



## ADOPT A CAT FOUNDATION, INC.

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### THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE ADOPTING

#### **Member of the Family**

An indoor cat can live up to 20 years of age. Are you prepared to make a lifetime commitment to your cat/kitten? A cat, like any member of the family, should be treated with love and respect and never be confined to a basement, cage, garage, or any other room. A cat/kitten that is not treated like a member of the family will not be happy and may become withdrawn, mean and/or destructive.

#### **Single Kitten**

It is recommended that kittens under 10 months be adopted in pairs, if possible, unless there is a young cat already in the home. A kitten will get lonely and may become depressed and/or destructive.

#### **Costs of Routine Care and Vet Care**

A single cat/kitten will cost between \$400 and \$1,000 per year in food, litter, and basic medical care. This does not include any health-related emergencies that may occur. Your cat will need an annual visit including FVRCP Boosters (*the FVRCP vaccine is an important part of your cat's routine. It prevents three potentially deadly airborne viruses: Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia.*) Expect your cat to catch an occasional cold or ear infection and as your cat ages there may be an increase in vet visits/costs.

#### **Children**

If you have a child that is 6 years old or younger, it is important to adopt a cat who is no younger than six months old. Kittens are very fragile and can be accidentally injured by a small child. Likewise, young kittens have not learned to retract their claws, so a child can find themselves being scratched. As a result, the child may develop an unnecessary fear of kittens and the kitten may become fearful of the child who cries after being scratched. ALWAYS supervise small children around a kitten or a cat.

#### **Indoor Cats**

Your adopted cat must be always kept indoors, unless the cat is on a leash and supervised by you. Remember, cats can live up to 20 years when kept inside and given proper care. Outdoor cats who wander only live an average of 2 years. They are often injured or killed by cars, contract diseases from other cats and animals, poisoned intentionally/unintentionally, and abused by people.

#### **Claws/Scratching**

Cats use their claws in grooming rituals, self-defense, and for kneading to express contentment. Clipping the tip of their claws can aid in reducing damage due to scratching. Ask a volunteer or your vet to show you the correct way to clip their claws. Make sure to provide your cat with plenty of suitable toys and scratching posts for them to use and gently correct your cat if he scratches the wrong things. The key to successful training is patience, consistency, and positive reinforcement. If you want a cat that is declawed, ask an Adopt A Cat representative if we have one.