

July 2021
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Cat Rehoming

PURPOSE

To define the requirements expected to be undertaken, that will establish that robust checks on both potential adopters and the cat to be adopted, have been carried out in order to ensure that any potential areas of detriment and harm arising are properly addressed, to make sure that both the cat and members of the public are adequately safeguarded in the rehoming process.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all cat rehoming. All volunteers involved in the rehoming process including Fosterers, the Homing Officer, The Welfare Officer and The Co-Ordinator must adhere to the policy and guidelines below.

POLICY

The majority of cats in our care will be either stray or abandoned. We will not offer them for adoption for at least fourteen days in order that:-

- i) Their personalities and needs can be assessed.
- ii) They have an incubation period in which medical conditions can be detected and/or assessed.
- iii) Any person claiming to be the owner has sufficient time to come forward.

All animals in our care will have received a clinical examination by a veterinary surgeon prior to their adoption. All cats offered for adoption will have been neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and had flea and worm treatment. With the exception of kittens under the age of sixteen weeks when a neutering voucher will be provided. It is a condition of adoption that all kittens will be neutered.

Any cat coming into us with a medical condition will be treated and will not be offered for adoption until the Veterinary Surgeon and the Welfare Officer agree that the cat is ready for rehoming. After adoption any on-going medical treatment for the diagnosed condition may be paid for by A Purrfect Friend provided the cat is taken to a nominated vet. Any dietary requirements are the responsibility of the adopter.

Potential owners are required to meet their chosen cat at least once before an adoption can happen. No cat will be rehomed over the internet or via telephone. No cat will be offered for sale or given as a prize.

No cat will be rehomed to an environment that does not meet their individual assessed needs.

All potential adopters must be able to provide all the necessary basic requirements needed by the cat and be able to demonstrate that they can provide any future veterinary care that may be required.

Potential adopters who live in rented accommodation will need to provide written proof from their landlord that they can keep pets.

No animal will be rehomed to anyone appearing to be under the age of 18 years without proof of identification.

No cats will be rehomed if doing so is illegal or create undue risks to humans or other animals

A Homing form will be completed and signed by both the adopter and the representative of A Purrfect Friend.

A Purrfect Friend will provide the adopter with the cat's vaccination record card, blood test certificate and microchip details. It will also provide copies of the veterinary history of the cat if applicable.

A Purrfect Friend will provide post-adoption support to help the cat settle into their new home.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Homing Officer is responsible for assessing that any potential adopter's home environment matches the requirements of their chosen cat and that they can afford to provide all the cat's basic requirements including for any veterinary costs that may occur in the future.

The fosterers are responsible for assessing the temperament and needs of the cats in their care. They are responsible for allowing any potential adopter to visit their chosen cat and are

required to assess the reaction between the cat and the potential adopter and if not happy they can terminate the adoption. The fosterer is also responsible for ensuring that the cats in their care have been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped before being adopted. It is the fosterer's responsibility to arrange contact with the adopter to check that the cat is settling in well. They are also responsible in checking that any kitten homed with a neutering voucher is subsequently neutered.

The Coordinator is responsible for advertising the cats via the Purrfect Friend website and on social media and CatChat. They are also responsible for ensuring that the microchip details of our cats are updated once they are adopted.

This Policy has been approved by the trustees July 2021