

Adoption help for first-time foster

Please note that we run the adoption bulletin at www.catwelfare.org as a public service and that we do not know most of the fosters and adopters who post on our website. As a result, we urge you to be VERY careful when you meet with the potential adopter with the aim of adopting the cat out. There may be persons out there who adopt without commitment or even with unkind intentions.

If you have not adopted a cat out in the past, you may wish to consider the following. These are for your reference and are not CWS rules. You may form your own criteria when looking for potential adopters for your cat/kitten.

1. the way that the cat reacts with the potential adopter and vice versa ;
2. whether the potential adopter has experience with a cat ;
3. the history of the adopters' previous cats ;
4. if the potential adopter currently has a cat, dog, children - whether the new addition would fit into the family.
5. the age of the potential adopter. If the adopter is below 21, you may wish to get the adopter's parents to adopt the cat so that they are part of the process & with their approval. Bear in mind that a cat is not a toy for a child. Cats/kittens adopted without parental consent can end up being dump/abandoned.
6. whether the potential adopter is able to look after the cat for the next 15 to 20 years;
7. that the potential adopter will get the cat sterilised at 6 months;
8. that the potential adopter will not de-claw the cat;
9. whether the potential adopter has the financial resources to keep a cat - food, litter and medical expenses;
10. that the potential adopter must seek medical treatment if the cat is ill;
11. that the potential adopter allow you the foster to visit the cat at its new home (within reason) ;
12. that the potential adopter must agree to keep the cat for the rest of its natural life, and if they are moving overseas to take it with them;
13. that the potential adopter will return the cat to you the foster, in the event that they are unable to keep the cat;
14. that provision is made to prevent the cat from falling off the windows, balcony of high-rise building;
15. that the potential adopter has the necessary equipment before bringing a cat home - litter box, sand, cat food etc.
16. adopted cats are not to be sold or bred.

Please do not feel obligated or pressurised to give the cat up - some adopters are very 'pushy'. First one to write in does not mean the adopter has priority. We are sure you want the cat to go to the best home possible - and if you do not feel comfortable, do not give the potential adopter the cat. If you want them to come see the cat a few more times before taking it home, this is entirely appropriate and acceptable.

A sample adoption contract is available for reference on the adoption FAQ page. Feel free to download, amend and use it if you wish to sign a simple contract. It is a contract between you and the adopter - it would make the adopter aware of the responsibilities required of him or her as a cat care-giver.