

Adopting a Cat

Cats are loving and fun pets, but they are a big commitment. Are you up to the task?

By Jackie Lutz

Cats have been popular pets for thousands of years. Ancient humans saw their worth, because the cats would eat pests, which would in turn help them preserve their food. Eventually, humans and cats formed a bond together that has grown and lasted until present day.

Nowadays, cats live in our homes with us and give us love, entertainment, and fulfillment. Many homes already have a cat. Do you think that you are ready to adopt a cat of your own?

This article will help guide you through the steps of adopting a cat, and will provide a list of essential items needed for a cat.

Continue reading to learn some more basic information about cats.

Cats can come in many different colors and patterns. Grey, black, orange, white, tabby, striped, calico, and more. Shelter and rescue cats come in a variety of colors, so you will not have much trouble finding one you like.

Even more importantly, cats have very varied personalities. Some are shy, and some are playful. Some can even be aggressive, but

some owners like the challenge of a more troubled pet.

It is also important to consider how old you want your new pet to be. There are plenty of kittens and young cats, but do consider adopting an older cat if you are able to. A lot of senior cats end up in shelters, and spend the rest of their days there.

There are a lot of things to consider before adopting a cat. Consider reading the rest of the article to learn more, and gauge whether or not you are ready to adopt.



How Do You Adopt A Cat?

1. Evaluate if you are ready to adopt

Can you afford a cat right now? You need to be able to provide the cat with shelter, food, medical care, and more. If you are struggling financially, adopting a cat may not be the right choice until you are able to provide for yourself. Consider cat insurance, or create a savings account specifically for the cat. Surprise medical bills can be more expensive than you think.

2. Find a trusted location to adopt a cat

Cats available for adoption can be found in shelters, rescues, and even from people on websites such as Facebook. Make sure to research the location. Be aware of Facebook scams. Make sure that the location tests the cats for diseases such as FIV and FeLV.

3. Fill out the adoption application

Be honest and thoughtful when you fill out your application. It will likely have these two questions: Will you declaw your cat? Will you let your cat outside? Answer no to both of these, and follow through with your promise. Declawing causes cats to have crippling problems later in life, since the unethical procedure requires the cat to have the tips of its toes amputated. Letting your cat outside can decimate the wildlife population, since cats are an invasion species.

4. Buy the essentials

A list of items is located on the next page. It is recommended that you buy most of these items before you bring your new cat home.

5. Visit the location and choose a cat

Once your application is accepted, you will likely be invited to visit the location and meet the cat. If not, make sure that you see the cat in person before committing to the adoption. You will meet the cat and see if their personality is right for you.

6. Bring the cat home

Make sure that you have a quiet and small room where the cat can adjust. Let the cat relax in the room for a few days, and only pet them if they approach you. It's ok if the cat hides for a few days! Let them adjust, and they will soon come out of their shell and want attention from you.

7. Visit a vet

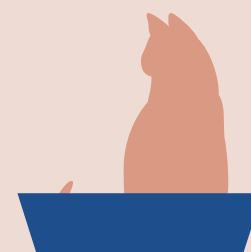
Even if the previous caretakers have already brought the cat to a vet, it is important for you to bring them again as a precaution. Bring your cat to a vet within a month of adoption.



What Items Do You Need?

Litterbox(s)

The general rule for litterboxes is two per cat, and an additional litterbox per additional



Food and water bowls

Make sure that the bowls you choose do not cause whisker fatigue, which is a stressful condition for cats.



Carrier

The carrier should have multiple ways to open it, and should be roomy enough for the cat to turn around



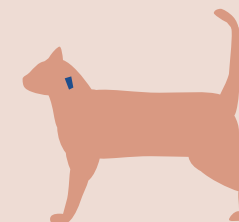
Toys

Cats need enrichment. If you have toys with strings or feathers, only use them while supervising your cat.



Microchip

Any trustworthy shelter/rescue will give you the cat with a microchip already inserted. Make sure to update the contact details to your own.



Window

The cat should have access to a window. This provides important stimulation and entertainment for your cat. Do not let your cat outside.

