



Cat Adoption Application

Name of cat(s) or kitten(s): _____

Thank you for applying to adopt a cat(s). Submitting an application means you: 1) have read our adoption policies, and 2) agree to abide by them. Our adoption fee is \$100 cat/kitten or \$150 pair of cats/kittens.

Main Policies:

- ❖ Cats must be indoors-only
- ❖ Cats may not be declawed
- ❖ Kittens must be adopted in pairs
(unless you already have a young, compatible cat at home)
- ❖ Adoptions are a lifetime commitment

Veterinary Care:

Cats/kittens receive the following vet care prior to adoption:

- ❖ Exam(s)
- ❖ FIV/FELV testing
- ❖ Age-appropriate FVRCPs and rabies
- ❖ Treatment for worms, fleas etc.
- ❖ Care for injuries or illnesses, as needed

Spay/Neuter (S/N):

- ❖ Cats/kittens over 5 months of age are S/N prior to adoption
- ❖ We determine when to S/N kittens based on: age, weight, and various health factors to ensure surgery is performed safely

NOTE: TO EXPEDITE PROCESSING, PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

(E-mail): _____

Do you live in: House Apt Condo TH? How long have you lived at present address? _____

Do you: Rent Own If renting, does lease allow cats? _____

Landlord Name & Phone Number/Email: _____

Names and ages of ALL adults and children in household.

Is someone home during the day? Yes No

What hours are household members generally home?

Please list 3 personal references (not a relative) and their best contact information.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone/Email: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone/Email: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone/Email: _____

Name and PHONE NUMBER of CURRENT veterinarian _____

How long have you been a client with your CURRENT veterinarian? _____

Name and PHONE NUMBER of PAST veterinarian(s) (last 3-5 years, if applicable)

What LAST NAME is your pet listed under with your current/past vet? _____

How many pets do you CURRENTLY have? _____

List TYPE of current pet(s) (e.g., cat or dog), BREED(s), AGE(s), GENDER(s) and NAME:

Cats/dogs spayed or neutered? Yes No

Cats indoor only or indoor/outdoor? **(Circle One)**

Cats tested for feline AIDs (FIV) and leukemia (FELV)? Yes No Cats NEGATIVE for FIV/FELV? Yes No

Cats/dogs current on rabies and distemper? Yes No

Cats/dogs receive other vaccinations (**specify which ones**)?

Current cat(s) declawed? Yes No

Past cat(s) declawed? Yes No

If yes to either, were cat(s) declawed by you or previous owner? _____

If yes to either, why was cat declawed? _____

What is your current view about declawing? _____

Does anyone in your household have allergies to cats? Yes No

If so, how are the allergies addressed? _____

Identify PREVIOUS PETS. Type(s) of pets (e.g., cats, dogs), how long you had them, and what happened to them: (e.g., lost - include how pet(s) was lost; given away - to whom; stayed with family members when moved; or passed away - include cause of death)

Do you plan on changing your residence in the near future? Yes No

If yes, when and where will you move? _____

Will you be renting or buying? _____

Are you prepared for the financial obligation of adopting a cat(s)? _____

If you change your living situation (e.g., get married/divorced, have children, adopt another pet, or make other significant changes to your current lifestyle), are you prepared to make decisions that enable you to keep your cat as an integral part of your life? _____

If you must give up your cat for some reason, do you agree to surrender the cat to us? _____

****You must agree** not to give the cat to friends or family members, or advertise the cat on free websites such as craigslist, or in the newspaper. By filling out and signing this application, you are **legally agreeing** to surrender the cat **only to Second Chance Animal Rescue.****

Why do you want to adopt a cat(s)?:

Cat Adoption Policies

I, _____ (name), hereby acknowledge that I have reviewed and understand the adoption policies, agree to abide by them, and all information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge. Yes No

Signature:

Date:

Please read our adoption policies and rationales below – carefully. These policies help ensure the health and safety of our cats and compatibility with their adoptive families. Adopting a cat is a lifetime commitment. Please make sure you are ready for this commitment before you adopt. This may mean making accommodations in your life to ensure your cat is happy and healthy and will be a member of your family for the rest of your cat’s life.

1. Renting/Pet Policies. If you rent your home or are subject to condo association rules, does your lease or by-laws allow you to have cats? If you move, are you committed to finding a home where cats are allowed? Cats are dependent on you like a child and should be treated as a member of your family.

Reason: We want to ensure that your current housing allows cats so you are not evicted or asked to give up your cat. And that you are committed to accommodating your cat if you move in the future.

2. Spaying/Neutering. Cats will not be adopted into homes with unneutered cats/dogs. We will verify with current vet records for your current animals. All adult cats and kittens over 5 months of age are spayed/neutered before adoption. We determine when to spay/neuter kittens based on: 1) age, 2) weight, and 3) various health factors to ensure surgery is performed safely. Younger kittens not spayed/neutered before adoption must be spayed/neutered by the adopter at approximately 5 months of age at your expense.

