



## Welcome to this MILLION CAT CHALLENGE WEBINAR



Thank you for stopping by, we are really looking forward to spending some time with you today!

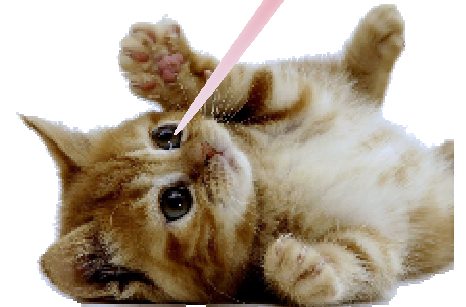


If you have any questions throughout this presentation, please type them in the chat box as you think of them. Don't worry, you aren't interrupting. We'll gather them up and ask the speakers as soon as they are finished talking.

If at any time you have to run, or our Q & A session is unable to be contained by the time limits we silly humans have tried to impose, don't worry: We are recording this presentation and we'll send you a link after the show.



Want to connect with us outside of this webinar? Good—we want to talk to you too! Visit us at [www.millioncatchallenge.org](http://www.millioncatchallenge.org) or drop us a line at [info@millioncatchallenge.org](mailto:info@millioncatchallenge.org).





**9 Lives + You = 1 Million  
Lives Saved**



#EveryCatCounts

#ThanksToMaddie

# THE HOLE TRUTH:

Your thirty minute guide to  
portalizing your shelter

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Kate Hurley, DVM, MPVM, Dip. ABVP (Shelter Medicine), OPA (honorary member)  
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**Take two and call us in the morning**



# Why portals?

**Reduce disease → lower costs, decrease length of stay**

**Cage size, movement, and other environmental factors for feline upper respiratory infections in animal shelters**

Donna C. Wagner, Philip H. K. ...  
Published: January 2, 2019

	IRR	95% Confidence interval	P value
Intake Housing Space <6 ft <sup>2</sup>	1.23	0.75–2.02	0.41
Intake Housing Space 6 to <8 ft <sup>2a</sup>	1.00		
Intake Housing Space 6 to <8 ft <sup>2a</sup>	0.69	0.45–1.06	0.09
Intake Housing Space >8 ft <sup>2b</sup>	0.078	0.06–0.10	<0.0001
Hiding Space in Intake Housing (Never)	1.00		
Hiding Space in Intake Housing (Sometimes)	7.29	3.04–17.50	<0.0001
Hiding Space in Intake Housing (Always)	5.98	3.46–10.32	<0.0001
Mixed-Age Housing present	1.00		
No Mixed-Age Housing	1.89	0.78–4.58	0.16
Number of Housing Moves (> 2 in first week of stay)	1.00		
Number of Housing Moves (≤ 2 in first week of stay)	0.19	0.14–0.25	<0.0001
Intranasal Vaccine Use (FVRCP <sup>c</sup> )	1.66	1.13–2.44	0.010

<sup>a</sup>0.56–0.74m<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>b</sup>>0.74m<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>c</sup>Feline viral rhinotracheitis (feline herpesvirus-1) and calicivirus

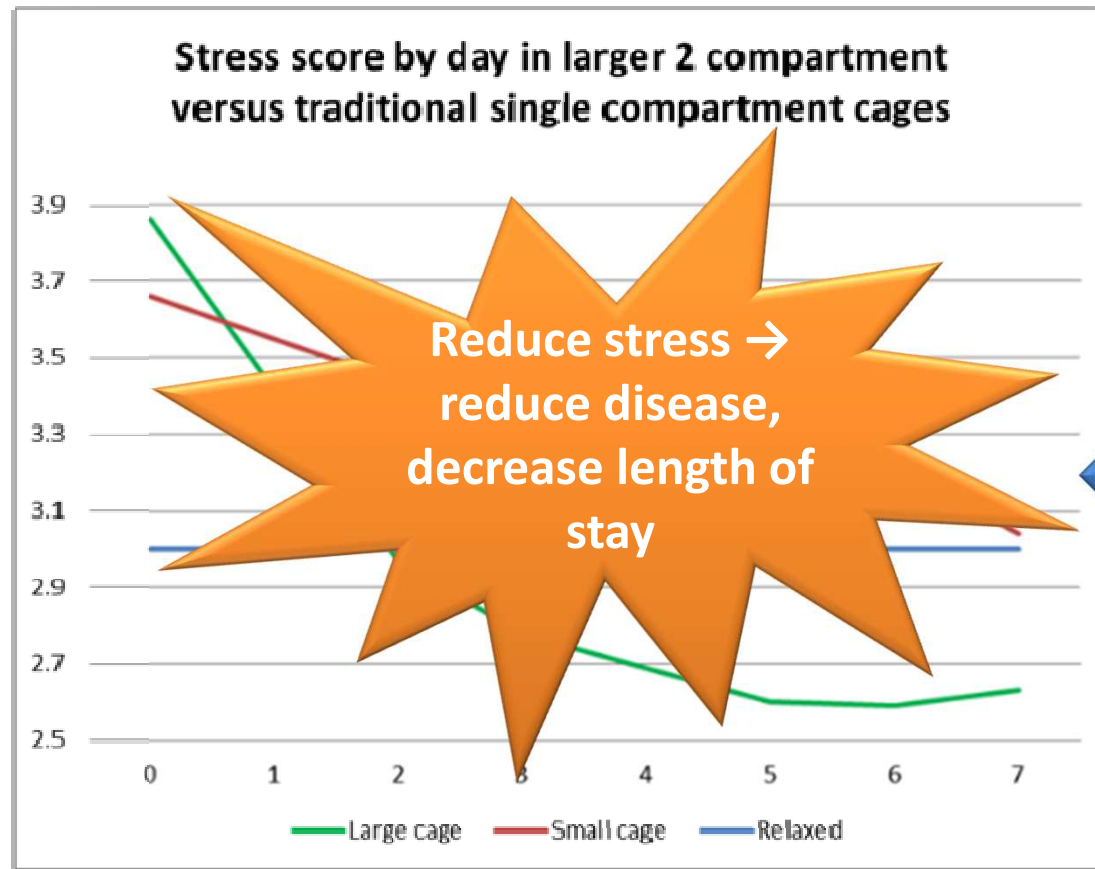
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0190140.t003>

The number of cats in the isolation ward went from 12-16 (maximum allowable) at any given time to an estimated 10-15 for the entire year.

