



Kneading Kitty's Rescue

Things To Consider Prior To Adopting

At Kneading Kitty's Rescue, our goal is to make sure the kittens and cats under our care find loving forever homes. This means a safe, fun, and loving environment for both the kitty as well as for the human(s). We are thrilled that you are considering adopting from us, and we want to do everything possible to help you make the right decision about bringing a new cat into your home, your life, and your heart. This document is intended to help you think this through so you can make the best decision possible.

Should I adopt a Kitten or Cat?

The decision to adopt a kitten (less than 1 year old) or an older cat is an important one. Kittens are super cute, playful, curious, lovable, and eager to bond with their human(s). But that same adorable energy can also create messes and be disruptive to your home, your sleep, and your lifestyle until the kitten phase has passed. An adult cat (at least 1 year old) that is already through the kitten phase will generally be calmer and better behaved. But an adult cat is also more likely to be set in their ways and routine, and may take more time to bond with you and your family.

Should I adopt one or two?

If you are a first-time cat owner and caregiver, we suggest starting with just one kitten or cat to get a feel for what is involved. It is better to start with one and decide to add another cat later than to jump into owning two (or more) only to learn that it's too much work or not right for you. Although some cats prefer to be an only pet, most will do fine adding another cat to the household later as long as the introduction is handled properly. (Please see our separate guide on "Introducing your New Kitty to your Resident Cat or Dog" to accomplish a successful introduction.) If you are an experienced multiple cat owner and know what is involved, then adopting two is acceptable. Adopting two kittens from the same litter, an adult bonded pair, or two cats that have proven to get along well while with their foster are all good options. Please consult with the Adoption Center staff who can help identify those pairings.

Will a cat that I adopt get along with my dog?

This is a very important consideration for many people. Unfortunately, there are no simple answers here. It literally depends on the individual dog and cat. But there are some hints. Has your dog been around cats before, and if so, what was their reaction? Did they growl, bark, chase, or show aggression? Or did they wag their tail, sniff, and show a more calm and passive interest? From the cat point of view, some of our fosters have dogs in their homes in addition to the cats they foster. Our write ups on each cat will mention whether or not the cat has been around dogs and what the reaction was like. How the cat acted while with our foster is a useful indicator, but not a guarantee of how the cat will be in your home. If you do decide to introduce a dog and cat where you don't know much about how either will react, plan to be flexible and patient. Please see our separate guide with some suggestions as well.

Do I have enough time?

Once a cat is settled into a home, they are generally pretty low maintenance. However, you must devote time and energy up front to introduce the cat properly and be patient in order to reach that low maintenance stage. Like humans, cats have a range of personalities. Some will acclimate to a new environment in a few

minutes and make friends with humans and other pets very quickly. Others may take a couple of weeks or more to acclimate and never want to make more than one friend. You should not set a deadline for the cat to acclimate. Instead, make notes of changes in behavior as you see them. If you are seeing improvement week to week, stick with it and give the kitty a chance to integrate. In extreme cases where the situation clearly is not working, contact Kneading Kitty's Rescue for advice or to arrange to return the kitty to us.

In terms of adoption timing, it is best to adopt when you can be at home in your normal routine for several days. Avoid adopting right before a vacation, having house guests, moving, remodeling, etc. that may create serious disruption to your routine.

Is the family on-board with the decision to adopt a cat?

Adopting a pet is something that the entire family should be excited about. Be cautious if someone is ambivalent and be concerned if someone is strongly opposed to adopting. Regardless of the reason (ie: finances, allergies, time commitment, preference for a different kind of pet, etc.) it is never a good idea to make a unilateral decision and expect others to come around.

On a related note, young kids are generally super excited to get a pet and make grand promises about taking care of the animal forever. But we all know that kids' interests can and do change quickly. It goes without saying that at least one adult in the home should be prepared to become the primary care giver for the cat when/if the children lose interest.

What if I rent or have roommates?

If you rent or lease, it is critical to make sure your lease allows pets. If you plan to move soon, it's also a good idea to plan ahead and make sure the new place does as well. If you have or will have roommates, it is important to make sure that everyone is okay with having a cat.