wand by the cat are learned over time so Evaluator's may see an increase in positive reactions throughout assessment periods; allow the cat to rub, sniff, investigate the wand as they see fit until the press portion of the item

## Duration

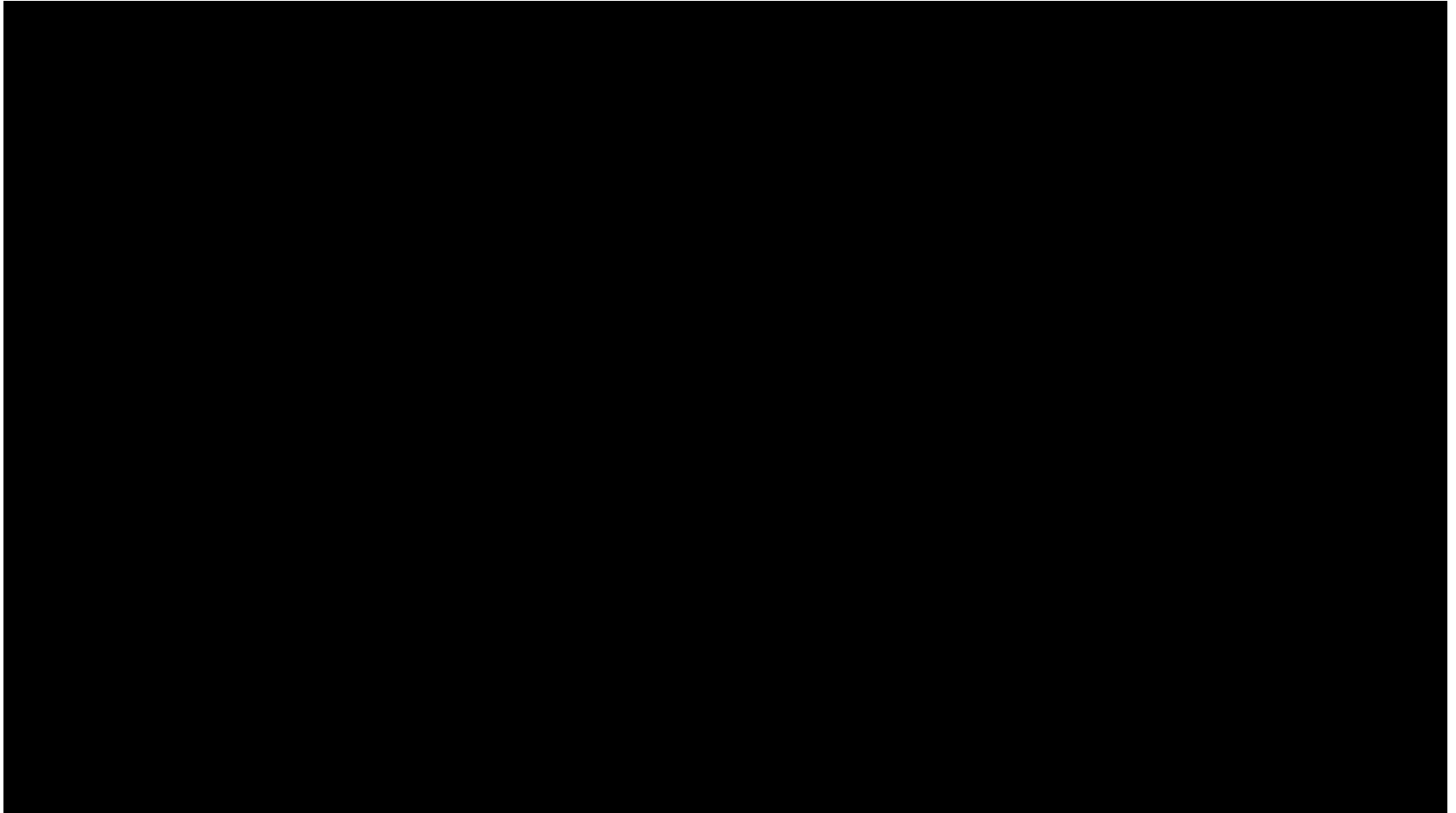
~45 – 60 seconds

## Record behavior

Fill out the scoring sheet for item #4



# Watch a Full Assessment



# Practice the 4 Assessment Items

- Watch the full assessment, item by item.
- Set up a mock cage using a toy cat.
- Then, starting with Greet, you will practice the assessment item by item
- Pay attention to your body posture and technique



Module 1: Introduction (Complete!)

Module 2: Getting Ready for the FSA(Complete!)

Module 3: Behavior Checklist (Complete!)

Module 4: Assessment Items (Complete)

Module 5: Scoring

Module 6: When to Begin the Assessment