James Lawson, BC SPCA Vancouver



# Why portals?



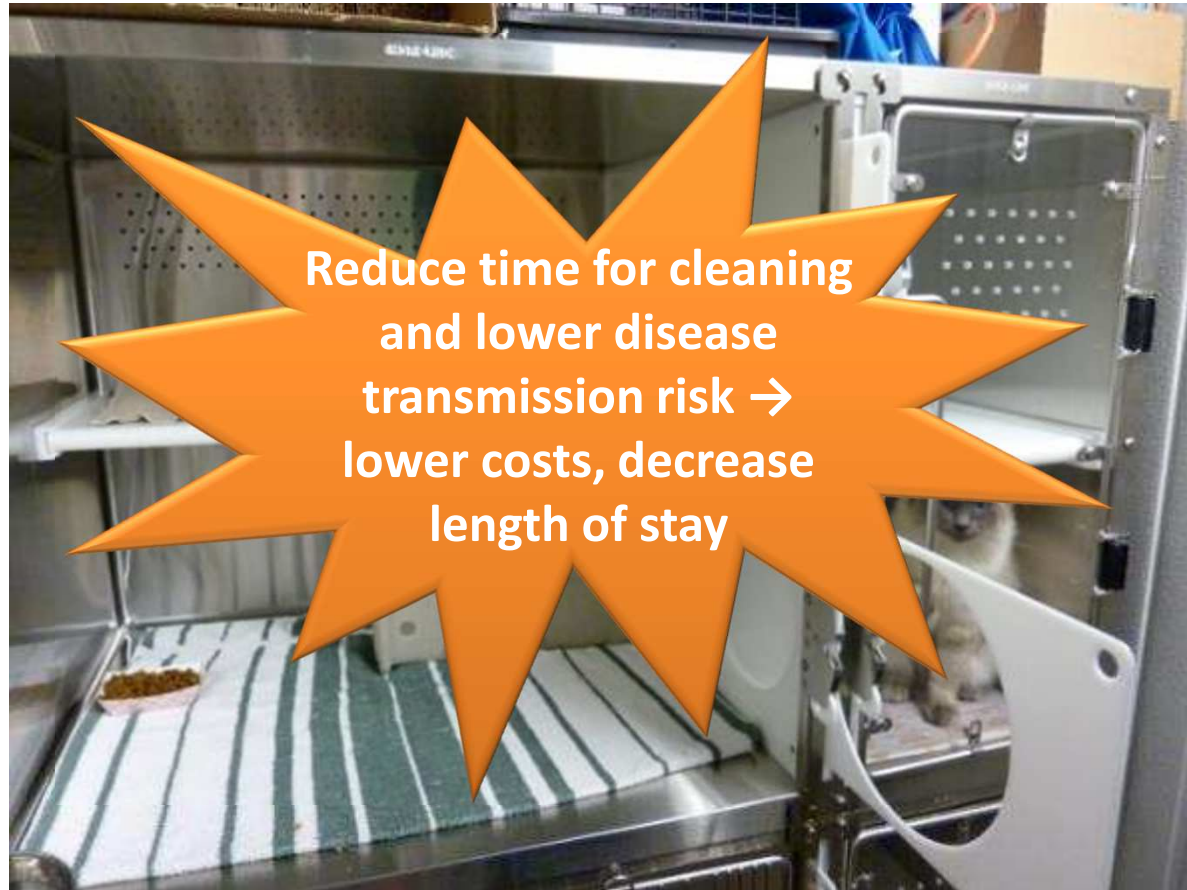
“Everyone is less stressed...euthanasia is down 40%...we can now take in more surrenders and strays”

BC SPCA, Quesnel Branch, BC, Canada





# Why portals?



<http://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/spot-cleaning-cat-cages>

**Human welfare also increased.** For example, Animal Care Attendant hours changed from 6am-2pm to 8am-4pm due to a reduction in time necessary to prepare for adoption viewing. Importantly, with the change in scheduling, **staff had more time to spend with volunteers and members of the public** during peak hours to facilitate adoptions.



James Lawson, BC SPCA

# Why portals?



Reduce length of  
“adoption line” →  
decrease length of stay,  
reduce stress and disease



I don't know how to explain how this helped – except to add that there seems to be some magical thing that happens when you get your numbers right. When we had double or triple that, we had LOTS of long-term cats. When we dropped our capacity, it took some time, but our long-term number just... fell.

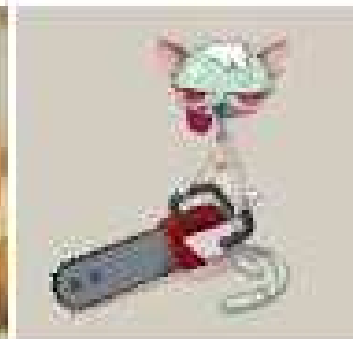
Karen Green, Cat Adoption Team, Portland, OR



# Ready for the power tools???

Images for cat with a chainsaw

[Report images](#)



[More images for cat with a chainsaw](#)