Note: We will verify post-adoption that all kittens have been spayed/neutered. We also confirm that kittens were not declawed. We enforce any breach in our contract by imposing a \$300 fine and may take other actions to enforce the terms of our contract.

Reason: Virginia law requires all cats/dogs adopted from animal welfare organizations be spayed/neutered. Each year, millions of cats/dogs are needlessly euthanized because there are too many of them and too few responsible homes to care for them. There are also significant health and behavioral benefits to spaying/neutering (e.g., reduced risk of certain cancers, elimination of spraying urine)

3. No Declawing. Our cats may **not** be declawed for **any** reason. If you want a declawed cat, please adopt an already declawed cat.

Reason: Declawing is cruel, physically and psychologically, and completely unnecessary. A cat’s claws function as part of its fingers and toes. Declawing is amputating the last joint of a cat’s toes. The surgery and recovery is extremely painful. Declawing impedes a cat’s ability to walk and play as well as protect and groom themselves. Psychologically, cats need to claw as part of their grooming ritual and many cats knead with their claws to express comfort. Declawed cats tend to have higher levels of anxiety because they feel defenseless and often become biters. They also tend to react to stress by acting out (e.g., not using their litter boxes). Frequent clipping

of the tip of the claw can help alleviate damage due to scratching. Your vet can show you how to properly clip claws. Give your cat plenty of appropriate things to scratch and gently correct your cat if he/she scratches the wrong things. A little patience, positive reinforcement, and consistency in training will alleviate the vast majority of scratching problems.

4. Indoors-Only. You must keep the cat indoors at all times, unless the cat is on a leash and accompanied by you.

Reason: An indoor cat with proper care can live 15 years or longer. The average life span of a cat who wanders outside is two years. Cats are killed and injured by cars on neighborhood streets and major roads. Other dangers include contracting diseases from other cats, getting injured by other animals, and being poisoned or abused by people who don't want your cat to wander onto their property. A cat can also devastate your neighborhood wildlife.

5. Single Cat or Kitten. Kittens, and many adult cats, need feline companionship. Kittens **must** be adopted in pairs unless you have a young, compatible cat in your home. In addition, adult cats that need feline companionship, regardless of age, **must** be adopted in pairs or into a home with a compatible cat. We are happy to identify which adult cats in our care will be happy as single cats and those that need feline companionship.

Reason: A kitten by him/herself will get lonely, depressed and/or destructive. Also, many adult cats need feline companionship to be happy.

6. Children. If you have a child under approximately 6 years of age, you must adopt an adult cat or an older kitten that is at least 4 months of age. The appropriate age for adopting a kitten into a home with children will depend on the age of the child as well as the personality and the needs of the kitten.

Reason: Younger kittens are more fragile and can be accidentally injured by a small child. Also, young kittens have not learned yet to retract their claws. While a scratch is typically no more harmful than falling down on a playground and scraping a knee, young children who are scratched may develop an unnecessary fear of a kitten. And, the kitten may, in turn, become fearful of a child who cries after being scratched. Children and pets make wonderful companions for one another when supervised and matched appropriately.

7. Family Member. An indoor cat, with proper care, can live 15 years or longer. When adopting a cat, you need to be prepared to make a lifetime commitment. A cat is a family member that should be treated with love and respect. Your cat must be able to share your home with you and your family.

Reason: A cat that is not treated as a member of the family will not be happy and may become withdrawn, mean or destructive.

8. Costs of Care. A single cat that is already spayed/neutered will cost at least \$500 per year in food, litter, other supplies and basic vet care. This does not include any health-related illnesses or emergencies. Your cat will need an annual checkup and age-appropriate vaccinations for rabies and FVRCP ("distemper"). All cats require regular vet care. You are responsible for providing vet care and paying all vet bills once you adopt the cat.

Reason: FVRCP protects your cat from getting upper respiratory infections (URIs) and panleukopenia ("distemper") which can be fatal. Rabies shots are required by law even for indoor-only cats to prevent your cat from contracting rabies and passing it on to humans if your cat accidentally comes into contact with a rabid animal.

9. Lifetime Commitment. Adopting a cat is a lifetime commitment. Please contact us if there are significant incompatibility issues or if you have an urgent situation and cannot continue caring for your cat. We will do everything we can to help you resolve your situation such as providing advice, helping you find a new home for your cat, or taking your cat back into our care at our discretion.

Reason: We want our cats to be cared for all their lives. We will do everything that is reasonably possible to help ensure this happens.

10. Home Visit. We may visit your home after the adoption to make sure you and the cat are happy and to verify the terms of the contract are being followed (e.g., no declawing and indoors only). We do pre-adoption home visits for all cats.

Reason: We want to make sure our cats are placed in compatible, loving homes.

Please confirm your understanding of the above policies by having all adult household members sign below.

Signature:

Date:

Signature:

Date:

Signature:

Date: