



## Mock Cat Adoption Application

**You must be at least 18 years of age to adopt.**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Name:            |  |
| Address:         |  |
| Phone/s:         |  |
| Email/s:         |  |
| ID Verification: |  |

**Are you allowed to have this cat where you live?** \_\_\_\_\_

*Conversation: This is where you politely chat about lease restrictions, pet deposits, etc.*

*Suggestion: "Awesome, I see you're allowed to have Kitty where you live, so you either own or your lease allows for Kitty and you've paid any pet deposit, you're all set here?"*

**Do all adults in the home consent to this new cat?** \_\_\_\_\_

*Conversation: This is where you can informally suss out that this is a reasonably sound placement or offer advice if more consideration is needed. This is more valuable for roommate situations vs domestic partnerships.*

*Suggestion: "I see you wrote that not all adults consent to Kitty coming home. How do you think that person is going to take it, do they have allergies or would they want to meet Kitty first? Oh, it's a gift for your spouse, that's awesome! What a great surprise, just know that if the surprise doesn't work out for any reason, whatsoever, we'll take Kitty back or help find a match if this isn't the perfect fit."*

**Will this cat live** ☒ Indoor ☐ Outdoor ☐ Both

*Conversation: This is where you can impart suggestions on housing the cat, or make a recommendation for a cat who would thrive in the adopter's preferred location.*

*Suggestion: "I see Kitty will get to have both indoor and outdoor time. Because she's just a baby kitten right now, we'll ask you to let her grow up before she's given unsupervised access to the outdoors as kittens aren't very street smart and are small enough to be prey to lots of wild critters. Do you think you'll be able to do that until she's about 9 months of age? You can always do a leash/harness or catio in the meantime!"*

**Are you interested in declawing this cat?** ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Maybe

*Conversation: Remember that most Americans are still largely uneducated about what declawing is. Always educate.*

*Suggestion: "You might be interested in declawing Kitty. Have you had previous cats declawed, or are you familiar with the surgery? No? Ok, let me tell you about what declawing is and all of the problems it comes with AND all the humane alternatives to declawing that exist. (...) Knowing that would you still consider having Kitty declawed?"*

**Do you have any existing pets?** \_\_\_\_\_

*Conversation: This is for you to learn if the selected cat will be a good fit for any current pets, gauge care provided, tell adopter how to introduce the new pet, talk about any previous pets, etc.*

*Suggestion: "You said you have existing pets at home now. Tell me about your fur babies! (...) I'm so glad you mentioned Granny Cat is 16 years old because you should know that New Kitten is likely to aggravate her with energetic toddler behaviors all the time. Let's talk about Granny Cat some more and make sure this is a good match so we don't upset her. Minimally, I can give you some advice on acclimating New Kitten so we set you up for success."*

**Are there any cat behaviors that are deal breakers?** \_\_\_\_\_

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*Conversation: Remember, most adopters do not anticipate problems and they do not set out to adopt a cat they later return. This is a space to open conversation into known behaviors of the cat they selected to ensure it's a good fit.*

*Suggestion: "Biting is a deal breaker for you, that's not uncommon not to want to be bitten! Kitty can be a little mouthy when provoked and she does have one bite incident in her history I'm going to tell you all about. We'll go through that and you let me know how you feel, we can talk about ways to mitigate that behavior, or I can make some recommendations for other cats for you."*

- Note that all questions above are open ended, meant to spur conversation.
- No question is intrusive, offensive, or judgemental.
- From just those six questions and open conversation, a counselor should be able to discuss the history of past pets, current living situation, and general fitness of the adopter to take home a cat today. Feel free to ask other questions of the adopter, in conversation!
- Once this application is satisfied, adoption counseling continues with information on the individual cat, recommendations and advice for taking the cat home, instructions, etc.
- The questions above can certainly be tailored for your area or your shelter. Make sure that any question you decide to ask, in writing, is open ended, does not make people uncomfortable, and serves a need-to-know purpose. Remember, this is not a test and we are not looking for right or wrong answers here.