# Want to try this at home?

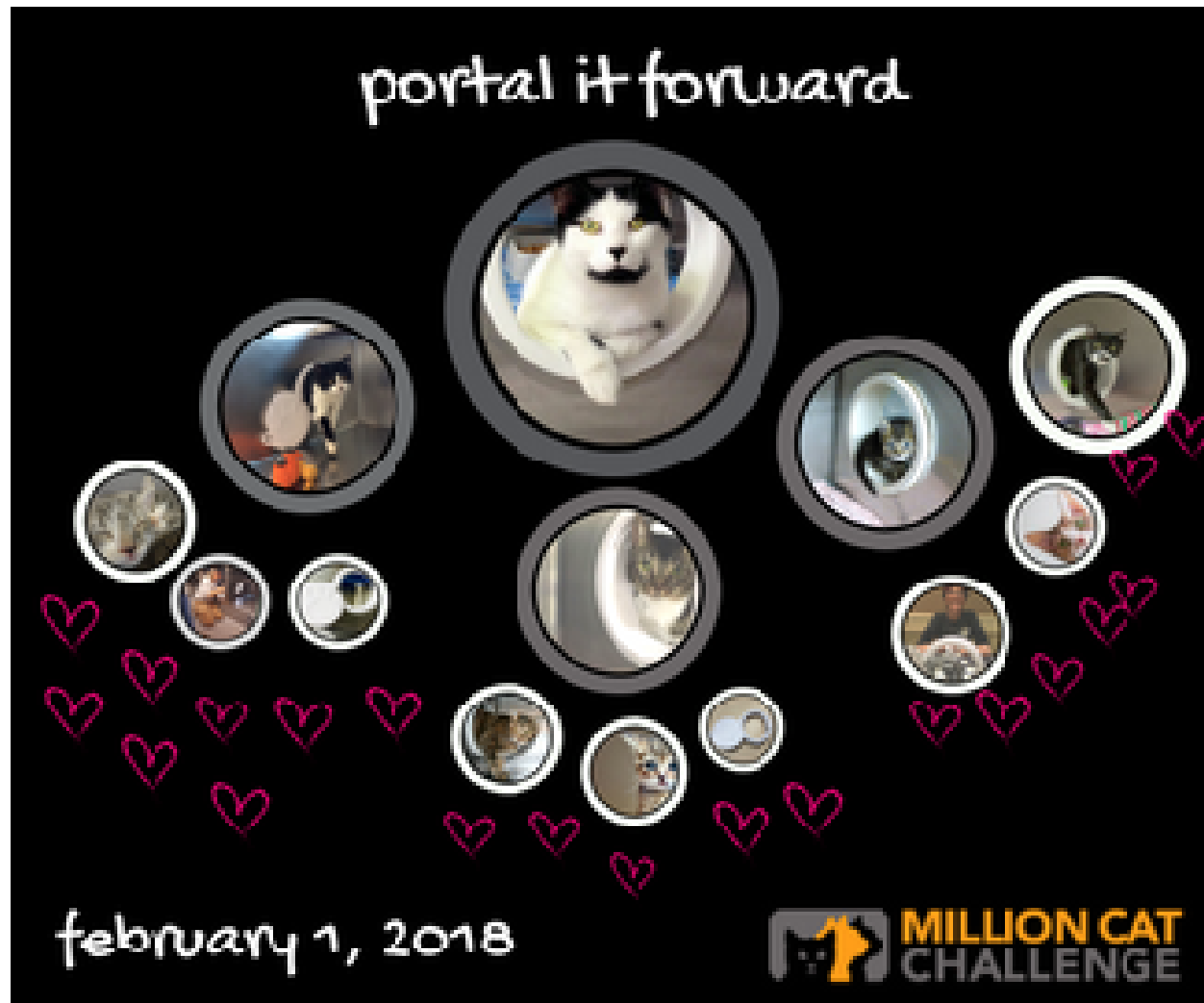
- **Order premade portals** at [sheltermedicine@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sheltermedicine@ucdavis.edu) or call 530-752-3369
- **Make your own:**  
<http://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/cat-cage-modifications-making-double-compartment-cat-cages-using-a-pvc-portal>

Other fun stuff:

- **Curtains:**  
<http://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/how-to-make-partial-cage-covers-aka-curtailments>
- **Beds:**  
<http://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/building-an-elevated-bed-for-use-in-shelter-cat-housing>
- Got your own great cat housing hacks? Share in the MCC yahoo group! Email [info@millioncatchallenge.org](mailto:info@millioncatchallenge.org) to join.



**Coming soon to a Challenge near you!**



# Bonus questions

- How can we afford to portalize?
- We are in need of brand new housing. What kind do you recommend?
- What are some other ways to improve cat housing?





# Dear Million Cat Challenge...

We're a small shelter  
with a budget to  
match...how can we  
afford better housing?



# You can keep it basic

We were able to keep our costs for implementing C4C to a minimum. Our biggest expense was the actual purchase of the portals which was roughly \$700.00. We had wonderful volunteers install the portals; our only installation cost was the rental fee for the plasma cutter which was \$100 over 2 weekends. Our “curtails” — curtains that curtail cat stress! — were made by a neighbor who works in a fabric store, so our only cost was for notions. We used bed sheets that we already had for the material. Total cost for curtails was \$15. **In total it cost us less than \$1,000 to implement C4C.**

# Let the community step up to help

## How cats find homes faster

Your support helps CAT make housing improvements



Thayer peeks through the new portal in his kennel at CAT.

“This appeal made almost three times what the next two appeals made,” Green said. “It basically has outperformed almost every quarterly appeal that we have ever made.”

shelter stress by giving cats more personal choice, as well as extra space between sleeping, eating, and litter areas.

Although portals make use of existing kennels, the construction is still costly. Thanks to generous contributions from our supporters, cats in our care are loving the renovated kennels!

Over 200 CAT friends have donated toward this project. In addition, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA®) awarded grant funding to CAT to help with portals and other housing improvements.

Improvements in shelter welfare, especially in the light of recent research, we made some changes and encourage the types of behavior we love to see: cats who are more relaxed, behaving more like themselves. These cats find homes faster, they find the *right* homes.

**Because of you, cats and kittens who come to CAT will now have double the space to play, relax, and impress adopters during their stay at the shelter.**

<http://blog.millioncatchallenge.org/who-will-donate-to-put-portals-in-cat-housing-you-d-be-amazed/> for more including sample appeal letter and envelope!

# Can you afford NOT to portalize?

## Capacity for Care (C4C) Case Studies



CFHS 2014 pilot  
shelters:  
Guelph Humane Society  
&  
PEI Humane Society

Our cats are happier and healthier in body, mind and spirit. Our isolation room is now being used more as extra space than for sick cats. Our costs for medications have decreased, also. Our chubbier cats use the portals as exercise equipment, getting in their daily workouts. -  
Guelph Humane Society

An 84% decrease in URI meant the savings on medication were considerable. We have also saved almost \$40,000 in labour costs due to the decrease in intake numbers. – Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society

[http://cfhs.ca/athome/capacity\\_for\\_care/](http://cfhs.ca/athome/capacity_for_care/)



# Dear Million Cat Challenge...

We don't need to portalize  
so much as to get all new  
housing. What would you  
suggest?



# In need of housing?

- Condos/cages with 30" compartments with up/down, side/side portals for maximum flexibility
  - Kittens per 30" compartment at peak
  - Cat per double or quadruple at trough
- Open-ish fronts for interaction and ventilation



# Need non-cage housing?

- Break large group rooms into smaller groups
  - 3-5 cats ideal
  - Periodically adopt down to zero
- Create some large single units, e.g. repurposed dog runs
- Use a good disinfectant and feel free to use coated wire, wood, other cost effective, lightweight material





# How about outdoor housing for outdoor cats?



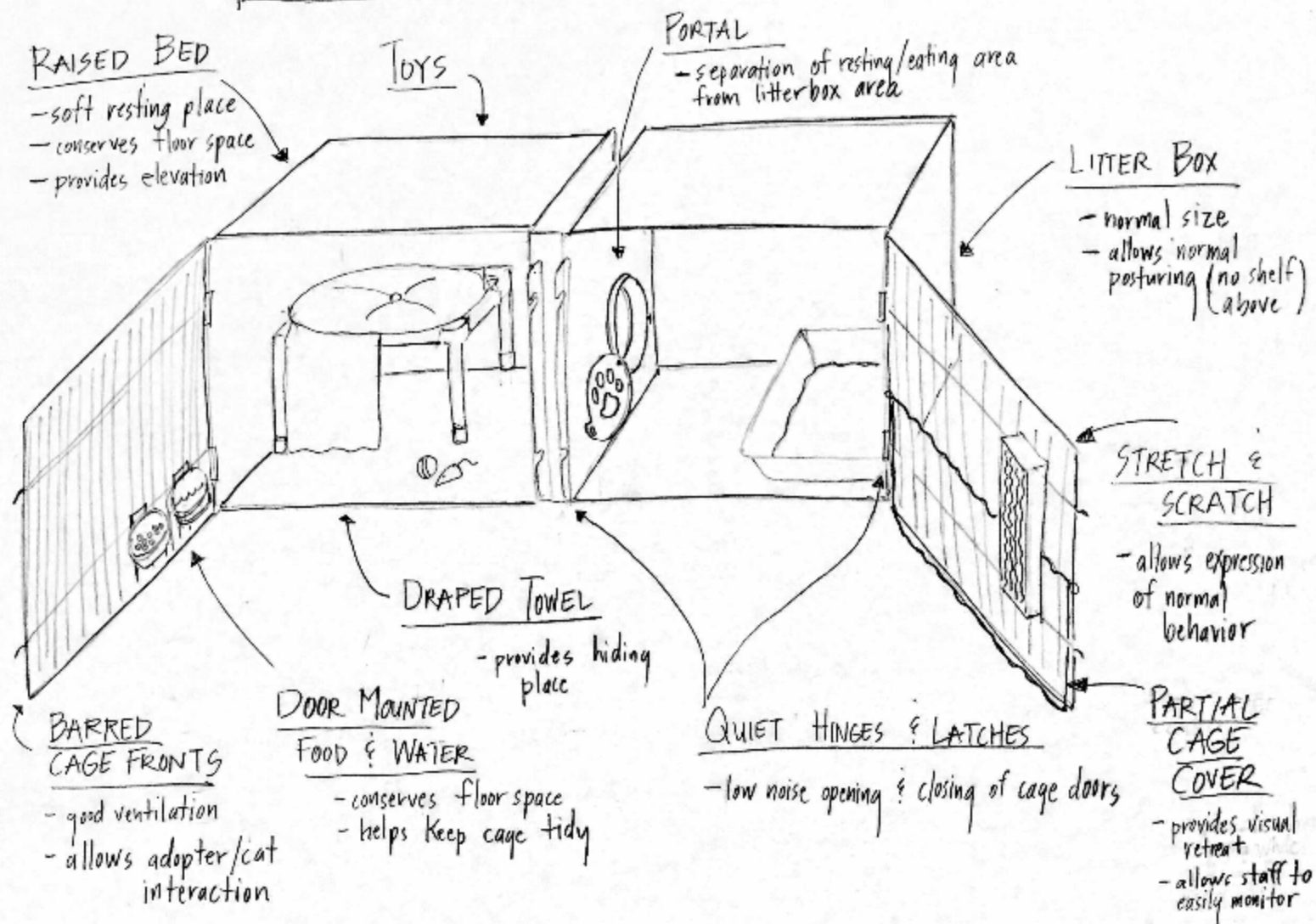


# Dear Million Cat Challenge...

We're portalizing for sure,  
but wondering what else  
we can do to make our cat  
housing the best it can be?



# LOW STRESS CAT HOUSING





# Mark Your Calendar

## Cat Portals: A Tale of Two Shelters

Thursday, February 22, 3-3:30 pm ET

Debbie Jeffrey, Kootenai Humane Society, ID

Cristie Kamiya, Humane Society of Silicon Valley, CA

[www.ASPCApro.org/webinars](http://www.ASPCApro.org/webinars)